

REGULAR MEETING
March 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 and Mayor Sullivan

Mayor Sullivan stated that there will be a closed session to discuss a litigation matter and action may be taken at that time. Council members will leave this call, and call another number and then come back to this call. If anyone wants to stay on this call, they can do so. We will move the public participation and take action on the Executive Section after that. If someone wants to leave the call they can do so.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Chair- Mr. Mallon reported that the police report for January was distributed to everyone this week electronically. Mr. Mallon recommended that we cancel the Easter egg hunt this year. He explained that he is concerned about trying to manage the site regarding social distancing and wearing masks. Mayor Sullivan advised that the decision has been made not to have Newfield Day for the same reason. Newfield Day needs a lot of planning. The CDC is anticipating a spike in the Fall and advised he did not want to put volunteers at risk.

Finance Chair -Mr. Carrow asked the Mayor to inform everyone regarding the phone call he received yesterday from Congressman Van Drew. Mayor Sullivan explained that the Senate passed a 1.5 trillion package yesterday and according to the numbers, Newfield will be receiving about \$150,000. Mayor Sullivan noted that Mr. Carrow, Toni Van Camp, Mrs. Pierce and Rob Scharle have been working diligently on the 2021 budget. Mr. Carrow advised that we need the details on how to utilize these monies. Mr. Carrow reported that the preliminary results are that the Water Fund is short by about \$100,000 and the General Fund is at a five-cent increase. This is before making any reductions to any line items. If we can use all of the money in the budget, there will not be any tax increase and there will not be any water increase at the municipal level. Mr. Carrow advised that there has been a decrease in taxes the last three years in municipal taxes. The increase was due to the school tax which was almost a \$.22 increase. The Borough is trying to maintain the local purpose tax.

Grants/Economic Development/Communication and Information Technology Chair- Mrs. Pierce stated that she contacted Atlantic Electric in regard to changing the street lights over to LED lighting. Mrs. Pierce explained that due to Covid, they are 2-3 years behind. Mrs. Pierce advised she would contact Mr. Bateman to determine our options.

The website is updated, but we were unable to update the forms. They have to be retyped to be updated. Mrs. Pierce asked Council to review the website to make sure the information is correct. Mayor asked Mrs. Pierce to apprise council of the septic issue on the Boulevard. Mrs. Pierce stated that currently, businesses cannot get a certificate to operate on the Northwest

and South East Boulevards because of the septic law. It makes it very expensive to open food businesses in Newfield because they have to update the septic system, which makes it cost prohibitive. The Mayor contacted the DEP and they responded and it appears complicated and there is a lot we have to do. Mayor and Mrs. Pierce advised that possibly the Borough is grandfathered, but they are continuing to work on this matter. Mrs. Pierce suggested forming a committee to lobby to change the law, Mayor added the cost is expensive, and people that wanted to have a business in Newfield were intimidated due to the costs involved. Council discussed the option of connecting to sewer through Vineland. Mr. Miller advised there is no sewer in North Vineland and could not connect Newfield into their system before they hook up North Vineland. Mr. Carrow advised that the Mayor has seen a system where they have their own Septic System. If we do not get anywhere with DEP or the state, and with Shieldalloy decommissioning and eventually they are not going to be there, possibly we could use part of their property for this type of a project.

Water-Mr. Corwonski advised that a Shade Tree meeting is planned in April. He talked to Mr. Barbagli and Wayne Johnson and it was determined that we need to get the water lines tested on Columbia Avenue before it is paved. Seven or eight water services were replaced and ten are remaining and at least seven need to be replaced. Mr. Barbagli is on vacation and the matter will be addressed when he gets back. Mayor asked if the laterals are checked when we dig up the street. Mr. Johnson replied last year the services were checked, some were excavated and found had been done in the past, but not recorded. The ones we did replace have lead tails, which were reported to Brian Nicholson and Kenny Trovarelli. It is important information for the DEP to know we took a tail out of service. Mr. Nicholson, Licensed Water Operator stated he filed the report today with the DEP. We have to keep an accurate account of everything we do. According to the state, within a year, they are going to change our new regulations for lead and copper testing and replacing lead tails. Columbia Avenue is a good start and we have been doing it on the road projects that have already been paved. We know that Helena Street water services were done before it was resurfaced. Mr. Nicholson estimated 360 homes have to be done by the end of ten years. Mr. Nicholson advised that the laterals and lead tails were removed when Catawba was repaved.

