

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

July 24, 2017 MINUTES

Mayor Bruce A. Harris called the Regular Council Meeting of the Borough of Chatham to order on Monday, July 24, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers in Borough Hall, 54 Fairmount Avenue, Chatham, New Jersey.

SALUTE TO FLAG

The Mayor and Borough Council led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Harris asked for a moment of silence for those who have given their lives for our country.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Robin R. Kline, Municipal Clerk, read the following statement of adequate notice:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by including same in the Annual Notice, copies of which were posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on the main floor of Borough Hall, emailed to the Daily Record, the Star Ledger, the Chatham Courier, the Chatham Patch, and The Alternative Press and filed with the Borough Clerk, all on January 5, 2017.

ROLL CALL

On a call of the roll, the following officials were present:

Mayor Bruce A. Harris
Council President Victoria Fife
Council Member Gerald J. Helfrich
Council Member Leonard Resto
Council Member Peter Hoffman
Stephen W. Williams, Acting Borough Administrator
James L. Lott, Jr., Borough Attorney
Robin R. Kline, Borough Clerk

Council Member James J. Collander and Council Member James Lonergan were absent.

Mayor Harris proceeded with Resolution #17-239.

RESOLUTION #17-239

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Chatham that the minutes from the following meeting are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Borough Clerk's office:

July 10, 2017

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Chatham that the minutes from the following Closed Session meeting(s) are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Borough Clerk's office:

July 10, 2017

Council Member Helfrich made a motion to approve Resolution #17-239. Council Member Resto seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Resolution #17-239 was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Westfield Regional Department of Health – Ms. Lisa DeRosa, Chatham Borough Board of Health President, and Ms. Megan Avallone, Health Officer for the Westfield Regional Department of Health (“Westfield”), provided a brief presentation on the array of public health services Westfield will be providing to the Chatham Borough community. Ms. Avallone reported that the shared services agreement for public health services went into effect July 10, 2017. She thanked the Madison Department of Health, the Chatham Borough Board of Health, and the Chatham Borough Clerk’s office for helping to ensure a smooth and seamless transition of health services. Ms. Avallone mentioned that Westfield provides human and environmental health services to eight municipalities. Growing up and living locally, she said she is very familiar with Chatham Borough and looks forward to serving our community.

Ms. Avallone reported that Westfield focuses on preventative health care. Child and adult wellness clinics and screenings are scheduled throughout the year. The shared services agreement also includes immunization and vaccination services, which are also provided to uninsured and underinsured children and adults at no charge. Ms. Avallone further reported that Westfield conducts environmental inspections and licensing, and provides rabies vaccination clinics. She mentioned that Westfield has a strong working relationship with the animal control service vendor currently retained by the Borough.

Residents can find more information on the health services and scheduled programs provided by the Westfield Regional Health Department by visiting the Chatham Borough Board of Health webpage, which contains a link to the Westfield site.

Train Station Parking Permits - Mr. Jack Grobert, a summer intern for the Borough, reported that 337 train station parking lot parking permits have been issued to Borough residents, according to data obtained from the Borough’s Utility Clerk. (Mr. Grobert also reported that there are currently 158 applicants on the waiting list for a train station parking permit.) Using Google maps, Mr. Grobert reported that he and another intern created a map that detailed the location of each of the 337 permit holders. The map was presented as a PowerPoint slide during his presentation and a copy of the map was distributed to the Mayor and Council. He said the mapping software calculated the distance (in walking and driving miles) from each marked location to the train station. The finished map shows that of the 337 parking permits issued, only 24 have been issued for residents living within a ½ mile of the train station.

Mayor Harris thanked Mr. Grobert for his information presentation and noted that the map clearly documents that only a few residents residing near or within a ½ mile of the train station have acquired annual train station parking permits, which in turn frees up the availability of parking permits for others.

At the conclusion of Mr. Grobert’s presentation, Acting Administrator Williams informed Mayor Harris and the Borough Council that Mr. Grobert is now working on an assignment to collect natural gas usage data for all Borough facilities. The data will be logged to track past and current energy consumption and will help Borough officials initiate energy efficiency practices. The Borough intends to submit the project, and another project tracking electrical usage, for Sustainable Jersey recertification.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT TIME LIMIT

Hearing of citizens during the Public Comment section of the Agenda is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues which are/are not topics scheduled for Public Hearing tonight. To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to a reasonable length of time.

Mayor Harris opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one wishing to comment, Mayor Harris closed the meeting to the public and proceeded with the Council Committee Reports.

REPORTS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance – Council Member Lonergan was absent.

Long Range Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Planning - Council Member Collander was absent.

Public Safety & Emergency Services - Council Member Collander was absent.

Personnel - Council Member Resto reported that the PBA contract will be up for renewal at the end of the year and that the collective bargaining negotiation process between the Borough and PBA has begun.

Public Works Planning/Community Services - Council President Fife reported that a meeting will be scheduled with the Public Works Director and Community Services Director to begin planning fall projects.

