

Regular Meeting

April 8, 2021

7:30 PM

Mayor Sullivan called the virtual meeting to order with a flag salute. This meeting was duly advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, PL 1975, Chapter 231.

Call of the Roll: Mayor Sullivan, Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Mallon, Mr. Corwonski, Mrs. Pierce, and Mr. Linton. Absent: none. Also present was Solicitor Rybeck.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Chair-Mr. Mallon Public Safety Chair- Mr. Mallon reported that the February police report was distributed earlier today. There are three appointments to the Recreation Commission on the agenda and we are still seeking recreation members. You can submit a letter of interest and/or resume to the Clerk/ Administrator. We are reviewing the Recreation Commission ordinance and may need to make some amendments.

Mr. Mallon announced that Movies in the Park is scheduled for June 23rd a Wednesday evening and the movie is Dumbo.

Finance Chair- Mr. Carrow reported that he received an email from Mr. Scharle' that there is still no direction as to the use of the funds that are being distributed to the Borough of Newfield from the stimulus package in the amount \$151, 572.30. Mr. Carrow noted that at the last meeting, he advised we are looking at a 5-cent increase and we are approximately 100,000 dollars short in the general budget. Council President advised that we had a finance meeting and have proposed cuts to balance the General fund, with no increase and the same with the water fund. Council President Carrow explained the state has had six weeks to figure out how the money was to be utilized, but still no word. Mayor Sullivan thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work to keep taxes as low as possible. Mr. Carrow added that there is a Bond Ordinance on the agenda this evening, which is not very descriptive, He noted that if anyone has any questions to contact him or Councilwoman Pierce.

Grants/Economic Development/ Communication and Information Technology Chair- Mrs. Pierce advised that she had no report at this time. Mayor asked if she received the email for recreation grants. Mrs. Pierce advised that she did, and asked if this included the tennis courts. Mayor advised it depends on the funds available.

Water- Mr. Corwonski stated he is working with Sam Barbagli, Public Works Supervisor on getting prices on the ten water services that have to be replaced on Columbia Avenue before it is repaved. He added that they will be meeting with Licensed Water Operator, Brian Nicholson this month to discuss the matter further.

Mayor stated the Water Bond was not introduced at this meeting because they do not know how they are going to handle Columbia Avenue water service replacements. Mr. Nicholson stated he is waiting for quotes for the water service replacements

License & Inspection/Health & Welfare-Mr. Linton stated that 11 permits were issued for the month of March which totaled \$ 1,630.

Mr. Linton discussed the previous issue addressed at the last meeting. He advised he has been in contact with Mr. Leary our Construction Official/Zoning Officer regarding the home located on Fawn Drive that suffered the damage from the explosion a couple years ago. Mr. Leary spoke with the neighbors a week or two ago regarding a cleanup. They told him that they were looking for the town to pay for a contractor to do the cleanup, and then put a lien against the property. Mr. Leary spoke with the owner and things have been worked out with the insurance company and the owner is beginning to get some work done. Mr. Leary went by and the property is in the process of being cleaned. Mr. Linton explained that it is a typical insurance matter, they do not want to pay for the damage. The homeowner has had some problems, but she has worked out the issues with the insurance company. The contractor is there working and replacing the siding, cleaning up the yard, and removing the fence. Mr. Leary will continue to inspect to ensure that the cleanup continues.

Mr. Linton then reported on the vehicle issues. Councilman Linton explained that he checked with two different police officers, one Franklinville, one Vineland, to determine the right way to handle the situation. The basic consensus is to put up signage that vehicle must not be parked on the road during snowstorms. Signage is their best suggestion and the clearest, this is your warning from there on; resident is at fault if they park there. Mrs. Pierce asked if that would be the verbal warning. Solicitor stated that our ordinance states we have to give them a verbal warning. Mayor stated there are several months to get this worked out before the next snowstorm.

Mr. Linton continued that the other part of this is the vehicles on the roadway. Derek Leary issued a violation to the vehicle on Church Street. The truck has had a flat tire for more than six months. The police checked the registration and they cannot go any further. Mr. Linton advised that the roads are the borough's property and a ticket cannot be issued or a vehicle removed without it being specified in the ordinance. Mr. Linton advised that it appears to be an Ordinance issue that may need to be amended to specify a time limit. Any vehicle left in the road over 48 hours can be ticketed or towed.

Solicitor Rybeck advised he spoke to the Chief and it is a Title 39 violation-obstruction of traffic. They will discuss the matter again with Chief Zimmer. Mr. Linton added it is not blocking traffic, but is disabled and cannot be moved.

Recycling and Trash/ Buildings, Grounds, Roads Chair- Mr. Miller stated they have been working in the Grove. They have installed temporary blockage and installed signage to prevent any cars from driving through. We had a problem when the end post was installed, a woman went through with a scooter and got stuck in the mud. Mr. Miller said Mr. Barbagli happened to be there and helped her, they had closed the road off and she tried to go around the other way and got stuck. Mr. Miller advised that signage has to be changed. Mayor stated that the sign says "Authorized Personnel Only". Mr. Miller suggested it say- "No Vehicles Beyond This Point". Mayor Sullivan advised that he does not want people to be discouraged walking or riding bikes through the park. They will work on the signage. Mayor added we want to stop people from driving through the Park. Mr. Miller stated that this has been stopped.

