

A Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Berkeley was held on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at the Municipal Building, Pinewald Keswick Road, Bayville, New Jersey and teleconferenced. Present in person were Council Members, Byrnes and Noonan, via teleconference were Council Members Bacchione, Gingrich Guadagno, Grosse and Council President Buscio. Also present were, Administrator Camera, via teleconference Mayor Amato and Attorney Staiger.

Township Deputy Clerk read the following Open Public Meetings Statement:

Ladies and Gentlemen, pursuant to the applicable portions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, adequate notice of this meeting has been given. This meeting notice along with the information on how to participate is posted on the front and back doors, on the Township website and transmitted to the newspaper and Berkeley Patch on April 6, 2020. It was also Published as a legal ad in the Asbury Park Press on April 8th, 2020 Please Rise for the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Bacchione, Gingrich, Byrnes, Noonan, Guadagno, Grosse, Buscio

ABSENT: None

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Bacchione, approving Councilwoman Noonan to run the meeting

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bacchione, Gingrich, Byrnes, Noonan, Guadagno, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse, approving the introduction of Ordinance **#20-20-OA re:: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BLOCK 1694, Lot 154 FOR \$250,000.00, IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5(a)(1) (30 FIFTH LANE ADJACENT TO CITTA & MOFFITT PROPERTY)** *(to be found by title at the end of the minutes)*

Administrator Camera gave a brief review of the ordinance contents.

Councilman Byrnes added that he inspected the buildings with the Administrator and both are in real good condition need little if any work and both have C-O's and have the capability of about 14 parking spots.

Administrator Camera explains the roof and siding are all in good condition and are ready for use and the front building is actually set up for office use already the back building can be used as a meeting room or community center but we will have to put some work into that but the work can be done in house.

Councilwoman Noonan asks if they have plans to attach the two buildings.

Administrator Camera explains we would lose parking if we did so we probably won't.

Councilman Byrnes adds the structure in the back is a small house and if you took some walls down it could be a small meeting room. The one in front is almost handicap accessible with some minor revisions.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bacchione, Gingrich, Byrnes, Noonan, Guadagno, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Bacchione, approving the introduction of Ordinance **#20-21-OA re:: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY COUNTY OF OCEAN STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING / REVISING OF A DRAINAGE EASEMENT TO THE SONATA BAY CLUB HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. UNDER THE ONSITE CUL-DE-SAC AND INTO THE RIGHT OF WAY KNOWN AS HICKORY LANE** *(to be found by title at the end of the minutes)*

Administrator Camera explains this is not new there is an existing easement here and because of a subdivision and change of ownership this makes sure that Sonata Bay will still have the drainage easement for their storm water pipe that already exists.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bacchione, Gingrich, Byrnes, Noonan, Guadagno, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

Councilwoman Noonan opened the meeting for Public Comment and asked if there was anyone on the teleconference that would like to make a comment.

Red Callahan 117 Anchor Drive:

Is concerned about the mailboxes that are on the Citta Moffit property the Township is purchasing.

Administrator Camera explains the intention is to leave them where they are.

Mr. Callahan asks if there is a written agreement.

Administrator Camera explains there is not but we can work that out after the purchase.

Mr. Callahan also asks the Town to make it a policy not to buy Chinese products.

Attorney Staiger explains that provision is already worked into local public contracts law and worked into our contracts.

Councilwoman Noonan asks if there was anyone else on the teleconference that would like to speak. There being none.

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilwoman Gingrich, to close the public portion of the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bacchione, Gingrich, Byrnes, Noonan, Guadagno, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

Councilwoman Noonan asks the Council if they have any comments.

Councilman Byrnes asks the Mayor to send a letter to the State and Governor requesting they re-open the State Parks especially Island Beach State Park. Berkeley Parks and Beaches are open with the exception of areas where there can be contact sports and playgrounds.

Councilman Guadagno adds we made the decision to close only parts of the park like the basketball courts restrooms and playgrounds, we left the rest of the parks open for people to walk their dogs or exercise. He believes the Governor said the State Park closure might only be a 2 week closure. They made the decision because of the Holiday and with the warmer weather they didn't want to encourage people to travel and there was already a big influx of people going to these areas. With Double Trouble State park there were cars lined up parking on the road and the park was over crowded.

Councilman Byrnes explains he can understand Double Trouble Park but closing Island Beach State Park doesn't make sense.

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Guadagno, to have the Attorney prepare a resolution asking the Governor to re-open Island Beach State.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Bacchione, Gingrich, Byrnes, Noonan, Guadagno, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

Mayor Amato, thanks everyone for taking time to participate in this meeting to purchase this contiguous piece of property in South Seaside Park and would be very beneficial to the Town to acquire. This would be great for a police substation for a comfort station and to hold informal community meetings. We are looking to close as soon as we can.

Administrator Camera adds this was historically the polling place for South Seaside Park and now it can continue.

Councilwoman Noonan asks if there was anything good or new on the Governor's call today.

Mayor Amato explains not much but the Governor is going to announce a moratorium on people paying insurance premiums for health, home and auto it will be an executive order mandating insurance companies give people a 90 day grace period.

Mayor Amato explains he was on a conference call with Mayor's from Atlantic Cape May and Ocean Counties, and I brought up the fact that Governor has pushed the State Budget back to September, and we get approximately \$4 million in State aid for our budget I wanted to make sure

Special Meeting *Thursday April 9, 2020 11:00 am*

there won't be a hold up in the State providing those funds to us. CFO Ebenau was concerned about cash flow problems. After Sandy we were allowed float a temporary emergency note to cover expenses. So far we are having some additional cost due to the virus and we are concerned because May 1st property taxes are due and I have been getting messages from residents that have lost their jobs because of the virus and there is no provision in the stimulus package for municipalities to make up for shortfalls due to the virus, we are also concerned with the August quarter. The Government still has to operate with Police, EMS and sanitation workers and right now we have some cash flow concerns.

Councilwoman Gingrich explains that if people or families need food they can register with the recreation department.

Mayor Amato adds Kim Guadagno who is the CEO of Fulfill Food Bank has put together family emergency kits with enough food for a week for a family of four. Our Recreation Department is cataloging the calls for this and will probably do the distribution some time at the end of next week. If you know anyone who has fallen on hard times please get the word out. We have volunteers that will deliver if you do not have transportation to get to the distribution sites and we will try to do this every few weeks. The pandemic is a fluid situation unlike Sandy we just have to move forward trying to help where we can.

Mayor Amato adds that the EDA and grant programs are at the limits now however you can go to <https://covid19.nj.gov/> and it will show you how to apply for relief funds. There is money allocated through the SBA and TD bank in Bayville is administering those loans now. The sign-up information will be on the Township's Facebook page. The Federal Government is working on another stimulus package that will help our small businesses. We have provided a list of all local businesses that are providing take-out & delivery so we ask that you support them and the local economy.

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse to adjourn the meeting.

A voice vote was taken with no **NAYS** heard.

Following are the Ordinances introduced by the Township Council and made a part of this meeting.

Karen Stallings
Township Deputy Clerk

Keith A. Buscio
Council President