

BOROUGH OF PINE BEACH
WORK MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2022

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pine Beach held a work meeting on November 21, 2022 at 7:30 PM in the Municipal Building, 599 Pennsylvania Ave. Mayor Cuneo called the meeting to order and read the STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE 'OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW' P.L. 1975 C 231 NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS AND THE STAR-LEDGER AND POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS OF THE PINE BEACH MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND THE PINE BEACH POST OFFICE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL BECOME A PART OF THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THIS MEETING

ROLL CALL: Present: MRS. COLETTI, MR. KEESLING, MR. NEWMAN, MR. POLHEMUS, MR.SAXTON, MR. WIECK

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

MAYOR'S REPORT

The County Mayor's Association supported passing a resolution calling for changes to the Open Public Records Act. Council discussed the problems with the OPRA requests because some people that make business opportunities from the information share in the costs. Our requests take time from employees and the state only allows a fee of .05 a page, but if the information is emailed or faxed there is no charge. There should be an administrative fee at a minimum. The resolution will be placed on the next council meeting agenda.

The Pine Beach Elementary School PTO sponsored carriage rides will take place Dec. 16 from the Hillside Ave. parking lot. The Chief will schedule 2 police cars to be available for the activity. It is posted on the website and PB Chat. The carriages will be coming through town.

Recreation: The state put out a grant for recreation purposes, a local recreation improvement grant; we are looking to make improvements to our parking and parks. The engineer will start working on an application, and the Council is in favor.

Regarding the pickle ball courts, some research was done. Originally it was thought to use portable nets but it has been found that fixed nets are a lot less expensive. Mr. Polhemus asked about the portable net and that it would be destroyed. Permanent ones look to be less expensive. With the painting, painting the zone is cost prohibitive. Maybe to start we will put the lines in. The Mayor is concerned that if it is painted use of skate boards could damage it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WIECK

Concerning the 2023 Reorganization meeting date, it must be done within the first 7 days of the year. He and Mr. Newman would like to have it Thursday Jan 5, at 6:30. Council was in favor.

The seasonal laborer for public works started November 14. This will help with leaf and recycling pick up. We have one employee out of work.

Council was asked to review the incorporation papers for the Centennial Committee and have a resolution passed that it is acceptable. Perhaps future events can be done under this incorporation name. Mr. Wieck is asking for some seed money to start the organization through the town budget

S. COLETTI

The Annual Tree Lighting is December 4; gift bags are being prepared, and include a sand pail with toys in it and cookies and juice in a bag. Mr. Newman purchased 125 sand pails with toys in them for \$1 each, and then more were donated by Lowes.

Mr. Polhemus will provide the public address system

Mr. KEESLING

Mr. Keesling brought up the ordinance concerning Administration of Government.

Mr. Newman stated that it is the responsibility of a council member to be present at meetings and to answer face to face to the public.

Mr. Saxton added that it is a special situation with executive sessions, and concern if there is a way to have a private chat on zoom

Mr. Keesling missed 3 council meetings in a row and as the land use board liaison attended only 2 meetings out of 8. He was elected to represent the residents and members missing meetings aren't fulfilling their duties.

Mr. Saxton would like to know if Mr. Keesling will be able to be present in town more often.

Mr. Polhemus stated that as a council we would be remiss if we did not observe ordinances and this one is directed toward the elected officials and committee members. He was present when the ordinance came about. There were committees with members not coming to meetings and it was the original intent to have the ability to have a quorum at meetings.

Mr. Keesling had work obligations making it difficult to make the meetings. A person's livelihood comes first, but there is an obligation to the town when elected or appointed.

Mr. Keesling feels that after missing the second meeting he should have been made aware about the ordinance.

Mayor Cuneo added that Borough sets the meeting dates at the beginning of the year; the only thing that got changed was Land Use Board meetings because we hired a new attorney.

The Mayor suggested Mr. Keesling has the responsibility of putting meeting dates on his phone calendar.

