

Regular Meeting
February 11, 2021
7:30 PM

Mayor Sullivan called the 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: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Mallon, Mr. Corwonski, Mrs. Pierce, Mr. Linton, Mayor Sullivan.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Mr. Mallon stated that earlier this week he distributed two police reports electronically, November 2020 and December 2020.

From the recreation end, tentatively The Easter Egg hunt will be held March 27. It is usually held the Saturday before Palm Sunday. The Borough's yard sale is also scheduled tentatively for June 5th and Movies in the Park is Wednesday June 23 and the movie is Dumbo. Mr. Mallon stated that Chief Zimmer asked that residents be reminded that during snow storms cars should be kept off the roads so that the plow operators can do their job.

Mayor thanked Mrs. Pierce for getting the message out to everyone about removing cars off the street.

Mayor stated he felt the Borough could definitely do the movies in the park. Mayor advised council they will discuss the Easter Egg hunt and the yard sale.

Finance Mr. Carrow stated the yard sale has always been popular with the residents and it is held outdoors, but the Easter Egg hunt being so close and brings so many children together is a safety concern.

Mr. Carrow stated that the Finance committee is planning on meeting next week to start the process and will keep everyone informed.

Grants/Economic Development/Communication and Information Technology Mrs. Pierce stated that we did get the grant in the amount of \$9,854.00 for the reimbursement due to Covid. The Borough was reimbursed for purchases related to the pandemic such as sanitizer, cleaning supplies, signage and posters, etc.

Mrs. Perce noted that she is meeting with Anthony Coffee this Monday about the website and explained there are some things that need to be cleaned up.

Mayor requested that everyone take a look at the website and to determine if anything needs to be changed, or if any new ideas need to be placed on the website. Please let Mrs. Pierce know by the end of the week.

Water-Mr. Corwonski stated he had a meeting with the Engineer, Wayne Johnson and Public Works Supervisor, Sam Barbagli about three weeks ago to familiarize him with the water, WRT and Well 5. Mr. Johnson will provide the details about the meeting in his engineers' report.

License & Inspection, Mr. Linton stated for the month of January there were 10 permits issued for a total of \$988.

Recycling and Trash/Buildings, Grounds, Roads-Mr. Miller stated that the Recycling Facility will not be open until April 10, because of the holiday. He stated that there are two shred events planned for this year, April 10, and November 6. Mr. Miller stated that the biggest issue he wanted to discuss was the removal of cars from the roadways during snowstorms. Mr. Barbagli contacted Franklinville police as of 2/11 and had all of the tag numbers from residents that were parked on the roads all night.

The Police are not giving out warnings in Franklinville any longer. The Police are issuing \$20 tickets. The judge will throw out the ticket when they appear, but it does get their attention the Borough is serious about moving cars. At this time, all we have to do is notify the police about the way we want to address this matter. We post a sign in the area. Also, on the sign, can indicate a phone number to sign up for the one call system. The tenants are not getting the calls about the snow or trash pickup. The Mayor asked the Clerk if we could put something on the next water bill. Clerk advised there is not enough room on the water bills. Mr. Carrow noted that some of the bills are sent to the landlords. Mr. Miller stated we need to get a message out to the tenants and thought a sign would be the best way to do so. Mayor agreed. Mayor Sullivan asked Mrs. Pierce to send a reminder one call.

Mr. Linton stated that riding around town there are a number of cars with flat tires that have been sitting on the road for six months or more. He asked if something could be done about this

Mayor advised the police can determine if a car is registered and if it is valid. We will have to check our ordinances to determine what can be done. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Barbagli complained that during the snowstorms, it is worse than it has ever been with people not moving cars. Mr. Linton noted that we may want to issue tickets for residents who have left vehicles on the road for 5-6 months. The Borough has to enforce the laws it has. If you have a car on the road with a flat tire, it is not moving. Mayor advised there are more people working from home right now, even family members have come home to stay during this pandemic so there are more cars in town than ever, but agreed we have to do something. Mr. Miller stated you have to enforce the law. Mayor requested the Solicitor review the ordinance. Mr. Rybeck checked the code book and advised that it stated that the person must be notified verbally before a ticket can be issued. Mr. Miller advised that the police department has the tags of the vehicles that were left on the roadways at the last snowstorm on 2/11. They have all the information and are waiting to hear from us on how we want to handle the matter, if we want them to issue tickets, or wait until the next snowstorm. Mr. Rybeck checked the code book and advised that it stated that the person must be notified verbally before a ticket can be issued a ticket. Mrs. Pierce asked if the one call can be the verbal notice. Mrs. Perce explained that she spoke with Mr. Barbagli and he is concerned about the safety issue. Mr.

Rybeck explained that the owner of the vehicle would have to be on the one-call list and they may not be because they are tenants. Mr. Miller asked why tenants could not be given a warning the first time and the next time a ticket. Mr. Miller noted that when we had our own police department, they would go to the tenant's house, get out of the car and knock on the door and they would take care of it. Franklinville will assist us with this, but they do not knock on doors. All they do is issue tickets. Solicitor advised you can have Franklinville knock on doors if that is what our ordinance requires. Mr. Miller stated that he has not been in contact with the police, Mr. Barbagli has spoken to the Chief. Mayor Sullivan advised that he was in favor of giving a warning the first time. Mr. Miller suggests making contact with the police chief. The residents must understand that we are serious about this issue and they must comply. Mrs. Van Camp asked if the warning has to be a knock on the door or a certified letter. Solicitor advised that the code says it shall be verbal so he recommended that the Code Enforcement officer notify them. Mayor asked Mr. Linton and Mr. Miller to meet with Derek Leary to coordinate, and get the addresses and try to send a warning to the residents that are in violation. Mr. Linton agreed to meet with Mr. Leary to discuss the parking and maintenance issues in town.

