

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH TOMS RIVER
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MAY 26, 2020, 7:00 PM**

Mayor Handshy opened the Meeting with a moment of silence and Flag Salute.

Borough Administrator/Clerk read the following minutes:

STATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

This meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law. Notice of this meeting was sent to the Asbury Park Press and published on December 12, 2019; in addition a copy of notice is posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Borough Administrator/Clerk proceeded with Roll Call

ROLL CALL:

	Fennell	Mosley	Murray	Rolzhausen	Ross	Taylor	Handshy
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Absent							

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 20-4

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH TOMS RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED EXPENSES FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH TOMS RIVER AND APPROPRIATING \$469,000 THEREFOR AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$130,000 IN GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH TOMS RIVER TO FINANCE THE SAME. (First Reading)

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN/NV	ABSENT
		Fennell	x			
	x	Mosley	x			
x		Murray	x			
		Rolzhausen	x			
		Ross	x			
		Taylor	x			

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Borough Administrator provided the following engineering updates

Crabbe Point Pier: The Borough had a meeting with Save Barnegat Bay to discuss the plans to install a living shoreline (comprising of gabion rocks and living, native plants. The timeline is unknown at this point since the NJDEP continues to review all applications. They have not approved any permits to date, and we are working on the design phase.

Chamberlain: NJ Natural Gas continues to install the new service main. However, they are unsure when they will be able to finish due to Covid19. This primarily involves the Gas company going into each of the homes to tie-in the new service; and access to inside homes is currently restricted. The next step is to

complete Chamberlain Road Improvements after the tie-in. This timeline is unknown due to the earlier unknown timeline.

Police Chief Kosh thanked the public for doing what they should during this pandemic; it paid off. However, we are not out of the woods. He encouraged everyone to keep following social distancing laws and CDC Guidance. He thanked the Mayor, Council, and Administrator Kosteki for their involvement, being on the frontlines and working so diligently with our First Responders. Without your involvement, we wouldn't be where we are today. Daily conversations with, and making sure we have what we need to make the town safe. We are a team in South Toms River. Numbers from the Health Department: 16 active cases, at 14 different residences. Last week 23 cases at 18 different residences. We've had a total of 76 positive Covid cases, now down to 19. Week by week: 1: 10 active cases. Week 2: 17; 3rd: 15, and 10, 4, 9, 5, 0, 2 respectively.

Councilman Ross: With our numbers going down, are you seeing the same thing across the county?

Chief Kosh: yes. It's statewide and nationwide. We are on a decline.

Mayor Emeritus Oscar Cradle: I've been tracking this since the beginning, and I can also provide a breakdown of numbers.

Close Public Comment: Mosley 2nd: Murray, and Council consent.

RESOLUTIONS

The Borough Administrator/Clerk read each Resolution by Title, before requesting if any of the Governing Body wishes any of the proposed Resolutions be considered separately. Seeing no such requests, he requested a motion to approve the resolutions as Consent agenda:

- Resolution 2020-121 Approving the Minutes of Council Meeting April 13, 2020
- Resolution 2020-122 Approving the Minutes of Council Meeting April 27, 2020
- Resolution 2020-123 Approving the Minutes of Special Council Meeting May 4, 2020
- Resolution 2020-124 Appointing Ellen Keleher as Tax Assessor
- Resolution 2020-125 Authorizing the Purchase of a Pavilion from Shed World LLC
- Resolution 2020-126 Authorizing a NJDOT FY2021 Grant Application For Curbing Repair

- Resolution 2020-127 Approving the Renewal of a Plenary Liquor License of Karan (ONE) Inc. License No. 1529-44-001-005

- Resolution 2020-128 Approving the Renewal of a Plenary Retail Consumption License for Stop Inn , Inc, license No. 1529-33-002-006

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN/NV	ABSENT
		Fennell	x			
	x	Mosley	x			
		Murray	x			
		Rolzhausen	x			
x		Ross	x			
		Taylor	x			

BILL LIST

Resolution 2020-129 Approving May Bill List

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN/NV	ABSENT
		Fennell				x
	x	Mosley	x			
		Murray				x
		Rolzhausen	x			

x		Ross	x			
		Taylor	x			

COUNCIL & LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Taylor: No report; helping with the food.