Mr. Keesling stated that his work has been overwhelming this year. He will make an effort to attend meetings or use zoom. He wishes to continue as a council member. Mr. Saxton commented that Mr. Keesling has been on council almost a year, and the other council members have been working hard and covering his duties. The Code Book is available on line. He longer wants to hear words, he wants to see action. Mr. Keesling's absences are not fair to the community or council.

Mr. Newman will excuse Mr. Keesling not attending due to personal and professional duties. But noted that we all have a lot to do and made a pledge to the town to serve the residents. He is willing to give Mr. Keesling a second chance noting that we are here together as one team to make Pine Beach a better place to live. Adding that the different skill sets take this town better.

Mr. Keesling was offered a 6 month opportunity to make Pine Beach a better place to live.

The Mayor summarized Mr. Newman's suggestion as a censure for 6 months and that Mr. Keesling is aware that meeting attendance or 60% of cumulative meetings are required to stay on council. He must be present more to perform the council duties.

Mrs. Coletti seconded the motion for a 6 month censure for Mr. Keesling.

Mr. Keesling was advised to participate in activities for the town, and Mr. Wieck discussed that there is training available for council members. The Mayor suggested the League of Municipalities offers newly elected officials training. Mr. Polhemus mentioned that there is a wealth of information and council learn from each other.

R. NEWMAN

Mr. Newman attended the League of Municipalities and feels it is a great educational opportunity. He learned about different businesses and things they can do for the Borough. For example, MuniPAY allows governments to offer their citizens the convenience of making payment via credit/debit cards but charges the user for a convenience fee and not the town.

Regarding the 100th anniversary, a program called flag heroes interested Mr. Newman and he get copies of the program that is available at no cost to the town and residents buy banners.

Mr. Newman has grant paperwork concerning various grants.

Regarding private trash collection Mr. Newman has the name of 2 different contractors, Mr. Keesling, asked about the Borough having a grant writer, and although we have had one in the past most of our grants are through the DOT authorized by our engineer.

R. POLHEMUS

The Personnel Committee got together, and is continuing with CWA negotiations. They will have a conversation with CFO. They are progressing and hopefully can counter with the CWA proposals. They hope they will have it completed before end of December.

We have funding for repaving the walkway between New Jersey Ave. and Avon Rd. through the Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Polhemus asked to have the bid ask for an alternate for concrete or asphalt and to have the walkway as a master plan. There are things that we can do to make the walk appealing including illuminating. We can work on a master plan to have it ready for the 100 year anniversary. We connected Admirals Circle to Station Ave. path in concrete and perhaps the next phases could be concrete.

J. SAXTON

Mr. Saxton mentioned that Council tabled a resolution for code enforcement salary last month and he would like to solidify the salary and hours. Mr. Saxton made a motion to take the resolution off the table which was seconded by Mr. Newman. The resolution would cap the hours as code enforcement to a maximum of eight hours a week at \$30.00 per hour to give the officer the time to do the job.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Polhemus

Mr. Newman commented that the Code officer has been working hard and would like to see the authorized hours increased to a maximum of 8 hours so he can follow through on complaints.

The Mayor called for a vote, 6 Ayes, 0 Object, 0 Abstain

Mr. Saxton mentioned that the Borough is storing a boat and an old police car in the yard and that perhaps they should be sold.

POLICE CHIEF, not present
Accreditation has been finalized

FINANCE OFFICER, no present. The Mayor suggested that Council and supervisors submit their wants, needs and wishes together to give to finance for the 2023 budget.

PUBLIC WORKS not present

CLERK

The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday. Last week was very difficult because the copier was not working.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Fire Company President John Kubilewicz spoke regarding the fire Company radio drive and that they are still getting some donations. The Thermometer sign showing progress is now on the front lawn of the fire company and they are changing the color to red to show progress

The Fire Company received \$27,000 through a government grant and they are looking to see exactly what they will purchase, it is for firefighter and safety items.

There were no further public comments:

There was no need for an executive session.

Before closing the meeting the Mayor wish everyone happy and grateful Thanksgiving.

He also mentioned that his school was in a lock down today with a threat of a gun. Everything went smoothly but it reminds us to give your family a big hug

With that the meeting was closed following a motion by Mr. Newman and a second by Mr. Wieck.

All were in favor.

