

February 6, 2020
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 read the Sunshine Notice stating that the Borough has complied with provisions of the Sunshine Law by adopting before 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, Municipal Court, Zoning Official and 2019 Annual Zoning Report reports were approved and seconded.

Presentation:

Recognition of the Collingswood Green Team for contributions on Collingswood attaining Sustainable Jersey Silver Status

Recognition and comments congratulating the residents of Collingswood and the Commissioners from Assembly Persons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt for achieving the Sustainability Jersey Silver Status.

Commissioner Lewandowski talked about the role of Sustainable Jersey as a wonderful resource for municipalities all over the state. Commissioner Lewandowski said it is wonderful when growth is made through the work of volunteers, state agencies, local government and municipal resources working together to achieve a lot of progress.

Mayor Maley gave special recognition to Sandy Kelly for her work with the Sustainable New Jersey.

Commissioner Leonard expressed her gratitude to Tim Eichel for his work in recording our natural environmental inventor; which is a Sustainable New Jersey requirement. Commissioner Leonard commented Mr. Eichel worked many hours collecting this data and she presented him with a gift from the Borough.

The Commissioners called for the First Reading of Ordinance 1681

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1324
IMPLEMENTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR THE EAST HADDON AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the Borough of Collingswood, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7, adopted Ordinance No. 1324 on October 6, 2003 and implemented a Redevelopment Plan (“Redevelopment Plan”) for the East Haddon Avenue Redevelopment Zone (“Redevelopment Zone”); and

WHEREAS, the Borough Commissioners wish to amend the Redevelopment Plan to expand the type of permitted land uses within the Redevelopment Zone to include the following: photography and art studios, art exhibition galleries, and lecture facilities; and

WHEREAS, each permitted land use identified within the Redevelopment Plan shall provide a trash enclosure on the property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Redevelopment Plan shall be amended to include within those types of permitted land uses within the Redevelopment Zone to include (photography and art studios, art exhibition galleries, and lecture facilities) and shall provide a trash enclosure on the property

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication according to law.

Mayor Maley moved the ordinance be approved on first reading, published, and the second reading and public hearing to be held on March 2, 2020 which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.

Aye: Joan Leonard

Aye: Robert Lewandowski

The Commissioners called for the First Reading of Ordinance 1682

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM FOR THE BOROUGH OF COLLINGSWOOD, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

WHEREAS, the Government Energy Aggregation Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 et seq. (“Act”) governs the establishment of a government energy aggregation program, which is a government-operated purchasing cooperative through which multiple energy consumers purchase energy together under the auspices of a government aggregator; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“BPU”) has promulgated rules (N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 et seq.) (“BPU Rules”) for the implementation of government energy aggregation programs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act and the BPU Rules, the Borough of Collingswood (“Borough”) seeks to establish an “Option 2” Government Energy Aggregation Program (“GEA Program”), as defined in N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.4 and 6.6, for the purpose of obtaining power supply for residents of the Borough with an enhanced renewable energy content and at a lower cost than power supply provided by the local electric utility; and

WHEREAS, the Borough intends to serve as the Lead Agency of the GEA Program and, in that capacity and consistent with BPU Rules, shall manage the GEA Program, which shall include, but not be limited to: (1) execution of an Electric Distribution Company Aggregation Agreement (“EDC Agreement”) with the local electric distribution company, which is Public Service Electric and Gas Company (“PSE&G”); and (2) recruitment of, and coordination with, other communities which may wish to join the GEA program; and (3) solicitation of proposals from third party suppliers for the purpose of executing one or more successive contracts for the provision of electric generation services on behalf of residential customers within the boundaries of the Borough, to the extent that such suppliers are qualified, said contract(s) will provide enhanced renewable energy content, and said contracts will provide prices to residents that are lower than the prevailing price for utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the Borough shall include provisions in the solicitation for proposals for the inclusion of renewable energy content that is greater than the prevailing mandated minimum renewable energy content required by virtue of the New Jersey Renewable Portfolio Standards; and

WHEREAS, the Borough will only award a contract for said electric generation service and energy aggregation services to a BPU-licensed electric power supplier that is deemed qualified and that submits a price proposal that is lower than the prevailing tariff price for utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the Act and BPU Rules require the Program to be established by ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Collingswood, County of Camden, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. In accordance with the foregoing “Whereas” clauses which are incorporated herein as if fully restated, the Borough hereby establishes an “Option 2” Government Energy Aggregation Program, in accordance with the provisions of the Act and BPU Rules, and shall serve as Lead Agency of the GEA Program.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized to execute and the Municipal Clerk to attest to the execution of an Electric Distribution Aggregation Agreement, in a form acceptable to the Borough and consistent with the BPU Rules, with PSE&G.

Section 3. As Lead Agency of the GEA Program, and consistent with the BPU Rules, the Borough is authorized to solicit proposals from BPU-licensed electric power suppliers for electric generation service and energy aggregation services on behalf of the Borough’s residents, and to execute one or more successive contracts for such services, provided that the power supply provides an enhanced renewable energy content and the lowest qualified bid price is below the prevailing price for utility-provided basic generation service.

