

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF MAGNOLIA
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 3, 2020

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Cowling-Carson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mayor Cowling-Carson made mention that this meeting is being livestreamed via Facebook. Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned any questions can be relayed via the comment feature on this livestream and should be emailed to Mrs. Pippet at Cpippet@magnolia-nj.org and Mr. Godfrey at mgodfrey@magnolia-nj.org.

“OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW” ANNOUNCEMENT

This meeting is being livestreamed via Facebook in full compliance of the “Open Public Meetings Law” and notices were sent to the Courier-Post and The Central Record and other news media. In addition, the notice was provided on the Official Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL

Councilwoman Paula Bonamassa, present
Council President Anthony DePrince, present
Councilman Richard Krause, present
Councilwoman Mary F. Martz, present
Councilman Odell Saxton, present
Councilman Steven Whalen, present
Mayor BettyAnn Cowling-Carson, present

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT

Dan Long, Solicitor
Mark Basehore, Engineer
Police Chief Scott Paris
Fire Chief Paul Wolf
Shelley A. Strehle, CMFO, QPA
Mark W. Godfrey, CTC, CMR, Deputy Borough Clerk

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from May 21, 2020 were not available at the time of the meeting and were subsequently tabled by Councilman DePrince and Councilman Krause. All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

R2020-092

Resolution to Authorize Tax Lien for Grass Cutting and Various Maintenance Repairs and Clean Up

A motion was made by Council President DePrince and seconded by Councilman Krause to adopt Resolution 2020-092. All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

R2020-093

Resolution Appointing Department of Public Works Part Time Laborer Cameron Hoffman

A motion was made by Council President DePrince and seconded by Councilman Krause to adopt Resolution 2020-093. All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

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R2020-094

Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Magnolia, through The Magnolia Police Department, to Participate in The Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program to Enable the Magnolia Police Department to Request and Acquire Excess Department of Defense Equipment

A motion was made by Council President DePrince and seconded by Councilman Krause to adopt Resolution 2020-094. At this time Council President DePrince explained the need for this resolution and the details behind the need for its adoption. Mayor Cowling-Carson provided additional details as they related to other towns utilizing this program.

All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

R2020-095

Resolution Amending Resolution R2020-084 Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Coordinator Michael Thomas

A motion was made by Council President DePrince and seconded by Councilman Krause to adopt Resolution 2020-095. The Mayor provided details on the need for this resolution and the amendments made behind it.

All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

R2020-096

Resolution Appointing Theresa Barry as Deputy Court Administrator

R2020-097

Resolution Appointing Alice Max as Municipal Court Violations Clerk

A motion was made by Council President DePrince and seconded by Councilman Krause to adopt Resolutions 2020-096 and 2020-097 together. All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

R2020-098

Resolution Modifying Signatures on Court Bank Accounts

A motion was made by Council President DePrince and seconded by Councilman Krause to adopt Resolution 2020-098. At this time Council President DePrince provided additional details on this resolution as they relate to the Court Office.

All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

At this time Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned the incoming storm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

Council President DePrince mentioned a few of his reports were submitted in writing. An update on COVID-19 response and supplies was provided. Council President DePrince also mentioned the incoming storm and provided details on calls received for emergency response teams, and power outages in the Borough. Council President DePrince thanks the emergency response teams for their work. Council President DePrince provided detail on COVID-19 cases in the Borough.

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Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned a donation of facemasks being given to the Borough from Cooper Health for distribution to residents.

Council President DePrince mentioned an evaluation is in process between himself and Councilman Saxton, however deferred to Councilman Saxton to report on this process.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Councilman Whalen mentioned an email sent from Mr. Godfrey regarding our resumption of normal office hours in the front offices. Residents are still encouraged to make an appointment, if need be, to interact with Borough Officials. Masks must be worn, and hand sanitizer must be used.