License & Inspection/Health & Welfare-Mr. Linton reported 11 permits for the month of February for a total of \$1,287. Mr. Linton stated he requested a copy of the maintenance code. He spoke with our Construction Official, who had been checking the cars on the street. He issued a violation notice to the truck on Church Street with a flat tire that has been in the roadway since last year. Mr. Linton advised that Mr. Leary did not think he had any say, but possibly, it will get the owners to do something. It may become a police issue, if the car is unregistered. Mr. Linton continued to explain that there was a delivery truck parked on the plaza over the weekend which Mr. Leary issued a violation notice also. The truck is parked over the sidewalk and into the grass 6-8 feet. Mr. Linton stated again, these issues may wind up being police matters. We will have to contact the Chief of Police and see what the status is on the violations. Mayor asked if he thought we would need any kind of new rules or ordinances. Mr. Linton advised that a warning letter could be sent certified or hand delivered and possibly an amended ordinance be enacted to try to resolve this for future problems.

Mr. Carrow referred to Mr. Rybeck's statement that the Borough had to give verbal notice. The Borough does the One-Call to alert everyone. Mr. Carrow asked if a One-Call would be considered verbal notification. Mr. Rybeck advised that it would not because it has to be the owner of the vehicle. A One-Call could go to a landlord and they do not live there and it has to be the owner of the vehicle.

Solution Rybeck advised the ordinance can be amended. Most towns do issue notices by mail. Mr. Linton stated people need at least one warning, before you get the Police involved. Mayor advised that the Police issue tickets-no warning in Franklin Township. Mr. Linton stated he will meet with Mr. Barbagli and review the list and after that turn it over to the police. A discussion took place whether the truck parked on Church Street is on the one call system. The police will check if it is registered, if it is not it can be towed away. A discussion took place about getting that information. Mr. Rybeck suggested an option. First notice will be given via hand delivery or mail. Certified would be better, but having an option, as long as there is a record, stating there was a notice is most important. Mr. Linton added that Mr. Leary did hand out a violation notice on 310 Hazel Avenue. There was a problem with chickens and it was corrected and she just received a new violation for ducks.

Recycling and Trash/Buildings, Grounds, Roads Chair-Mr. Miller stated there will be some road patching of asphalt as the weather permits. The Road Department Employees are starting to clean up the roads, leaves and debris. The park benches have been installed around the town. Mr. Miller noted that we could use additional benches. There are two large trees on Pearl that need to be removed before there is any damage to vehicles and asked that money be allocated in the budget to remove trees. Mr. Miller advised he would get a count of the additional benches that are needed and determine the cost.

Mr. Miller advised he wanted to discuss Sandy Drive. The road is basically crumbling to nothing. We need to talk to Wayne Johnson to see if there is any possibility of oil and stone. It will have to be addressed within the next year. We have put patch on the road, but the whole road is disintegrating.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Rybeck stated that regarding the road issue with the snow, some towns post signs that say no parking on the street when there is a snow emergency. This gives the residents time to move their cars. Mr. Rybeck explained they place the signs in the streets or post temporary signs or staple to a telephone pole.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Johnson stated that he received in the mail today, the signed commitment letter from NJDOT for Rena Street, \$ 220,000. We have 24 months to complete the design. Mayor stated that there will be additional laterals to address. Mr. Johnson brought up Sandy Drive and discussed applying for a grant for that roadway. He explained we could list it as a primary and then have a secondary grant in case they do not choose Sandy Drive. Mayor asked if there is an inexpensive way to do the patchwork. Mr. Johnson stated he did not know but would look into the matter. They are doing oil & stone in Pittsgrove. Mr. Johnson advised he would discuss

the matter with some contractors to get some ideas. The resolution for the award on Columbia Avenue to South State is on the agenda tonight. They were the low bidder in the amount of \$148,505. The bid tally was done and submitted to NJDOT.

WRT- we are waiting to schedule the scrape work and the vessels we discussed at previous meetings.

The water audit is in progress and will be finished by the end of the month. The Borough's usage for 2020 is 50 million gallons of water. Mr. Johnson advised he has been working with Mr. Barbagli on the MS4 compliance. Everyone has received an email about training for elected officials. The Borough has some work to do on our website and some records to submit to NJDEP. Mr. Johnson noted that the water services on Columbia was discussed earlier in the meeting and when Mr. Barbagli gets back next week, the matter will be addressed.

Maple Avenue was closed out and the certification was sent to DOT as well as the final change order and project acceptance by the engineer. Mr. Johnson advised we are waiting an approval for a final payment voucher. Mayor asked about the MS4 online class. Mr. Johnson advised it coincides with your term of office. Once your term expires, you have to retake the class again and it takes about 45 minutes.

Mr. Miller noted that Spring water flushing is coming up. It was referred to Mr. Nicholson as to an exact date. Mr. Nicholson advised he would like it completed in the Spring, not the summer due to all the pumping issues, but to coordinate with Mr. Barbagli. He advised Mr. Miller to coordinate the Fall flushing with Mr. Barbagli also so that it does not interfere with Fall leaf pick up.

Mrs. Pierce stated that anything that is needed to go on the website, just email it to her. Mr. Johnson advised that some of the information was deleted when the website changed and needs to be replaced.

Public Participation Motion to open to the public on agenda matters only. Mr. Mallon made a motion to open the meeting to the public and Mrs. Pierce 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.