Councilman Fennell: The lights at Center Street are up with a new flood light and pole. He requested the storm drains be cleaned at the corner of Albright and Tilton. He asked if the Borough would allow Oscar Cradle to use the Borough loader to level off the ground at Brook Forest playground to place a volleyball net.

Mayor Handshy stated that he’s not heard of this idea to date, and is the first time being brought to him.

Councilman Ross: Sam, I and Ed have spoken several times about the volleyball court, and I know Joe requested use of the loader from the Sewerage Authority. They came back with a quote, but Oscar is willing to provide the labor at no charge. Although, we indicated a day ago that it would be quicker for Oscar to use the Borough loader to grade the soil.

Oscar Cradle. The area that needs to be dug out, would only take 10-15 minutes, and I have a machine to fine grade the area. I believe we have a Borough employee that is able to work this. It won’t take long at all; or I can use it as you see fit.

Mayor : Have we discussed the cost of this?

Oscar Cradle: for me, there is no cost.

Councilman Ross: The only cost other than a net and poles. We have the border in stock, so the sand would be the only cost. I anticipate 2 tandem loads of sand.

Councilman Fennell: We can also just dig out the area, level it out, and not use sand if the issue is cost.

Mayor Handshy: I would be in favor of no sand. I don’t believe the sand is going to stay there.

Councilman Murray: the border will hold in the sand. How much is the sand?

Councilman Fennell: Still searching for a quote.

Chief Kosh: The PBA is willing to donate time and material for the volleyball court. The sand may be an option.

Attorney Dasti: There’s a lot of conversation about legal issues and indemnification. I can work with the Administrator, and see how we can do it in the right framework. I understand the goal. Everyone is trying to do the right thing , but I’m the guy that has to say how, and what is plausible.

Councilwoman Mosley: no report

Councilman Murray; We had the food distribution over the last several Fridays. Meetings with the Police, weekly OEM meetings and First Responders; Negotiation Committee for upcoming contracts.

Councilman Rolzhausen: The food drive continues, and asked if it will do so this week.

The Administrator stated that the food distribution will continue. The time hasn't been confirmed. He thanked the PBA, Chief Kosh and OEM Coordinator for all assisting with the distribution, and early unloading. He stated our volunteers have been nothing short of amazing.

Councilman Ross: The OEM reports have been great. The food distribution is a great thing. I appreciate everyone being involved in that. The Summer camp. The Rec Commission hasn't had any meetings. The sub committee has had discussions about potential to have a summer camp. I spoke with our Director to get their perspective and logistics. There are questions that need to be answered regarding the Governor's directive. There are so many different parameters to consider: cleaning, social distancing. We really are at the point that we need to make a decision. By and large, we would love to be able to provide it; I don't know if we can. I hope to have enough input from the Governing Body to make this decision. The Bing For Fun hasn't happened since the pandemic. We are hoping to start it back up in June. I spoke with a resident on Easy Street, and asked for a stop sign at Drexel and Easy Street and a speed bump. He spoke on some siding damage to the Recreation Building due to recent windstorms. Also, asked about the DPW robo arm.

The Administrator stated that it is being repaired. The cost will be about \$2,500. The increased disposal of trash due to people being in their homes has in turn doubled our tonnage. With the extra pickup in summer months, we might have to anticipate a quadruple of landfill fees. There is a possibility that we may need to bond for a new truck if this keeps up.

CFO Gallagher stated that we should do our best to keep the trucks running until early next year, we can do an ordinance in January and February. We will deal with what we have to deal with.