Councilman Whalen provided an update on revenue, and the Borough's fiscal health as they relate to State Aid, and Grant funding. Court revenue is down, and our new shared service with Runnemede should pick up that revenue. Councilman Whalen mentioned our Abandoned Property Registration is down as well, but that is a positive as less homes would be vacant. Councilman Whalen asked that everyone be conscious of spending wisely, and to reach out to the CMFO for needs and guidance on purchases. The concern is that if revenue shortfalls do not increase, the Borough may have to take difficult steps to correct its shortfalls. Councilman Whalen gave the opportunity for Ms. Strehle to offer her guidance on our financial health. Ms. Strehle offered details as they relate to spending over the next few months. We should know more through the 3rd quarter. Councilman Whalen offered a few more details and ended his report.

Mayor Cowling-Carson asked all on the call to mute their phones due to background noise.

PUBLIC WORKS & TECHNOLOGY

Councilwoman Bonamassa mentioned she would be putting forward a proposal for our next meeting that will explain and offer feedback on DPW Supervisor Miles retirement in July. The remainder of her reports would be submitted in writing.

PLANNING/ZONING, CODES, LICENSING & STREET LIGHTING

Councilwoman Martz mentioned her reports were submitted in writing. A resident asked for a streetlight on Evesham Ave, and a request was put into PSE&G. Another request was put in for Phillips Avenue as well. Councilwoman Martz will look to add additional streetlights in the town as it makes sense to do so financially. Councilwoman Martz mentioned Mr. Godfrey spoke with PSE&G and there are no additional details available for LED street lighting for Magnolia.

Mayor Cowling-Carson and Councilwoman Martz also provided additional details together on the streetlight on Evesham Ave.

Councilwoman Martz mentioned a problem with a resident feeding birds on public property, and that she discussed with Mrs. Simone, and Mr. Long the ordinance behind feeding wildlife. Councilwoman Martz mentioned this is the same resident from before feeding wildlife with peanut butter and peanuts.

Councilwoman Martz mentioned there were no updates for the Planning Board. Councilwoman Martz mentioned the difficulty of holding Planning Board meetings via livestream feeds. Councilwoman Martz mentioned there is no one due to come into our Planning Board besides a potential property behind Royal Farms.

Councilwoman Martz mentioned she received a letter from Mrs. Irons regarding a café and a small shed in her backyard. Councilwoman Martz asked Mrs. Pippet, and Mrs. Simone to reach out to her as it relates to this application. Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned they may have to come before the Planning Board.

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At this time, an Emergency Alert came through the livestream from the National Weather Service warning of a tornado until 7:45 PM.

Councilwoman Martz said that 44 letters were sent from Code Enforcement and mentioned a specific property. Mayor Cowling-Carson questioned properties on Williams Ave that back up to Atlantic Ave, and Councilwoman Martz mentioned they were all empty homes besides one on the corner, but will revisit them all to address the property maintenance concerns shortly.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Councilman Krause mentioned the activity in Albertson Park as they relate to the new lighting and the walking track. Councilman Krause mentioned meetings he held with playground vendors for new park equipment and would forward along the quotes. Councilman Krause mentioned there is a national non-profit organization offering \$15,000 grants for park equipment and that he submitted an application for this grant. The Borough should hear more in late August. Councilman Krause mentioned that July 4th activities were cancelled due to public gathering restrictions.

Councilwoman Martz mentioned a recent meeting of the Historical Society and their wish to replace some benches like the ones at Red Bank Battlefield. A breakdown of these benches was given to Councilwoman Martz, and she would forward to Councilman Krause to see if we want them in Albertson Park.

Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned a resident and a bench being put up at the Historical Society.

FACILITIES & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Saxton mentioned the recent tree that fell has been removed and the lights have been repaired. No further damage was done by the first round of storms from today. Councilman Saxton will tour our public grounds to assess any further damage done by the second round of storms his evening. Councilman Saxton said he will speak with the CMFO regarding the sanitization of our public buildings. The new Buildings and Grounds Custodian has started, and our buildings are being cleaned thoroughly. Councilman Saxton will meet with Council President DePrince regarding the opening our public buildings when the time comes and ordering supplies and signs for reopening. Councilman Saxton mentioned there is a meeting planned to repair the sidewalks around the borough Hall. Councilman Saxton will also discuss with the owner of Camp 99 and their reopening. Councilman Saxton also mentioned we are in the second phase of the State's reopening plan and has not heard from our sports organizations in regard to resuming operations.

Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned Sterling Knight's Youth Football would like to open for registration and the challenges posed as they relate to them holding registration. Councilman Krause offered details surrounding this plan for registration that he received from Sterling Knight's Youth Football in response to this. Councilman Krause mentioned they have been very accommodating with us surrounding this plan.

Councilwoman Martz mentioned the dumpsters were missing from the Donald Wilson Community center to which Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned that the Department of Public Works felt it best to remove them as the Community Center is closed to the public and we don't want illegal dumping occurring there.

MAYOR

Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned the 8th grade graduation ceremony taking place on Thursday evening, and details surrounding the event.

Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned the Borough's Facebook campaign containing daily updates of the photos of two graduating students per day. At this time, we are only doing the Magnolia Public School graduates as we do not have information on the other local schools.

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Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned our opening on June 15th as it relates to Phase Two. Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned the daily conference calls she is on with the County and fellow Mayor's. Everyone is working together.

Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned the town wide event to be held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 @ 8:30 PM for residents to light a candle on their front porch or lawn to show support for racial justice.

ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Basehore mentioned his report was submitted in writing but highlighted a few items. State Aid applications are due July 1. The Borough applied for a few roads. The multi-use trail is being constructed and should look nice when completed. A payment application was submitted for a portion of the project.

Councilman Krause asked Mr. Basehore about the project on the White Horse Pike and Evesham Rd. The Engineer did not have any information as they have not been involved with the project. Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned the State is currently doing punch list work and other corrections to the project. The paving, however, is complete.

Councilman Krause questioned the portion of the Engineer's report as it relates to the landscape barrier behind a property on Warwick Rd. The Engineer will work with the Solicitor to correct this issue.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Long mentioned he is keeping up with the Executive Orders given from the State of New Jersey, and complications around understanding the full orders being issued.

CLAIMS APPROVAL

A list of the Claims has been submitted by the treasury for approval and individual vouchers are available for review.

A motion was made by Council President DePrince, seconded by Councilman Krause to approve the claims list. All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

Mayor Cowling-Carson opened the floor to our other official's president. Fire Chief Wolf mentioned he is working to re-open the Fire Station for training, and the Mayor will mention it on her daily call with the Governor's office. Council President DePrince offered details on this.

Mayor Cowling-Carson questioned public events in the future like the Rabies Clinic in November. There is potential for drive thru rabies shots, and that a lot of other towns cancelled these events.

Councilwoman Martz mentioned the activity at the Rabies Clinic is spread evenly and there are not a lot of people present at once. Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned details from the County level about the potential of not receiving the vaccination.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A motion was made by Council President DePrince, seconded by Councilman Krause to open this part of the meeting to the public. All Council voted aye.

Mayor Cowling-Carson asked that all comments be emailed to Mrs. Pippet, or Mr. Godfrey.

The Solicitor made mention of a few comments in the live feed:

- William Anderson commented "Thank you for cutting the grass at 114 Jefferson Ave."

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Mayor Cowling-Carson mentioned the storm has arrived.

CLOSED TO PUBLIC

A motion was made by Council President DePrince, seconded by Councilman Krause to open this part of the meeting to the public.

Mr. Long mentioned we have one more comment that came in.

- Benjamin Loatman commented "Hello my name is Benjamin Loatman president of the knights youth football in just asking about the project/construction we have set up to see where we stand."

Mr. Long mentioned he will circle back on Mr. Loatman's concern.

- Benjamin Loatman commented "Thank You."

A motion was made again by Council President DePrince, seconded by Councilman Krause to close this part of the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made again by Council President DePrince, seconded by Councilman Krause to adjourn the meeting. All Council voted aye by roll call vote.

Mayor Cowling-Carson asked that everyone be safe this evening as the weather has gotten worse.

Prepared by:



Mark W. Godfrey
Deputy Borough Clerk
Borough of Magnolia

Time: 43 minutes, 45 seconds