Mr. Mallon made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2021 and Tax Collector's report. Mr. Linton seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Old Business: none

New Business

RESOLUTION#28-21 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AWARDING CONTRACT FOR COLUMBIA AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION TO SOUTH STATE INC FOR \$148,505.00- Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution #28-21. Mrs. Pierce seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Public Participation - Mr. Mallon made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. AIF.

Beth Angelo, 329 Oakwood Drive, Newfield addressed council. Mrs. Angelo advised council that she and her husband purchased their home in November and has an issue with a property that is next door to their property. She explained that her property is where the explosion occurred and her home is the new build. Mrs. Angelo explained that they knew that the home next door was not habitable and they installed a large fence around their property to try and alleviate the next-door property. In December, two large tractor trailers pulled up and the homeowner showed up and decided to fill the house with everything she owns. The house is not habitable, the original explosion debris is still all over the yard, backyard and side yard. The neighbor next door to her mowed her front yard to keep it from rodents. The issue is that there was a property maintenance notice left on the door. Mrs. Angelo would like to know what is going on with the property. There is no front door and it is boarded up. Mrs. Angelo explained that she is retired Civil Service and was approached by someone who was having packages delivered and came over to ask if they took their package and it was not someone who lives there.

Mayor asked if she has seen any work on the house since they moved in. Mrs. Angelo explained there has been no work on the home and nothing is being done. There is siding hanging off the side of the house, there is trash everywhere. Mayor stated it does not look like anything has been done since the incident happened. Mayor advised there were some insurance problems. The Mayor asked Mr. Linton to contact Mr. Leary to determine what the status is. Mrs. Angelo advised she tried to approach the owner. Mayor stated that the owner is not in the house. Mayor advised they will look into the matter. If you could get us your number, we will contact you when we have an answer.

Jennifer Marandino, 678 Forsythia Drive advised she wanted to discuss Newfield Day. Mrs. Marandino advised she is aware the decision was made to postpone the event. Mrs. Marandino noted that she sent text messages to their committee about sponsoring a chicken barbeque. Mrs. Marandino advised that Mayor agreed it being important for people to gather safely and still show community support, which Newfield Day brings. Mrs. Marandino explained that from their fundraising events they have raised over \$15,000 and we have not used it in the past two years. They want to start discussing a committee and possibly begin spending it on different activities in the town. Mrs. Marandino advised that they have been considering Neighborhood Watch. There are a lot of interested people with different ideas, possibly, playground equipment, splashpad idea. Mrs. Marandino advised that she thinks there is a lot of interest in the town for people to come together and do community outreach programs.

Mayor Sullivan advised that we have done this in the past, usually once a year we did a community outreach program at the Grove or the Boulevard. Mayor Sullivan advised possibly purchasing a piece of equipment may be an idea. Mrs. Marandino advised that people have been discussing purchasing a splash pad. Mrs. Marandi discussed making the Newfield Committee part of the Recreation Committee, but the committee by majority did not want to do that. They did not want to be spread too thin. Mr. Carrow asked for the total of money and she stated \$15,684. The Mayor stated that it costs close to \$8-9,000 to have Newfield Day,

possibly more. Mayor added that Newfield Day was not started to be a money maker. Mrs. Pierce asked if any of that money can be used elsewhere. Mrs. Marandino advised that no, all of the money that was raised was specifically for Newfield Day. The bank account is in the name of Newfield Day Committee. Mrs. Pierce noted that a splashpad would be water and noted a concern about insurance liability.

Mayor Sullivan shared the discussion about a Chicken Barbeque. There is an outside company that cooks everything. Basically, all anyone has to do is sell tickets and hand out the food. The library usually has a bake sale, which they can still do. Mayor Sullivan suggested that they check with the Newfield Swim Club to see if they are interested in sponsoring the Chicken Barbeque since they sponsored it for the last two years. Beth Angelo stated she is on the Newfield Swim Board and she will bring it to their attention at their next meeting. The Mayor stated we do not want to take it away from the Swim Club. Mrs. Angelo advised that last year they lost the swim competition and it was devastating along with not having the Chicken Barbeque. They have a meeting in a few weeks and will advise.

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

Disbursements RESOLUTION #29-21- Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve the disbursements and Mr. Linton seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 30-21 EXECUTIVE SESSION- Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Executive session and seconded by Mr. Mallon. RCV: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

All council members will now hang up, call into the closed session, then call back to this number and then we will adjourn

The meeting was opened to the public to the public on a motion made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Linton AIF (8:56 PM)

Mayor Sullivan shared information about the Newfield CARES Program and advised that there was over \$5,500.00 raised. There were 11 families that were helped. Edgarton School also donated \$1,500.00. Mayor Sullivan advised that \$1,000.00 were donated from the residents of the town.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Mr. Corwonski and seconded by Mr. Carrow. Meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM.

Toni L. Van Camp, Clerk

