

Regular Meeting
April 11, 2024
7:00PM

Mayor Grova 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: Mayor Grova, Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi. and Mr. Curcio. Also present was Mr. John Moustakas, Solicitor and Engineer, Wayne Johnson.

Mr. Carrow made a motion to accept the resignation of Jennifer Marandino and Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Republican County Committee submitted three names to replace the vacancy council seat, which include the following:

1. Stephanie Mazzoni Engle
2. Stephen Boyle
3. Harold Down

Mr. Carrow made a motion to appoint Stephanie Mazzoni Engle to fill the vacancy and Mr. Curcio seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. Mr. Moustakas administered the oath of office.

Mayor Grova advised that Miss Renzi will move to Grants/Economic Development/ Communication and Information Technology Chair and Special Events Committee. Liaison. He also asked that Mrs. Engle Chair the Public Safety committee and serve as the School Board Liaison.

Public Safety Chair- Chief Decesari provided the monthly police report and advised that the Department appointed a Dave Deegan as Police Chaplain. He brings a great deal of experience from serving as chaplain for the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office. Officer Zach Pharo was appointed officer of the month. Chief Decesari advised he is looking forward to doing some programs in the Borough, one being ice cream with a cop and coffee with a cop later in the year. Zach Ellison provided council with the fire call monthly report.

Finance Chair- Mr. Carrow reported that the 2024 budget will be introduced this evening with a 1.5 cent increase along with a water bond for laterals and water meters. Mr. Scharle advised that every \$13,656. Equates to a penny, He stated that this is a very good budget but the increase is due to [Liability & Workers Compensation Insurance Increase and The Litigation Emergency from 2023](#). Mr. Carrow thanked Mr. Scharle and Mrs. Van Camp for their work on the budget.

Grants/Economic Development/ Communication and Information Technology Chair- Miss Renzi reported the following for the Special Events Committee:

- Yard sale will be held May 4 and flyers will be available for registration for residents

- Movies in the park will be held July 24 and the movie will be Trolls Band Together. Water and cotton candy will be sold.
- Memorial Day service will be held on May 27 at the War Memorial Monument. Church and Arch Streets will be closed off with the assistance of the police department. The committee is currently reviewing the veteran list.
- Mr. Berman is retiring at the end of the year. A final draft for the study is due by April 15. A meeting will be held at Delsea Regional High School. It was explained that if regionalization is successful, the borough will then have one seat on the Regional School Board.

Mr. Carrow advised that there will be a ten-cent reduction in the school tax due to a reduced enrollment.

Water- Mr. Corwonski reported that he received the approval to plant five trees along Catawba Avenue. There is a stump that needs to be removed on Pearl Street. Mr. Corwonski asked Chief Decesari to assist him with a wire that is hanging on Madison and Franklin avenues. Chief Decesari advised he would have an officer investigate the matter and determine what company needs to be called.

Dog Waste receptacles need to be installed and would like to coordinate with public works.

Mr. Nicholson advised that a fire hydrant was struck by a vehicle on Weymouth Road and within an hour 200,000 gallons of water were lost. A thank you to Mr. Carrow, Peter Sparta, Zach Ellison and Michael Carlino for all of their assistance. The hydrant was replaced yesterday. Mr. Nicholson thanked Mr. Johnson for submitting the monthly reports to the DEP.

License & Inspection/Health & Welfare – Mr. Curcio reported that 12 permits were issued for the month of March totaling \$4,285.

Recycling and Trash/ Buildings, Grounds, Roads Chair- Mr. Miller reported that leaf and limb collection has begun. The recycling center will be open May 4 from 8:00 AM until noon.

Solicitor's Report -Solicitor Moustakas reported that once the cell tower ordinance is adopted the telecommunication tower lease has to be bid. He also noted that he had some items for executive session.

Engineer's Report - Mr. Johnson reported that he inspected the new proposed development on Catawba Avenue. The contractor dug the basin without a performance bond or a pre-construction meeting. They were issued a Red Sticker.

