

AUGUST 26, 2020  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF COLLINGSWOOD, NJ

A special 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.

After the flag salute, Mayor Maley read the 48-hour sunshine law stating that the Borough complied with the 48 hour notice provisions of the Sunshine Law by giving written advance notice of at least two local newspapers, stating the time, date, format from in person to remote-conference.

and to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting and copies of the notice were posted in the Borough Hall and filed with the Borough Clerk.

***The Following Resolutions were Approved without a Dissenting Vote***

Authorizing the 2020 Municipal Budget to be Read by Title

*Public Hearing on the 2020 Municipal Budget*

Debra Hayes 16 E. Madison asked what does the \$54.00 average increase include? Mayor Maley explained the budget increase includes all Borough services such as trash pick up, police and fire services, construction and zoning services, there is a 2% increase in contracted salaries. The increase is reflective of the substantial reduction in revenues in our parking, construction, Scottish Rite Ballroom and Auditorium and Roberts Pool due to the pandemic.

Authorizing an Amendment to the 2020 Municipal Budget as Introduced

Authorizing the Adoption of the 2020 Municipal Budget

**The Commissioners called for the Second Reading of Ordinance 1687** not adopted due to clerical error.

Commissioner Lewandowski talked about Community Energy Aggregation Programs and what is being asked by some community members. Commissioner Lewandowski explained the state allows municipalities to set up a program where all electric services for the residents are brought under one umbrella, so the municipality can shop for aggregated rates. Commissioner Lewandowski talked about renewable sourced rates which are currently at 24% and the state goal by 2030 is 50% renewably sourced energy. Commissioner Lewandowski explained in February of this year the Commissioners approved an ordinance to establish an energy aggregation program and in doing so we also need to consider community notification, education and giving families the opportunity to opt out. Commissioner Lewandowski explained everything was put on hold because of the Global Pandemic that effected our area in March. Recently community members filed a petition to initiate an ordinance establishing a Community Energy Aggregation Program. Commissioner Lewandowski explained the two ordinances have some differences but not enough to reject and place on the ballot. Commissioner Lewandowski believes replacing the ordinance that was adopted in March with the initiated ordinance will save time in getting the program underway.

Mayor Maley talked about the petition and explained that an energy aggregation program ordinance was already adopted. Mayor Maley said the ordinance by petition was drafted by a state wide organization and not it is drafted well or done professionally. The petition ordinance does not do anything more than what is in the ordinance that was adopted in March. The petition ordinance sets some goals but does not set requirements to meet those goals. Mayor Maley agrees to adopting the ordinance by petition but it will not replace the originally approved ordinance. There will be two ordinances that are slightly different.

Commissioner Leonard stated we are committed to and have always been committed to fighting climate change and we will keep the momentum going regardless of what we are up against with the global pandemic. We will continue to move forward.

**Commissioners called for the First Reading of Ordinance 1690**

Consideration of the Review of an Initiative Petition Submitted by a Committee of Petitioners for an Ordinance Authorizing the Establishment of a Community Energy Aggregation Program Requiring 100% Regionally Sourced Renewables

**Mayor Maley moved the ordinance be approved on first reading, published, and the second reading and public hearing to be held on October 5, 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 opened the meeting for Public Comment**

Joyce Kemler 240 E Madison Ave., expressed her appreciation for the Collingswood Community and its commitment to sustainability from the bike share and the community garden to residents installing solar panels. Ms. Kemler stated she did not realize the commissioners had already committed to a renewable energy program.

Debra Hayes, 16 E. Madison asked if the public hearing for the Community Energy Aggregation program will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Maley said it would. Ms Hayes said she does not understand why it will not be until October. Mayor Maley explained the municipal ordinance adoption process to Ms. Hayes. Ms. Hayes expressed her appreciation for the community and for the Mayor and Commissioners for their commitment to the environment.

Brian Dilks Brotman, 243 Crestmont Terr, said as a member of the committee of petitioners and a community member he thanked the Commissioner for the adoption of the ordinance by petition.

Wayne Ross, 114 E. Palmer Ave. also thanked the Commissioners. Mr. Rossi explained the ordinance petition places a strong renewable plan and guarantee into law. Mr. Rossi said he thinks this commitment to move to 100% renewable energy by 2030 is important as a leading town to draw other communities to commit and join us.

Kate Delany thanked the Commissioners and expressed her support for a Community Energy Aggregation Programs and renewably sourced energy.

Kate Ingersoll thanked the Commissioners and expressed her support for a Community Energy Aggregation Programs and renewably sourced energy.

Julie Snyder said she thinks the ordinance adopted in February did not have renewable goals where the ordinance by petition does. She said she thinks that may be where the differences lie.

**With no other comments, Mayor Maley moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:28, which was seconded.**

Approved: December 4, 2020

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