

JUNE 1, 2020
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
BOROUGH OF COLLINGSWOOD, NJ

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held remotely, 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. The Mayor stated there was a change in meeting format from in person to remote-conference. Written advanced notice of the change in format of at least 48 hours was supplied to two local newspapers. Mayor Maley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Maley explained this meeting is being held by remote conference because of the stay at home order due to the COVID 19 virus. Mayor Maley explained how questions and comments can be submitted.

The Tax Collector and Zoning Official Reports were approved.
Minutes: Approved

The Commissioners called for the First Reading of Ordinance 1683

AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE BUILDING AND RELATED ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENTS IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF COLLINGSWOOD, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$2,000,000 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF COLLINGSWOOD, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$1,400,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Collingswood, County of Camden, New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), pursuant to the provisions of the Local Bond Law, Chapter 169 of the Laws of 1960 of the State of New Jersey, as amended and supplemented ("Local Bond Law"), as follows:

Section 1. The purposes described in Section 7 hereof are hereby authorized as general improvements to be made or acquired by the Borough of Collingswood, County of Camden, New Jersey ("Borough").

Section 2. It is hereby found, determined and declared as follows:

- (a) the estimated amount to be raised by the Borough from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 7 hereof is \$2,000,000;
- (b) the estimated amount of bonds or bond anticipation notes to be issued for the purposes stated in Section 7 hereof is \$1,400,000; and
- (c) a down payment in the amount of \$600,000 for the purposes stated in Section 7 hereof is currently available in accordance with the requirements of Section 11 of the Local Bond Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:2-11*.

Section 3. The sum of \$1,400,000, to be raised by the issuance of bonds or bond anticipation notes, together with the sum of \$600,000, which amount represents the required down payment, are hereby appropriated for the purposes stated in this bond ordinance ("Bond Ordinance").

Section 4. The issuance of negotiable bonds of the Borough in an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000 to finance the costs of the purposes described in Section 7 hereof is hereby authorized. Said bonds shall be sold in accordance with the requirements of the Local Bond Law. All or a portion of the bonds authorized to be issued hereunder may evidence one or more loans from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and/or the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, under an Application for Financial Assistance ("Application") submitted by the Borough to said entities.

Section 5. In order to temporarily finance the purposes described in Section 7 hereof, the issuance of bond anticipation notes of the Borough in an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000 is hereby authorized. Pursuant to the Local Bond Law, the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the bond anticipation notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver the same to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their date to delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the bond anticipation notes pursuant to this Bond Ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the bond anticipation notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 6. The amount of the proceeds of the obligations authorized by this Bond Ordinance which may be used for the payment of interest on such obligations, accounting, engineering, legal fees and other items as provided in Section 20 of the Local Bond Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20*, shall not exceed the sum of \$400,000.

Section 7. The improvements hereby authorized and the purposes for which said obligations are to be issued; the estimated costs of each said purpose; the amount of down payment for each said purpose; the maximum amount of obligations to be issued for each said purpose and the period of usefulness of each said purpose within the limitations of the Local Bond Law are as follows:

| <u>Purpose/Improvement</u> | <u>Estimated Total Cost</u> | <u>Down Payment</u> | <u>Amount of Obligation</u> \$ | <u>Period of Usefulness</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A Supplemental Funding for the Construction of an Emergency Response Building in and for the Borough, together with related property acquisition and improvements, together with the acquisition of all materials and equipment and completion of all work necessary therefore or related thereto | \$2,000,000 | \$600,000 | \$1,400,000 | 30 years |

Section 8. Grants or other monies received from any governmental entity, if any, will be applied to the payment of, or repayment of obligations issued to finance, the costs of the purposes described in Section 7 above.