Mayor commended the road department for the good job they did over these last three snow storms. Mr. Miller stated that the employees reported the new equipment worked great and the employees did a good job keeping our roads plowed.

Solicitors Report- Mr. Rybeck stated he will check the property's maintenance code to see if there is anything regarding the cars parked in the street, flat tires etc.

Engineer's Report- Mr. Johnson stated that he has information in his report but wanted to highlight a couple of items that he feels are important.

WRT postponed maintenance due to Covid scheduling issues He is trying to coordinate and get that done as soon as possible to take care of the pressure at well 5. There was an alarm and WRT came out and put in new bag filters. They are working with us and things seem like they are getting a little better.

Maple Ave final change order to process quantities is necessary to get the last monies of the grant released. There was a 5% reduction in overall costs, even after adding all that extra paving to Columbia Avenue.

The bid advertisement for Columbia Avenue was February 4, 2021 and bids will be received on March 4th. Six contractors have picked up plans to date. Additional plans have to be drawn up for additional contractors. We have to award at the March 11 meeting in order to comply with the grant guidelines. We have replaced some of the older water services, but there are additional services that need to be replaced before construction starts on Columbia Ave, approximately ten services.

We have been coordinating with the HOA Engineer for the corrective measures on the storm water basin on Nottingham Avenue.

We have been compiling the information for the water audit which is due by the end of March.

Mr. Mallon made a motion to open the meeting to the public and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. AIF. No one in the public addressed council. Mr. Mallon made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion AIF.

Mrs. Pierce Made a motion to approve Minutes of 11/23/2020, 12/10/2020, 12/29/2020. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. RCV: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Mrs. Pierce. Nays: None Abstain: Mr. Mallon and Mr. Linton. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the 1/5/2021 minutes and Tax Collector's January report. Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Old Business-none

RESOLUTION #23-22 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A FULL TIME LABORER FOR THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD-Mr. Miller made a motion to appoint Zack Ellison as a full-time laborer. Mr. Mallon seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Resolution #24-21 2021 Temporary Emergency Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve resolution 24-21; Mr. Miller seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Resolution #25-21 Resolution authorizing THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO RETURN A PREMIUM FROM THE CURRENT FUND TO THE TAX TITLE LIEN ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO A CONSENT ORDER BY THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, CHANCERY DIVISION Mayor Sullivan asked the Tax Collector to explain this resolution. Mark Godfrey explained that whenever a property is foreclosed or is not redeemed after five years, a municipality can take a premium. The way this works is the Borough passes a resolution, Mr. Godfrey explained he writes a check to the borough, which goes into surplus. In this instance, we have to return the money. Last year this property became a foreclosure, by way of a judgement in Superior Court. Shortly before the foreclosure, the property owner filed for bankruptcy. That put a hold on things and Covid played a part, which ended up coming to an agreement in the bankruptcy proceedings that allows the property owner to sell the property and make the lien holder whole again. The Court vacated the final judgement. The Borough must give them back the premium that we sold at \$8500.00. We now have to return the money. It will go into the tax lien account Mr. Godfrey advised that the property owner has possession of the property and are in the process of settlement. They did apply for a tax search and are serious about purchasing the property. The search will reveal delinquent taxes. If the sale falls through, we stay with what we originally did. If the lien redeems, the lienholder takes the property, gets his foreclosure and move forward with the eviction. Mr. Mallon asked the name of the Lien holder. Mr. Godfrey advised it was EMT Properties LLC. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve resolution #25-21; Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 26-21 MAPLE AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER – Mr. Mallon made a motion to approve resolution #26-21; Mrs. Pierce seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Mallon made a motion to open the meeting to the public and Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. AIF. Mr. Mallon made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and Mrs. Pierce seconded the motion AIF

Disbursements RESOLUTION #27-21- Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve resolution 27-21; Mrs. Pierce seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Fire Department Application-Efraim Rodriquez

Mr. Mallon was asked to find out if Turnout Gear is needed to be ordered for Mr. Rodriquez. Mallon made a motion to approve the application of Efraim Rodriquez and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. AIF. Motion carried.

Raffle Application from Grandparent's Association of Edgerton Christian Academy 3/6, 4/24, 5/21. Mrs. Pierce made a motion to approve the raffle applications. Mr. Mallon seconded the motion. AIF. Motion carried.

Mayor Sullivan advised that the Newfield Cares program has received approximately \$1000 donations in gift cards from the residents (28 people). There is less than a week left for the program. Mayor stated that he reached out to the Pastor at the Catholic Church and he does visit families in need and gives out gift cards so maybe we can give him some gift cards to hand out. Mrs. Zaccaria was going to talk to her church leaders to determine if there are people in need. Mayor asked council that as community leaders, reach out to people in churches that may need some assistance.

Mr. Miller stated a letter came from Dean Bastian. He was happy with the outcome of the removal of the tree.

Mayor commended Mrs. Pierce for the good job she was doing.

Mr. Corwonski shared that he spoke to Dowco Painting and they are going to paint the clock that is located at the Plaza. The clock needs work, which is very expensive and all of the work will be donated.

Mayor Sullivan stated he sent an email to the DEP regarding the septic issue that we have in our Borough, mainly the issues we have encountered on the Boulevard recently. There was some interest to buy properties on the Boulevard, but were turned away due to the cost of the septic. The Mayor advised he has not received a response from the DEP and will keep council apprised of the matter.

Being no further business, Mr. Corwonski made a motion to adjourn the meeting; and Mr. Linton seconded the motion. AIF.

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:13 PM

Toni L. Van Camp, Clerk