Section 4. The contract(s) with third party supplier(s) shall be in the form of a master performance agreement that obligates the participants in the GEA Program to purchase electricity at terms and conditions stated therein with the selected third party supplier, provided that: (a) such contract has been determined by the Board of Commissioners to provide enhanced renewable energy content as compared to the prevailing mandated minimum renewable energy content required by virtue of the New Jersey Renewable Portfolio Standards, (b) the contract price is reasonably forecast and estimated to provide savings to participants relative to the price charged for basic generation service by PSE&G, and (c) such contract has been procured through an authorized proposal solicitation process conducted by the Borough in accordance with the BPU Rules.

Section 5. The authorization provided by virtue of this ordinance shall be valid until June 1, 2023 (the “Effective Period”), at which time the GEA Program will be subject to renewal at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.

Section 6. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 7. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication according to law.

Mayor Maley moved the ordinance be approved on first reading, published, and the second reading and public hearing to be held on March 2, 2020 which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.
Aye: Joan Leonard
Aye: Robert Lewandowski

Public Comment on Resolution Agenda Items:

Wayne Rossi, 114 E Palmer Ave. thanked Commissioners for moving forward with the energy aggregation program. Mr. Rossi asked for stronger sustainability target. Commissioner Lewandowski explained the ordinance does not address the mix; that will be addressed after the consultants do their work and we get bids from the third-party suppliers. Commissioner Lewandowski continued explain we need to be mindful of getting the cleanest energy at the most affordable price. Commissioner Lewandowski remarked that 100% renewable energy is available to individuals.

Kate Ingersoll, 232 Lincoln Ave. said she is encouraged by the introduction of the energy aggregation ordinance. Ms. Ingersoll asked for stronger renewable energy goals. Mayor Maley said her needs to see what the numbers will be Mayor Maley added that 100% renewable energy is available to individuals but it is expensive. Mayor Maley said hopeful technology catches up and renewable energy is more affordable for everyone.

No further comments

The Following Resolutions were Approved without a Dissenting Vote

65. Reappointing Marlene Granitz to the Collingswood Historic Commission
66. Reappointing Joseph Santomauro to the Collingswood Planning Board
67. Authorize Administrator Keith Hastings to sign for 610 Harrison Ave Sewer Project
68. Approving Raffle Licenses
2020-1 Mark Newbie PTA
- 69 Referring Ordinance 1681 for Amendment to Redevelopment Plan to Planning Board
70. Authorizing an Appropriation Reserve Transfer
71. Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of up to \$19,752,000 of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020
72. Authorizing Application for Program Year 2020 Community Development Block Grant
73. Approving the Payment of Bills as Presented by the Treasurer

Commissioner Lewandowski remind residents to renew their parking passes. Commissioner Lewandowski invited residents to get their tickets for the Collingswood Odyssey of the Mind Mardi Gras fundraiser.

Commissioner Leonard thanked everyone who is working to make our environments better and she encouraged residents to support local businesses and shop local. Commissioner Leonard announced the date of the 2020 Green Festival on April 25th and stated she is hopeful more people will get involved with wildlife gardening, using less pesticides and plastic bags.

Mayor Maley updated residents on the progress of the new public safety building stating there is some soil remediation taking place and construction should be under way soon. Mayor Maley talked about the steps the Borough is taking in reference to having repairs done to the That's Amore property and the possibility of legal proceedings resulting in condemnation.

Mayor Maley opened the meeting to the public.

Eleanor Dill 27 E Browning Rd. thanked the Commissioners for introducing the energy aggregation ordinance. Ms. Dill expressed she is in support of stronger renewable energy goals. And encouraged the Commissioners to communicate with the communities in the state who have energy aggregation programs about their experiences. Commissioner Lewandowski talked about the process of energy aggregation contracts; the energy contracts are not 9 year they will be short term -2 years. Commissioner Lewandowski talked about the energy markets and said we have talked to the other communities and the consultants. The discussion continued about clean energy.

Ms. Rojas, 328 Virginia Ave, expressed her support for a commitment to 100% clean energy. Mr. Lewandowski said 100% percent is on the table but it comes down to cost. Mayor Maley explained energy aggregation was originally used to be money savers. This ordinance is allowing a study to be done. Mayor Maley added that he has a hard time raising utility costs for an individual to do something good when it is something that person can do for themselves today. Mayor Maley said setting goals does not bind future administrations and let us get the study done and see where the numbers are. Ms. Rojas expressed to do this as an individual cost a lot. The discussion continued about what is deemed clean energy and the approval process regulated by BPU.

Doug Stieber, Harvard Ave resident asked if the Borough could enter into a Power Provider Agreement for solar power on public buildings? Mayor Maley said we had some studies done a few years back and it did not make economic sense at the time but we can take a look again. Mayor Maley explained the roofing option for the new safety building is a green roof. Mayor Maley added the Borough is in a state wide energy aggregation program with 300 other municipalities and that process also looks at both sustainability percentages and costs. Mr. Stieber expressed his support for a PPA for Public Buildings.

Anne Woodcock, 121 E Palmer Ave. reminded residents that AARP will be at the library with Tax help starting on Friday.

Maureen White, 34 E Zane, asked who is responsible for sidewalk repairs? Mayor Maley said property owners are and advised Ms. White if she would like to report any hazards to let Administrator Hastings know.

With no further comments, Mayor Maley moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:45PM, which was seconded.

M. James Maley Jr., Mayor

Joan Leonard, Commissioner

Robert Lewandowski, Commissioner

K. Holly Mannel, Borough Clerk