Section 9. The supplemental debt statement provided for in Section 10 of the Local Bond Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:2-10*, was duly filed in the office of the Clerk prior to the passage of this Bond Ordinance on first reading and a complete executed duplicate original thereof has been filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey. The supplemental debt statement shows that the gross debt of the Borough, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:2-43*, is increased by this Bond Ordinance by \$1,400,000 and that the obligations authorized by this Bond Ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 10. The full faith and credit of the Borough are irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the bonds or bond anticipation notes authorized by this Bond Ordinance, and to the extent payment is not otherwise provided, the Borough shall levy *ad valorem* taxes on all taxable real property without limitation as to rate or amount for the payment thereof.

Section 11. The Capital Budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this Bond Ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith, and the resolution promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended Capital Budget and Capital Program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Clerk and available for inspection.

Section 12. The Borough hereby declares its intent to reimburse itself from the proceeds of the bonds or bond anticipation notes authorized by this Bond Ordinance pursuant to Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2(e), promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"), for "original expenditures", as defined in Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2(c)(2), made by the Borough prior to the issuance of such bonds or bond anticipation notes.

Section 13. The Borough hereby covenants as follows:

(a) it shall take all actions necessary to ensure that the interest paid on the bonds or bond anticipation notes authorized by the Bond Ordinance is exempt from the gross income of the owners thereof for federal income taxation purposes, and will not become a specific item of tax preference pursuant to Section 57(a)(5) of the Code;

(b) it will not make any use of the proceeds of the bonds or bond anticipation notes or do or suffer any other action that would cause the bonds or bond anticipation notes to be "arbitrage bonds" as such term is defined in Section 148(a) of the Code and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(c) it shall calculate or cause to be calculated and pay, when due, the rebatable arbitrage with respect to the "gross proceeds" (as such term is used in Section 148(f) of the Code) of the bonds or bond anticipation notes;

(d) it shall timely file with the Internal Revenue Service, such information report or reports as may be required by Sections 148(f) and 149(e) of the Code; and

(e) it shall take no action that would cause the bonds or bond anticipation notes to be "federally guaranteed" within the meaning of Section 149(b) of the Code.

Section 14. The improvements authorized hereby are not current expenses and are improvements that the Borough may lawfully make. No part of the cost of the improvements authorized hereby has been or shall be specially assessed on any property specially benefited thereby.

Section 15. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.

Section 16. In accordance with the Local Bond Law, this Bond Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

Mayor Maley moved the ordinance be approved on first reading, published, and the second reading and public hearing to be held on July 6, 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 1684

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1365
IMPLEMENTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR THE CUTHBERT ROAD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the Borough of Collingswood, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7, adopted Ordinance No. 1365 on January 3, 2005 and implemented a Redevelopment Plan ("Redevelopment Plan") for the Cuthbert Road Redevelopment Zone ("Redevelopment Zone"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough Commissioners wish to amend the Redevelopment Plan to allow as a permitted use for the property located within the Borough at 19 Cuthbert Road (block 59, Lot 4) (the "Property") the following: veterinary office

WHEREAS, the Property shall be equipped with a trash enclosure; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineers have prepared an Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan which includes the above listed terms; and

WHEREAS, the Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan was referred to the Collingswood Planning Board for review and comment and which has been provided by the Planning Board in a report to the Borough Commissioners which report was considered by the Borough Commissioners prior to the adoption of this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan meets the requirements of the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et. seq. and is consistent with the Borough's Master Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the Borough of Collingswood that the Redevelopment Plan attached as Exhibit A is hereby approved;

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 July 6, 2020 which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

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

Mayor Maley commented that Chief Carey has left the meeting. He is meeting with residents in reference to organizing a March related to the horrific incident that happened in Minneapolis last week.

Public Comment on Resolution Agenda Items:

Mayor Maley explained he is having a problem turning on the live comments. He will need to read the questions.

Elizabeth Moore asked where she can find the agenda. Members of the public shared the link.

Kate Delany, Palmer Ave. asked what is the total appropriation for the Public Safety Building. Mayor Maley responded the total appropriation is 14 million dollars. Ms. Delany asked about the environmental impact of the Cuthbert Blvd project, if there would be a tax abatement and how does it serve the residents of Collingswood. Mayor Maley responded that any environmental impact will be addressed by the land use board and that the applicants will need site plan review. Mayor Maley responded there has not been a request for tax abatement and it benefits the community by bringing in a ratable. The property has been vacant for years.