Mr. Johnson advised that he is preparing all of the state reports, water audits and storm water report to be submitted to the state. There is a tree ordinance that has to be adopted in accordance with the storm water permit. It states that if we remove a tree, it must be replaced. We retained \$44,000 from South State to finish the job. We would like to handle the specs for Sandy Drive the same way that we did for Rena Street and Franklin Street.

Public Participation - Mr. Carrow made motion to open the meeting to the public and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor. No one in the public addressed council. Mr. Carrow made a motion to close the public portion. Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from:

March 14, 2024 Work Session and Regular Meeting and Tax Collectors Report.

Mr. Carrow made a motion to approve the March 14, minutes and Tax collectors report. Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. RCV: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Old Business

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST OF SOUTH JERSEY, LLC TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEWFIELD, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY- Mr. Carrow made a motion to introduce ordinance 2024-1 on first reading and Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. All in favor. No one in the public addressed council. Mr. Carrow made a motion to close the public hearing and Mrs. Engle seconded the motion. All in favor. Mr. Carrow made a motion to adopt ordinance 2024-1 and Miss Renzi seconded the motion. RCV: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski and Miss Renzi. NAYS: Mr. Curcio. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried.

New Business

ORDINANCE 2024-2 BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE WATER UTILITY SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$115,000 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 \$115,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING Mr. Carrow made a motion to introduce ordinance 2024-2 on first reading. Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. RCV: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried. Public hearing and adoption will be held on May 9, 2024.

Ordinance NO 2024-3 BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER CALENDAR YEAR 2024 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) Mr. Carrow made a motion to introduce ordinance 2024-3 on first reading. Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. RCV: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried. Public hearing and adoption will be held on May 9, 2024.

ORDINANCE 2024-4 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF AN EASEMENT OVER CERTAIN PROPERTY (AS SHOWN ON THE TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD) OWNED BY THE BOROUGH OF NEWFIELD, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 ET SEQ. TOGETHER WITH AN ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS CONTAINED WITHIN THE CELL TOWER LEASE ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY \$115,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING Mr. Curcio made a motion to introduce ordinance 2024-4 on first reading. Mr. Corwonski seconded the motion. RCV: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried. Public hearing and adoption will be held on May 9, 2024.

Resolution NO 30-24 GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" Mr. Corwonski made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 30-24 and Miss Renzi seconded the motion. Roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried.

Resolution NO 31-24 RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET Mr. Corwonski made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 31-24 and Miss Renzi seconded the motion. Roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried.

Resolution NO 32-24 2024 TEMPORARY EMERGENCY RESOLUTION Mr. Corwonski made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 32-24 and Miss Renzi seconded the motion. Roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried.

Resolution NO 33-24 REFUNDING AN OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES Mr. Corwonski made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 33-24 and Miss Renzi seconded the motion. Roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried.

Public Participation Mr. Miller made motion to open the meeting to the public and Mr. Carrow seconded the motion. All in favor. No one in the public addressed council. Mr. Carrow made a motion to close the public portion. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Disbursements- Resolution NO. 34 -24 Mr. Corwonski made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 34-24 and Miss Renzi seconded the motion. Roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried.

Resolution NO. 35-24 EXECUTIVE SESSION -Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 35-24 and Mrs. Curcio seconded the motion. Roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Carrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Corwonski, Miss Renzi and Mr. Curcio. NAYS: none. Abstain: Mrs. Engle. Motion carried.

Meeting was reopened to the public at 8:20 PM.

Mr. Carrow asked permission to form a committee to recreate the fire plaque that originally hung on the firehouse. He noted that the money is available in the capital budget and that he is currently exploring his options. Council President Carrow noted that this should not be viewed as a political issue, and asked council to consider it as a service that all of the fire personnel provided from both eras. Mayor Grova and council agreed to authorize Mr. Carrow to proceed with the exploration of the committee.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Carrow at 8:26PM All in favor.

Toni L. Van Camp, Clerk