

BOROUGH OF PINE BEACH

WORK MEETING

May 24, 2021

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pine Beach met at a work meeting on May 24, 2021 at 7:30 PM in the Municipal Building, 599 Pennsylvania Ave. Mayor Cuneo read the following

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: MR. BUDESA, MR. NEWMAN, MR. POLHEMUS

Absent: MRS. COLETTI, MR. SAXTON, MR. WIECK

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

MAYOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kidney, TR School board of education representative was present to discuss the school budget Mr. Budesha asked about the school curriculum Kidney stated he is available any time for questions.

Mr. Newman stated he is happy the sports have returned and the children back to school.

The kids have too much time on their hands and there is an increase in vandalism in town.

Mr. Kidney stated that there is a bus driver shortage and it is causing delay in trying to get the students back to day 5 days a week full time.

Mayor Cuneo hopes to get the students in full time as quickly as possible and Mr. Kidney hopes other schools will be going back 5 days full time

Mr. Newman commented that the TR South High School senior prom was outside and was a huge success. High School North went to Trenton Thunder and High School East went to a farm. The students need to have the normal activities and these events were well thought out.

Mr. Polhemus added that there many major hurdles facing the school including state funding being cut. Mr. Kidney replied that the S2 formula reallocated funds away from TR schools. The Regional school system performed in top third of schools while being in the lower third on spending.

Mr. Budesha asked if the schools are losing students. Mr. Kidney indicated that there is an increase in students from South Toms River but there are losing students in the North Dover area.

Mayor Cuneo asked about the initiative with school improvement projects and Mr. Kidney feels they are doing well. The Mayor asked ow long will it take to complete the projects and Mr. Kidney replied that it will take the next four years. Mayor Cuneo mentioned that on the school budget side, he assumes some of the financing is with short term notes. The sending districts voted on the improvements and the Mayor asked when will we see the impact on the tax bills. It is unknown at this time.

Mr. Budesha asked about the bus driver shortage, and Mr. Kidney said that the school system is offering \$20 per hour but not enough qualified people are interested. Mr. Kidney stated that the bus system is considered one of the most efficient in the state. Mr. Kidney mentioned that substitute teachers are difficult to get also.

Mr. Kidney mentioned that they are still looking for a Superintendent. He hopes the masks come off the students and they return to 5 days a week. He can be reached at 732-674-4977 if there are any other questions.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Kidney for coming out and he left the meeting.

The Mayor added that Pine Beach has a larger tax due to equalized assessed value of the homes in town.

The Memorial Day service will be May 31 at 2 pm on the bluff at Vista Park. Mr. Wieck is not sure if he can be at the service and the Mayor offered the opportunity to speak to the two council veterans. They will be there but did not wish to speak. Mr. Polhemus will be setting up the sound system.

The Mayor spoke about the sale of Borough owned lots, we often put them out for sale to contiguous property owners, but one lot is a flag type lot and although it doesn't have a lot of frontage on the street it meets the square footage requirement for a buildable lot. The layout is short in the front and long on the sides, no variances would be required and the sale would not be limited to just adjacent property owners. We will look to offer adjacent property owners the undersize lots.

The Cedar Ave. pavilion has been installed looks nice and was built in one day. It is certified as being able to withstand 100 MPH Hurricane strength and hopefully will be there for many years

Regarding the opening of the Station Ave. Beach, there is a request for the portable potty moved away from the table. There is a problem because it needs to be assessable from the road to clean.

The Mayor spoke to Linda Picaro Covello, finance officer and to Chris Dehzn, tax collector about accepting credit cards. Cost to be turned on to the user, and Ms. Dehzn sent him information concerning costs associated with the Borough financial program which he has not had a chance to review.

Regarding having a Beach badge checker, and the Mayor spoke to the chief, perhaps a solution would be to look for a class 1 police officer. Possibly put them on the bike and they would have the ability to enforce and to write tickets. It would be at minimum wage and limited to 20 hours per week.

The Mayor asked for Executive session to discuss personnel at the end of the meeting

At this time, the Mayor called for two items of formal action.

FORMAL ACTION

Resolution 2021-55, authorizing renewal of the franchise agreement with NJ Natural Gas Company was moved by Mr. Budesca and seconded by Mr. Polhemus.

There were no questions or comments from the Council or members of the public

The Mayor called for a vote; there were 3 Ayes (Budesca, Newman and Polhemus)
3 Absent (Coletti, Saxton, Wieck)

Resolution 2021-56, Employment of Harrison Jacobus as a lifeguard at the salary of \$14 per hour was moved by Mr. Budesca and seconded by Mr. Polhemus.

There were no questions or comments from the Council or members of the public

The Mayor called for a vote; there were 3 Ayes (Budes, Newman and Polhemus)
3 Absent (Coletti, Saxton, Wieck)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WIECK, absent

R. BUDESA

Station Ave beach will open June 19 & 20 and then daily June 23rd.

S. COLETTI, Absent

R. NEWMAN

Mr. Newman urged everyone to stop at a cemetery and remember a veteran.

R. POLHEMUS

The Memorial Day service is at 2 PM on the bluff.

Mr. Polhemus thanked Pine Beach Fire Dept. for organizing the successful town wide yard sale outing.

J. SAXTON, absent

POLICE CHIEF

FINANCE OFFICER

Budget has been approved by the state

PUBLIC WORKS

CLERK

The Clerk mentioned the Governor's lifting of the mask mandate but allows for the employers to who wish to further protect employees to maintain the masks. State offices that have access to the public are still requiring masks on employees and visitors. The Mayor feels that to protect the staff it would be best to have employees and members of the public wear masks for the time being. The council members agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Kubilewicz, Fire Company President stated that it was a good weekend with yard sales and coin toss

There was a question on the yard sale registration regarding having a fall sale, and the people were in favor of having a fall yard sale. The Fire Company will consider that.

A Motion to close the meeting for executive session for pending litigation and personnel was made by Mr. Budes and seconded by Mr. Newman. All were in favor.

Executive Session:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pine Beach have determined that in accordance with the provisions of NJSA 10:4-12b, Closed Session to discuss (7) Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation (8) Personnel) is necessary. The public will be informed of the discussion within forty-five days of the conclusion (NJSA 10:4-13)

Following the executive session the Council returned to the work meeting. There was no further business to discuss and the meeting was adjourned following a motion by Mr. Budesca and a second by Mr. Polhemus. All were in favor.