Julie Schneider expressed support for the Collingswood Police Officers to be outfitted with body cameras. Mayor Maley explained this is the first comment we have received in reference to body cameras for our police force. Mayor Maley continued to explain it has never been talked over. The police vehicles have cameras that are routinely reviewed as part of standard policy. Mayor Maley talked about some advancements the police department have been making over the last several years which include ACLU training, Community Policing sensitizing training to name a few. Mayor Maley talked about the much-needed public safety building currently being built. Mayor Maley added that it may reviewed in the future.

Kate Delany asked for information to the increase in the temporary budget. Mayor Maley responded he would need more specifics to the question. Ms. Delany asked where the Library grant matching funds will be coming from? Mayor Maley replied these funds are already included in our budget. Ms. Delany asked about the increase to the solid wasted disposal line item. Mayor Maley referred the question to Administrator Hastings. Mr. Hastings replied the increase is due to trash collection at some apartment complexes that we have not collected in the past, the state has required we pick up their trash and this would affect the tipping fees. Ms. Delany asked about increase to the insurance operating expenses. Mayor Maley said they do not have that information in front of him but we can get it to her.

Katie Ingersoll asked about the any cost research that has been done on the body cameras. Mayor Maley said the estimate has been around \$400,000.00 and \$500,000.00. Ms. Ingersoll asked how often the vehicle cameras are reviewed. Mayor Maley said he would have Chief Carey answer that question but if is part of the Standard Operating Procedures.

Elizabeth Moore expressed concern about the lack of funding for body cameras.

Bill Johnson asked what will be the total appropriation for the public safety building? Mayor Maley responded the original authorized amount was 12 million dollars and this additional 2 million dollars will be the final amount authorized.

Richard Klingerman asked about the filing systems and furniture for the public safety building. Mayor Maley referred the question to Fire Chief Davis. Chief Davis explained the filing system is a high-density system which includes the filing and storing of evidence.

Margaret Mars expressed her support for police body cameras.

Mayor Maley explained he is not opposed to body cameras but in 2020 with what the Corona Virus has done to municipal budgets it is not possible this year.

Richard Klingerman asked if the Chief Carey has discussed the cost and the benefits of body cameras with the Camden County Metro Chief of Police. Mayor Maley said we talk with other departments all the time. Mayor Maley added the Camden County Metro which patrols Camden City received all their body cameras through a grant which is not generally available. Mr. Klingerman asked the rational of having cameras in jail cells but not having them during the arrest. Mayor Maley responded that state law requires monitoring of the jail cell. The rational is that it is the law.

Kate Delany asked about in addition to the 2 million dollar increase to the public safety building there is also addition costs for the filing systems and furniture. Mayor Maley explained these costs are included within the 2 million dollars and the outfitting of the building has been carefully put together by the Police and Fire Chiefs.

Comments:

When can residents to speak up about body cameras. Mayor Maley said we will have the live comments fixed by next meeting

Can there be a one year tax increase to cover the cost of the body cameras. Mayor Maley explained that is not something that can be done in municipal budgets and it is too late for the 2020 budget.

The Following Resolutions were Approved without a Dissenting Vote

98. Authorizing an Increase in the Temporary Budget

99. Authorizing a Revision to Resolution 2020-75 Adopted March 2, 2020 a Resolution Authorizing the Collingswood Public Library to Apply for the NJ Library Construction Bond Act Grant

100. Authorizing the Renewal of Single Stream Recycling Agreement-FCR

101. Referring Ordinance 1684 for an Amendment to a Redevelopment Plan to the Planning Board

102. Appointing Michael Mannion as a Firefighter/EMT for the Collingswood Fire Department.

103. Authorizing the Refund of Tax Overpayment -Block 3 Lot 8

104. Authorizing the Borough of Collingswood to Renew the Commodity Resale System and to Enter into Commodity Resale Agreements with other Contracting Units

105. Authorizing a Cooperative Agreement with Camden County for years 2021 to 2023 -CDBG

106. Second Reading and Public Hearing of the 2020 BID Budget

Public Hearing: No comment

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.