Mayor Handshy: Thanks to everyone involved with every food drive on Fridays. Kevin McCormack, CERT, First Aid, Fire, Kosh, Chief Krohn. Everyone has stepped up to the plate. It's great to see that if you need food, food is available. There are weekly OEM meetings, conference calls with the Governor; food drives. Over 1 million out of work in NJ. People are in need. These are tough times. We will get through this. Numbers are starting to level off. The plan is working so far. The data keeps moving in a positive direction. A lot of programs for struggling businesses. I encourage businesses to call Borough Hall. Go to NJ.Gov as well. Senator Booker and Menendez are working hard to get money to assist municipalities. Our Recreation Commission is still up in the air with summer camps. The Governor stated the three phase of reopening. We are close to starting phase II. Gatherings are now up to 25 people. Indoor gatherings are still out of the question.

OLD BUSINESS

The Borough Administrator stated that the Financial Disclosure Statement deadline is July 31. The majority have completed them. If anyone needs help, he encourages anyone needing help to contact him.

Employee Work Schedule: All departments are back at full schedule. Also, bulk was increased to accommodate residents. There will be two bulk pickups in June as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Reopening Plan will be based on the State's 3 phase plan. The next phase allows for sidewalk dining and sales. The Borough Administrator spoke with Zoning/Code Enforcement regarding sidewalk sales & dining. He and Police didn't have a concern as long as proper safety measures were put in-place - such as if there is a sidewalk dining, to block off any parking spaces directly in-front it, in addition to normal restrictions such as no fire lanes, etc). We would need an ordinance though to allow these new services, and would defer to Mr. Dasti.

Mr. Dasti stated that this will be an ordinance, to be referred to the Land Use Board for master plan review. This won't be a quick change and will take time.

Mayor Handshy reminded people that the Recycle Coach is a smartphone app with information from the town, and recommends people to download it and use it. He thanked the Borough Administrator for putting all of the data in the app.

There was dialog to draft an ordinance on sidewalk sales, and no concerns were raised.

The Administrator stated he received information regarding drive-In movies. In response to closed theatres, municipalities can host drive-in movies. He stated there is a cost to hold these. Additionally, this would abide by social distancing as well. Once theatres open back up, the list of available movies becomes restricted. On the low end would be \$1,500, and high end \$3,000. This cost is for the movie license as well as screen and equipment. Additionally, we can not sell tickets; only refreshments. The areas in mind to hold this event would be Borough Hall, Recreation Building or Mathis Plaza. He asked for ideas from the Governing Body.

Mayor Handshy stated that he didn't think the Recreation Building was a good location for the movie, but likes the venue of Mathis Plaza and line cars up along the grass.

Councilman Taylor stated that he thinks it's a good idea since we are not having the Youth Day, and it's a way to give back to the community.

Councilman Murray stated that he wants to see how much the movie is going to cost. You (referring to the Mayor) stated we should have a volleyball court due to cost, and he believes it is the same thing.

Councilman Taylor stated that he feels the volleyball court is two different things.

The conversation proceeded with crosstalk between Councilman Taylor and Councilman Murray. The conversation turned to vulgar language, and the Administrator muted microphones to bring decorum to the meeting. The Administrator asked all to calm down and have a conversation.

Mayor Handshy stated that we can look at funds from our Town Events fund and Buildings and Ground.

CFO Gallagher stated he has been monitoring the tax collections. The Borough is well behind from last year's collection, but he is hoping that this is because we extended the deadline. I'm concerned about the third quarter collection. We need to be concerned about our revenue for this and next year. The State is projecting a \$10billion deficit this year, and another \$7 billion in 21/22'. You may want to consider our funds right now.

CFO confirmed with Councilman Ross that if the summer camp doesn't run, there is the option to use this money for the movie event.

Councilman Ross asked the Administrator to see if Comcast would be willing to assist with this type of event.

Kevin McCormack stated that the Fire Company might want to be involved with selling refreshments at the movie, if it occurs.

Mayor Handshy stated that all nonprofits should be allowed to participate.

The Administrator stated that DPW is improving the playgrounds, with borders and mulch. The playground structure at Center Street will be needing removal at the recommendation of our insurance company.

ADJOURNMENT: 1st: Ross 2nd: Mosley, and Council consent.

Adjournment at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Kostecki, Administrator

Gregory Handshy, Mayor