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Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 4(a) of C.231, P.L. 1975, the required 48 hour advance notice of this meeting was given by mailing/faxing a copy of the agenda to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times, in addition, to posting on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on March 18, 2016 by the Municipal Clerk.

Discussion with 11th District Assembly Members Joann Downey & Eric Houghtaling

Councilman Meyer informed the Assembly members of the struggle the Borough has had this year with the budget and having to increase taxes. He relayed how Red Bank Regional High School used their cap bank a few years ago causing a large increase in taxes. He explained that Red Bank Regional charges less for tuition than the cost per student to compete with the local private schools. The Council discussed this issue with the Assembly members. The Council explained the percentage of the taxes the Borough pays the Regional School and their concerns with this.

Councilwoman DerAsadourian pointed out that the Shrewsbury Borough School will be needing repairs in the near future. Councilman Meyer said that the 'Superintendent Cap' is such an issue because municipalities could lose good superintendents because they have to look elsewhere to increase their salaries.

Councilman Meyer informed the Assembly members about the issues involving the truck wash that occurred. Assemblyman Houghtaling explained how Neptune Township handled the issue by hiring a company and sharing the costs with other municipalities. The Council discussed consolidation and shared services issues with the Assembly members.

Mayor Burden stated that the amount of the Energy Receipts Tax Payment to the Borough is not enough and noted that the issue is coming up in the Assembly for a vote. He stated that many of the municipalities in the Two River Council of Mayors do not believe that they are receiving their fair share. Assemblywoman Downey commented on this and noted that more may be able to be done with a new governor.

The Mayor and Council listed various concerns to the Assembly members. Mayor Burden inquired as to what can be done about COAH while explaining the challenges it poses to the Borough. Councilwoman DerAsadourian discussed the safety concerns within the Borough and the need for traffic calming. Councilman Meyer and Mayor Burden explained how the closing of Fort Monmouth impacted the Borough and asked if there was any information they could share on its future. Mayor Burden stated that Route 35 needs to be addressed to deal with traffic issues and noted that it is causing safety concerns on what have become cut through roads including White Street. Assemblyman Houghtaling inquired what the Council would like to see done to rectify the situation, which the Council discussed. The Council also expressed how the poor surface condition of Route 35 is creating a significant safety hazard and noted that the Borough was told it would be repaved two years ago. Mayor Burden commented that the Borough would like to see bicycle lanes added to Sycamore Avenue in addition to seeing 'Shrewsbury' not 'Fort Monmouth' as is presently listed on the exit sign for the Parkway at exit

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109. Assembly members Downey and Houghtaling stated that they could reach out to the DOT on these issues.

The Council thanked the Assembly members for their time.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Burden, Councilmembers Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran

Also Present: Attorney Martin Barger, Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman & Municipal Clerk Kathleen P. Krueger

Salute to Flag

Led by Mayor Burden.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #2016-34 (Enter into Agreement with Econsult)

Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Contract with Econsult

Resolution #2016-35 (Apply for Hazardous Materials Emerg. Preparedness Grant)

Waive Borough Raffle Fee for the Shrewsbury Historical Society

Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Community Forestry Management Plan

Councilman Meyer motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by the Councilman Anderson, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Authorize the Mayor to Sign Agreement for the Wardell House's Architectural Services

Mayor Burden gave a brief explanation of why this was needed and stated that the Borough still doesn't know what they are going to do with the building. Councilman Anderson motioned to authorize the Mayor's signature, seconded by the Councilman Moran, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Anderson

Resolution #2016-36 (Abolishing the Audit Committee) - Tabled

Mayor Burden stated that the rationale behind having an Audit Committee was redundant because the Borough has independent auditors. He noted that we are the only municipality in the County with such a committee. Councilman Meyer motioned to approve Resolution #2016-36, seconded by Councilman Anderson. Councilman DeSalvo voiced his objection stating that this action blindsided him and asked for time to consider this resolution. Councilman DeSalvo motioned to table this item, seconded by Councilwoman DerAsadourian. Councilman Meyer motioned to withdraw his motion.

Resolution #2016-37 (Local Budget Examination)

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Mr. Seaman explained the nature of the local budget examination and why it is permitted during certain years. Councilwoman DerAsadourian motioned to approve Resolution #2016-37, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Resolution #2016-38 (Introduce 2016 Municipal Budget)

Councilman Eddy explained that this was just the introduction and that the budget hearing would be on April 18th. Councilman Eddy motioned to approve Resolution #2016-38, seconded by Councilman Meyer, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Resolution #2016-39 (Rejecting Bids for the Sickles Park Basketball Court Reconstruction)

Councilman Meyer motioned to approve Resolution #2016-39, seconded by Councilman Anderson, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Councilwoman DerAsadourian motioned to allow the Borough Engineer to resubmit the bid not to exceed two hours of labor, seconded by Councilman Moran, and approved by the following vote:

*AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None*

ORDINANCE NO. 1024 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING: Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of a Dump Truck and Equipment for the Shrewsbury DPW and Appropriating \$166,000.00 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$135,000.00 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs

Councilman Meyer explained the need for the truck, plow, and sander, noting the ten year capital plan for DPW vehicles. The Council discussed the quotes they were receiving through state contracts and the financing.