Aye: Joan Leonard

Aye: Robert Lewandowski

107. Authorizing an Award of Contract (State Contract #A81619), with Haworth, for the provision of office workstations and supporting systems furniture; and the provision of tables and chairs for meeting spaces, waiting rooms and public areas; for the new Public Safety Building

108. Authorizing an Award of Contract (State Contract #T408176-A81714), with Group LaCasse, for the provision of furniture for private offices and conference rooms for the new Public Safety Building

109. Authorizing an Award of Contract (State Contract #19-GNSVI-00643), with Datum, for the provision of filing and storage systems; and bunk beds; for the new Public Safety Building

110. Authorizing an Award of Contract (State Contract #19-GNSVI-00630-), with Spacesaver, for the provision of high density filing and supporting systems for the new Public Safety Building,

111. Authorizing an Award of Contract (Co-Op #66-CEPS), with CM3 Building Solutions, for the provision of security systems including video surveillance systems and access control; low voltage cabling systems; audio visual systems; public address systems; and information technology systems and technical support for the new Public Safety Building

112. Authorizing Negotiations for the Sale of 641 Haddon Avenue

113. Authorizing Temporary Relaxation of Site Plan Review and Approval for Existing Restaurants In Connection With The Current Public Health Emergency

114. Approving the Payment of Bills as Presented by the Treasurer

Commissioner Lewandowski congratulated youth librarian Dorothy Garabedian on her retirement. Commissioner Lewandowski said as a resident, commissioner and especially as a parent he wants to express his gratitude to Ms. Dot for her 26 years of service to the Collingswood Community. Commissioner Lewandowski talked about the killing of George Floyd, the despair it has left everyone feeling and the need for a more just society. Commissioner Lewandowski talked about body cameras and how in his research he sees the value and the limitations. Commissioner Lewandowski talked about an article he read from the Pew Research Center about Body Cameras. Commissioner Lewandowski stated some of the statistically information he read from the article, what kind of state funding is available for law enforcement for the purchase of body cameras. Commissioner Lewandowski also referenced a study from James Madison University and the statistical information that was found from that research that body cameras do not effect the behavior of citizens and police officers alike and that there are limitations. Commissioner Lewandowski clearly stated he is not opposed to body cameras but he said before a purchase of that kind is made we need to do our own research, continue the conversation and do it right. Commissioner Lewandowski talked about the idea of body cameras catching the police being bad, but he said what he wants and expects is that our police department not to be bad but to be good, that it behaves honorable and professionally, that it treats people with dignity and that it reaches the highest level expectations that we as a community set for them. Commissioner Lewandowski said our police department is always looking to do better. Commissioner Lewandowski said he knows our force is not perfect but none are. But we expect our police force to be good form the top down, to behave with honor and does not tolerate corruption, understands the rights of citizens, and that respect their oath to serve. Conversations must continue about racial injustice and how we can continue to work toward ending racism.

Commissioner Leonard she is in total agreement with all of Commissioner Lewandowski's words.. Commissioner Leonard talked about the horror of George Floyd's death and how over the last three months during the Covid pandemic people were helping each other and there for each other especially in our community. Commissioner Leonard thanked the residents and asked all to continue being there for one another during this time and sadness.

