

JANUARY 8, 2018
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
BOROUGH OF COLLINGSWOOD, NJ

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held at the Collingswood Community Center 30 Collings Ave. Collingswood, NJ, on the second floor, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor M. James Maley, Jr. *called the meeting to order*, with Commissioner Joan Leonard *present* and Commissioner Robert Lewandowski *present*.

Mayor Maley requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Collingswood residents Colleen Brownwell and Alysia McCloskey who were victims of domestic violence.

Mayor Maley read the Sunshine Notice stating that the Borough has complied with provisions of the Sunshine Law by adopting by January 10 of this year, a resolution prescribing the dates, times and locations of all regular meetings of the Commission. Mayor Maley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Tax Collector, Treasurer, CFO, Municipal Court and Zoning Official reports were approved and seconded.

Presentation Collingswood Fire Department- Unit Citation for the rescue of a trapped occupant in a dwelling fire on Crestmont Terrace on November 3, 2017.

Squad Company 16

Lt. Geoffrey T. Joyce
FF/EMT Theodore J. Aurig
FF/EMT Melanie Pierce
FF/EMT Timothy Tredanari
FF/ EMT Paul Bonamassa

Ladder 15-1

Captain John J. Young
Lt. Matthew J. Medes

The Following Resolutions were Approved without a Dissenting Vote

1. Appointing Brian DiCugno as Sergeant to the Collingswood Police Department
2. Appointing Grant Korten as Full Time Officer for the Collingswood Police Department

Oaths:

Brian DiCugno
Grant Korten

3. Reappointing Keith Hastings as the Municipal Housing Liaison, Clean Communities Coordinator, the Representative to the Camden County Community Development, Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Camden County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund,
4. Reappointing Holly Mannel as Registrar of Vital Statistics
5. Appointing Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics Madalyn Deets
6. Reappointing Joseph Kootcher as Recycling Coordinator
7. Reappointing James Stamer as Safety Coordinator
8. Appointing Michael Mannion as a Part Time Fire Fighter EMT of the Collingswood Fire Department
9. Barber Consulting as Information Technology Consultants
10. Brown and Connery as Municipal Attorneys
11. Conner Strong Companies as Risk Management Consultants
12. DM Medical Billing for Ambulance and Fire Department Billing Services
13. Main Street Realty for Professional Services
14. Phoenix Advisors, LLC as Financial Advisors
15. Parker McCay, P.A. as Bond Counsel and Special Counsel
16. Petroni & Associates for Municipal Auditor
17. Remington & Vernick as Municipal Engineers
18. SLK Community Consulting, LLC
19. Timothy Search as Municipal Prosecutor
20. Charles Wigginton as Public Defender

21. Brett Wiltsey as Historic Board Solicitor
22. Michael Madden as Planning Board Solicitor
23. Peter Thorndike as Zoning Board Solicitor
24. Independent Animal Control for Animal Control Services
25. Quality Cleaning for Cleaning Services
26. Timothy Scaffidi Special Counsel For Conflict Matters

27. Approving a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Collingswood in 2018
Approving Depositories for Borough of Collingswood Funds in 2018
28. Parke Bank
29. 1st Colonial

30. Approving Year 2018 Temporary Budget Appropriations
31. Approving the Interest and Grace Period on Taxes, Water, and Sewer in 2018
32. Approving the Purchase of Items Under State Contract for Various Items
33. Authorizing the Tax Assessor to File Appeals in 2018
34. Authorizing an Agreement with Edmunds and Associates for Software Support in 2018
35. Approving a Grant Application-New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund
36. Designating of Official Newspapers for Legal Advertising
37. Designating Recipients for the Camden County Housing Rehabilitation Program and Authorizing Camden County Division of Community Development as Administrative Agent
38. Approving the Payment of Bills in General, Water and Sewer Accounts

Commissioner Lewandowski talked about how the cold weather has been affecting the water system infrastructure with several water main breaks. Water crews and the Dept. of Public Works have been working very hard, Commissioner Lewandowski thanked those departments for their hard work during these very cold days. Commissioner Lewandowski reminded residents of all the clubs and groups and indoor activities that are happening around town such as Lego Club at the Library, Community Theater is performing Shrek the Musical, Community Chorus is registering members. Commissioner Lewandowski also reminded folks to get their blue and gold cards out so they can enjoy some nice discounts at our restaurants and shops.

Commissioner Leonard said she can't wait until we are all focused on spring. It has been a brutal winter so far. Let's all keep helping each other and stay safe.

Mayor Maley said it has been a tough few weeks and he had no further comments.

Mayor Maley opened the meeting to the Public:

Kate Delany, 126 E. Palmer and Christina Fisher 101 E. Madison inquired on the status of the Backyard Chicken Pilot Project. Mayor Maley said we are continuing to have an ordinance drafted for discussion purposes. Mayor Maley said there was recent article in the Retrospect, which has brought forward a lot of folks who are not in favor of the project. Ms. Delany asked what are some of the concerns. A discussion ensued about the concerns of residents who are not in favor, including health, noise, who will enforce the regulations of the project. Commissioner Leonard added people don't want to say something to their neighbors because they don't want to have a falling out. Those folks are coming to us with their concerns. The discussion continued about the community garden, the average size of our properties in Collingswood, and education. Commissioner Lewandowski said he took the certification class on caring for backyard chickens, adding that his love for chickens tells him he should not have chickens because he will not care for them right. Commissioner Lewandowski talked about the nuances of writing an ordinance of this type. This is not a yes or no decision. There are many factors that need to be considered, specific details, enforcement, safety. Can we find a balance between the folks that do not want it next door with the folks that do. The discussion ensued about possible misconceptions and the need for more education and the need for more conversations from both sides. Mayor Maley explained we have gotten a lot of negative feedback, but we are working on a draft ordinance for discussion purposes.

George Kuetsmeyer 215 Lakeview Drive, asked who do we send comments to in reference to the chicken issue and will we see it as a referendum? Mayor Maley responded that comments can be sent by email or letter addressed to any or all of the Commissioners. Mayor Maley also explained it is possible but it would be a non-binding referendum. Mayor Maley said we did not have a referendum for the approval of breweries but we also did not get the negative feedback that we are getting with the chicken pilot program.

With no further comments, Mayor Maley moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 PM, which was seconded.

K Holly Mannel
Borough Clerk