Shared Services & 3rd Party Agreements - Council Member Helfrich reported that the Westfield Regional Health Department is now providing public health services to the Borough. He further reported that the Joint Court meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2017.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Harris reported that the Library Construction Bond Act, passed the State Assembly and Senate and was recently signed into law by Governor Christie. The legislation, which authorizes the issuance of \$125 million in bonds to fund grants to build, expand and provide technology upgrades to public libraries, will be put before the voters as a referendum question on the November General Election ballot. If passed by the voters, the money would be used to finance 50 percent of a project. Mayor Harris mentioned that the Library of Chatham has a \$4 million capital improvement project plan ready to go.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Acting Administrator Williams reported that the Strategic Public Information Engagement and Technology Plan, initiated earlier this year through a Sustainable Jersey grant program, is expected to be received this week. He also reported that the Department of Public Works has begun construction of the pathway at Shepard Kollock Park ballfields (Phase I of the Historic Riverside Trail Project). Lastly, Mr. Williams reported that the Department of Public Works is completing the Myrtle Avenue drainage project and will begin the Duchamp Avenue drainage project within the week.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered to be routine by the Chatham Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda. Resolution #17-240 through Resolution #17-243 have been placed on the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTION[S] REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE

None.

FINANCE

RESOLUTION #17-240

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

WHEREAS, vouchers for payment have been submitted to the Borough Council by the various municipal departments.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Chatham that all vouchers approved by the Finance Chairman be paid subject to the certification of the availability of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

PERSONNEL

RESOLUTION #17-241

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF KEVIN O'SHEA FROM THE POSITION OF POLICE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN THE CHATHAM BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, by letter dated July 3, 2017, Kevin O'Shea submitted his written resignation to Chief Philip Crosson, Jr. from the position of Police Executive Administrative Assistant in the Chatham Borough Police Department to be effective July 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Kevin O'Shea worked effectively and served the Borough of Chatham with exceptional service.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Chatham that they hereby accept Mr. O'Shea's resignation from the position of Police Executive Administrative Assistant in the Chatham Borough Police Department effective July 31, 2017 and wish him well in his future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Borough officials are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION #17-242

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL BOCHNIAK AS POLICE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN THE CHATHAM BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Chatham Borough Police Department has a need to fill the vacant Police Executive Administrative Assistant due to a recent resignation; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Chatham advertised the job opening internally in the Chatham Borough Police Department and solicited applications from interested candidates; and

WHEREAS, after considering all interested and qualified candidates, Chief Philip Crosson, Jr. found that Michael Bochniak is the best-qualified candidate and has recommended that he be appointed to the full-time Police Executive Administrative Assistant position in the Chatham Borough Police Department.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Chatham that they concur with the recommendation of the Police Chief and hereby approve the appointment of Michael Bochniak as Police Executive Administrative Assistant in the Chatham Borough Police Department, effective as of August 1, 2017 at the salary of \$68,000.00 per year, pro-rated for the remainder of the calendar year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Borough officials are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

OTHER

RESOLUTION #17-243

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, URGING THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE TO EXTEND THE 2% CAP ON POLICE AND FIRE ARBITRATION CONTRACT AWARDS

WHEREAS, local municipalities require specific tools to address the rising cost of municipal government; and

WHEREAS, in July 2010 the Governor and the New Jersey State Legislature enacted a permanent 2% cap on municipal and school board tax levies with limited exceptions that did not include police and fire arbitration contract awards; and

WHEREAS, salary costs, to a great extent, drive property tax increases; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010 the Legislature unanimously approved, and the Governor enacted, a temporary 2% cap on police and fire arbitration contract awards in an effort to control increasing salary costs and provide a solution to assist local governments in keeping property taxes down and costs under control; and

WHEREAS, the December 2010 legislation included an April 1, 2014 sunset on the 2% arbitration cap while the 2% property tax levy remained permanent for municipalities and school boards; and

WHEREAS, in June 2014 the Legislature unanimously approved, and the Governor enacted, an extension to December 31, 2017 for the 2% arbitration cap; however, the 2% property tax levy cap continues to remain permanent, without an exemption for police and fire arbitration contract awards; and

WHEREAS, municipalities continue efforts to contain costs and provide vital services to residents within the 2% property tax levy while the New Jersey economy remains sluggish and taxpayers struggle to keep their homes and pay their taxes; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that this change in arbitration reform needs a longer time to mature in order to see the benefits of the legislation and its actual impact on the cost of local government budgets and the impact on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the final report and recommendations of the Police and Fire Public Interest Arbitration Impact Task Force, which was established in the December 2010 legislation, is not due until the same day as the expiration of the cap on interest arbitration awards, December 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, we recognize it is now time for our taxpayers to benefit directly from these cost saving measures as many police and fire contracts will come due for negotiation after the sunset date, and

WHEREAS, if the cap on interest arbitration expires while the 2% levy cap remains in effect, municipalities will be forced to reduce or eliminate municipal services in order to fund interest arbitration awards.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Chatham, County of Morris, urges the New Jersey State Legislature to extend the 2% cap on Police and Fire Arbitration Contract Awards for 5 more years at which time the Legislature will have hard data to examine and then make a final decision as to whether this law should be made permanent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor of State of New Jersey, State Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr., 21st Legislative District Senate representative, Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick and Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz, 21st Legislative Assembly representatives, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, and The New Jersey Conference of Mayors and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE:

Council Member Helfrich made a motion to approve the Resolutions #17-240 through #17-243 listed on the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Council Member Hoffman. A vote was taken and Resolutions #17-240 through #17-243 were approved unanimously.

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS

None.

Mayor Harris reported there is no need to convene into closed session and asked for a motion to remove Resolution #17-244 from the agenda.

Council Member Helfrich made a motion to remove Resolution #17-244 from the agenda. Council Member Resto seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Resolution #17-244 passed unanimously. Resolution #17-244 was removed from the agenda.

RESOLUTION #17-244

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution #17-244 was removed from the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to be conducted, Mayor Harris asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Council Member Helfrich made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Resto seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin R. Kline

Robin R. Kline, MAS, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk
BOROUGH OF CHATHAM