Mayor Maley said we have not had any incidents or complaints that even come close to what has occurred in Minneapolis. Mayor Maley credited Chief Carey for the work he is doing with officer training and policy improvements. We have a track record of not accepting bad behavior by officers. We have terminated an officer for an allegation of a violent incident outside of work. We have spent a lot of money on terminating that officer. Mayor Maley talked about the high cost of termination but also the incidents where an individual holds a grudge against a police officer and tried to have him fired under false allegations. There is balance. Our record is to take a firm and not usually economical stance on dealing with bad behavior. Mayor Maley talked about some updates in reference to COVID guidelines and how they are affecting town events and recreation programs. Mayor Maley said we are long away from pool opening, we need staff, we have questions on sanitizing. Borough offices and departments are closed to the public but are available to the community. Please call or email, borough staff is available to help. Mayor Maley talked about Collingswood Cares and the generosity of the community. Mayor Maley thanked Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz and his organization Thy Kingdom Crumb for the food donation that was distributed at the Parkview apartments. Mayor Maley asked residents to check on those they do not see often and let the Borough know of if you or a neighbor is in need of help.

Mayor Maley opened the meeting to the public.

Richard Klingerman asked if the Borough would consider taking formal action to support the state mandate body camera's for officers. Mayor Maley said it could be considered. But with a state mandate comes state pay.

A resident thanked the Collingswood Police for their help with the Haddon Ave. peaceful protest.

Mayor Maley said other groups are looking to hold marches and Chief Cary is working to consolidate the groups and plan a single event.

Clinton Conner asked where data can be found on the racial and ethnic background of police call, contact, arrests etc. Mayor Maley said he believes the Attorney General compiles that data.

Brian Bratman asked if there are plans for Coventa trash incinerator to be changed into micro grid plan. Mayor Maley said no, he has not any conversations. Mr. Bratman expressed environmental concerns in association with the Covanta trash incinerator plant.

Jen Rossi asked if there has been any progress in the energy aggregation program. Mayor Maley said we have not moved forward. The virus has taken precedence but we are slowly moving back toward normal routines.

A resident asked if the Police Chief could talk on his point of view on body cameras. Mayor Maley explained Chief Carey is not on the call at the moment. Mayor Maley said Chief Carey will be available at our next meeting but Mayor Maley said Chief Carey has expressed training is very important.

A resident asked where any information on a Town Forum to discuss racial issues can be found? Mayor Maley said nothing has been scheduled but if there is a forum, we would notify the same way we do for all our forums; through a mailing, the website and social media.

Mayor Maley apologized for not being able to have the residents ask their own questions. He said he does not like that residents need to type their questions and comments and that he has to read them. Mayor Maley said he will make sure we get it fixed so residents can deliver their own questions and comments for the next meeting

Elizabeth Moore said she sent an email request for percentages of fines by race and asked if that email is confidential. Mayor Maley said it is not but advised Ms. Moore to direct her email to the Police Chief. Mayor Maley added that he believes that data is collected by the attorney general and that there is not a database on the local level that compiles that information.

Mr. Shah said it seems cost is the big factor and asked how much do body camera cost? Mayor Maley said costs can be between \$400,000.00 and \$500,000.00 for a department of our size.

Commissioner Lewandowski explained the cost factor for body cameras is not everything for him, it is also the question of benefit and looking at the research and reports from the communities that have cameras. Mayor Maley commented the function of cost is there a better result to spend \$500,000.00 on body cameras or \$50,000.00 on intensive behavior training for officers so we make sure corrupt behavior doesn't happen.

Brian Bratman shared a resource in reference to the Covanta trash incinerator at force.nj.com Mr. Bratman asked about trash disposal in Collingswood. Mayor Maley said our trash goes to the incinerator in Camden. Commissioner Leonard asked that information be sent to her and she will read up on the issue and talk about it.

Elizabeth Moore expressed concerns about traffic stops by race. Mayor Maley and Commissioner Lewandowski agreed.

Mayor Maley apologized again that questions and comments had to be typed and that he will have it fixed for the next meeting.

With no other comments, Mayor Maley moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:58PM, which was seconded.

Adopted: JULY 6, 2020

| Commissioners | Present | Absent | Aye | Nay | Abstain |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|-----|-----|---------|
| Mayor M. James Maley | x | | x | | |
| Commissioner Joan Leonard | x | | x | | |
| Commissioner Lewandowski | x | | x | | |