Mr. Miller reported that the collection of leaves has started, branches beginning this month. Mr. Miller advised that he will be meeting with Mr. Barbagli and Mr. Nicholson to begin flushing at the end of this month and May before summer and high-water usage. Mr. Miller noted the one call went out about the recycling facility being open on Saturday.

Solicitor's Report Solicitor's Report – Mr. Rybeck stated there is a Resolution on the agenda adopting the Personnel Policy Manual to include the MEL JIF model policies.

The settlement for the Construction Board of Appeals from Vertex Properties regarding Cades Walk is also on the agenda this evening.

Engineer's Report Mr. Johnson thanked everyone that did the stormwater training, which will be reflected in our annual report which is due on May 1st.

Mr. Johnson advised that he completed the DRVC water audit and submitted it March 29. Our flow is 50.57 pounds for 2020 and our rating actually went up a point. Next year there is a new software program to be implemented by the DRVC, and is not sure how this is going to impact our rating. We did stay under the WRT limit for treatment of Well #5.

The Borough of Newfield was awarded a grant for \$220,000 for Rena Street, however, the estimate was \$341,000. It is a similar situation to Columbia Avenue. Mr. Johnson advised that we are going to have to do some value engineering to try and match the construction to the grant amount. Mr. Johnson advised that he is not sure if there are any water services on Rena Street that have to be replaced.

The Borough submitted a payment voucher from NJDOT for \$111,000 for Columbia Avenue. The Borough also submitted a voucher for Maple Avenue for the final closeout voucher in the amount of \$37,000. We are also reviewing the contracts for South State. Once we issue the contracts, we will schedule a pre-construction meeting, and issue a notice to proceed.

Public Participation Mr. Mallon made a motion to open to the public; Mr. Linton seconded the motion. AIF. No one in the public addressed council. Mr. Mallon made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Mrs. Pierce seconded the motion. AIF.

Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2021, Tax Collector's Report from March 11, 2021, and Tax Collectors Annual Report- Mr. Corwonski made a motion to approve the minutes and tax collector's reports. Mrs. Pierce seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Mayor Sullivan noted that he has been receiving positive feedback from the residents in regard to Mark Godfrey, Tax Collector, and what a good job he is doing. Our tax collection rate is at 98% (2020) is the highest it has been in recent history. 98% is a big number just a quick call out to Mark Godfrey for doing a great job for the Borough of Newfield.

Old Business-none

New Business-

RESOLUTION #31-21 2021 TEMPORARY EMERGENCY RESOLUTION- Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve resolution #31-21. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Resolution #32-21 TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET RESOLUTION- Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve resolution #32-21. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #33-21 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD PERSONNEL MANUAL TO INCORPORATE THE MEL JIF MODEL POLICIES- Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve resolution #33-21. Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #34-21 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR LITIGATION BEFORE THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS CAPTIONED VERTEX PROPERTIES V. BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD, APPEAL 2021-1- Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve resolution #34-21. Mr. Mallon seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2021-1 BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$72,000 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$3,600; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION- Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-1 on first reading. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried. Public hearing will be held on May 13, 2021.

ORDINANCE #2021-2 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 145, § 6, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD (increasing the certificate of occupancy fee for rentals and resales) Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-2 on first reading. Mr. Linton seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried. Public hearing will be held on May 13, 2021

ORDINANCE #2021-3 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 207, § 11, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD (increasing fees for the reinspection for rentals and resales) Mrs.

Pierce made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-3 on first reading. Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried. Public hearing will be held on May 13, 2021

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- Mr. Mallon made a motion to open the meeting to the public and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. AIF. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried. Public hearing will be held on May 13, 2021

Mia Arrison (300 Wood Street) stated she felt the price from \$40 to \$65 is excessive for reinspection fees. Mayor Sullivan stated we are less on construction fees than some of the surrounding towns, but we will gather more information on inspection fees in Franklinville and it will be discussed at the public hearing on May 13. This will not be voted on until the next meeting.

Mr. Mallon made a motion to close the public hearing and Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. AIF.

DISBURSEMENTS Resolution #35 -21- Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve resolution #35-21. Mrs. Pierce seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mayor's appointment of the following Recreation Commission members with council approval Mrs. Pierce made a motion to approve the appointments and Mr. Mallon seconded the motion. AIF.

Jennifer Marandino 1-year term

Ashley Dobleman 2-year term

Domonique Revere 3-year term

Newfield Terrace Community Action Organization raffle applications- 2 raffles to be held on 5/8, rain date 5/22 and 2 raffles on May 21, 2021. – Mr. Mallon made a motion to approve the raffle applications. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. AIF. Motion carried.

Franklin Township Little League is requesting the use of the baseball and softball fields located at Edgerton School for practices and games this season. Copy of insurance certificate included with letter and request was sent

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Mallon seconded the motion. AIF. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Toni L. Van Camp Clerk