Councilman Moran motioned to open the meeting to the public to discuss Ordinance No. 1024 which was seconded by Councilman DeSalvo, and approved by the rest of the Council.

Open the Meeting to the Public

Christopher Vios, 84 Garden Road, Shrewsbury, stated that he was very disappointed with the little effort he sees the Borough putting into controlling costs with hiring and spending money. He asked the Council to sit back and considering the cost of things. He stated that it is completely unacceptable with how comfortable he feels the Council is with spending large amounts of money. Mr. Vios stated that the Council should ask DPW what their needs are,

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speak to other towns to see what they can do for us, and then consider it. Councilman Meyer stated that those three things have been done. Mr. Vios repeated ‘unacceptable’.

Councilman Anderson motioned to close the meeting to the public which was seconded by Councilman Moran.

Councilwoman DerAsadourian explained to Mr. Vios that with the ambulance and the ladder truck that there was a lengthy process and an in depth report that supported the purchase. She stated that there was no report for this truck but that Council has had many discussions on the purchase. She suggested in the future a similar report be created to allow for more transparency for the residents. Councilman Moran stated that the DPW did provide the Council with a lot of information and noted that members of the Council personally inspected the vehicles.

Close the Meeting to the Public

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Councilman Meyer motioned to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Moran, and approved by all Councilmember’s present.

Adoption of Ordinance No. 1024

Councilman Meyer motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 1024, seconded by Councilman Moran, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

ORDINANCE NO. 1025 – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING: Ordinance Amending the Code of the Borough of Shrewsbury by Adding Chapter 166, Nursing or Assisted Living Homes, Transportation Requirement

Councilman Eddy explained that this was to prevent the further abuse of the Borough’s First Aid Squad’s services. Councilman Moran motioned to introduce Ordinance No. 1025, seconded by Councilman Eddy, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Burden stated that the public hearing for Ordinance No. 1025 would be April 4th.

Administrator Report

Mr. Seaman informed the Council that he received the total of County judgements for tax appeals and that it was better than prior years. He also noted that the Borough submitted a grant for a bullet proof vest and for FEMA reimbursement for winter storm Jonas.

Reports of Council

Councilman Anderson reported that he was working with Mr. Barger on an equipment loan waiver for the First Aid. He also informed the Council that he met with Mr. MacConnell to get up to speed on any issues or concerns at Shrewsbury Borough School.

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Councilwoman DerAsadourian stated that there was a meeting last week concerning the improvements to the ballfields and noted that they are making progress. She also reported that Borough Engineer Dave Cranmer provided her with ‘phase 2’ of the Manson Park project but stated that she felt that it should be placed on hold until ‘phase 1’ is complete. Councilwoman DerAsadourian also reported that the Environmental Commission would like to see that dogs be allowed at Manson Park during certain hours, additional recycling bins, and a walking path at Sickles Park.

Councilman DeSalvo had nothing to report.

Councilman Eddy reported that the Borough is working on the tax assessment program for Shrewsbury. He also noted that there would be a Borough wide emergency drill in June.

Councilman Meyer reported that the police door access system is outdated and needs to be replaced. He stated that the police have met with various companies and presented the Council with a proposal from DABCO for the amount of \$23,580. He reviewed all the advantages of this company’s system. *Councilman Meyer motioned to approve the purchase of a new door access system from DABCO in the amount of \$23,580, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo, and approved by the following vote:*

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Councilman Moran reported on the Planning Board activity. He reported that the Borough is now a member of a consortium for COAH and gave a brief summary of recent COAH developments.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Burden reported that the Environmental Commission is working with the Green Team and Safe Routes to School program. He commended the Shade Tree Commission on all their hard work on the Forestry Report. Mayor Burden listed all the meetings that he had attended in the previous two weeks.

Correspondence

Ms. Krueger stated that the Monmouth County Mosquito Commission sent the Borough information on pesticides that they might be using in the spring and noted all the information is available on the Borough website.

Open the Meeting to the Public

Councilman DeSalvo motioned to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Moran, and approved by all Councilmembers present.

Marjorie Clark, 213 Garden Road, Shrewsbury asked for clarity on the authorization for architectural services for the Wardell House. She asked if the Borough would be rebuilding it. Mayor Burden stated that the Borough does not know what they are going to do with it but stated that they are at the point that the building needs to be stabilized. Councilman Meyer stated that

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the money for this review is from a fund from the County and explained that since the Wardell House is on the National Registry of Historic Buildings, the Borough's hands are tied.

Ms. Clark inquired if the Resolution abolishing the Audit Committee was passed which the Council stated it was tabled. Councilman Meyer explained the history of the Audit Committee and noted that it has only met once in the past four years. Ms. Clark asked the date of the budget workshop. Councilman Eddy stated that it had already occurred and that the presentation could be found on the Borough's website.

Ms. Clark stated that she thought the Council would be reviewing the vehicle's maintenance history, and all other available information, before purchasing any replacement vehicles. Councilman Meyer explained that DPW had requested to replace this truck for four years. He discussed the age of many of the vehicles, how unsafe the truck is, and that members of Council personally inspected it. Councilman Meyer explained that the Council had been discussing this for some time and that they are developing a ten year plan. Ms. Clark stated that she thought that this policy was a good idea and was curious if it was followed. Councilman DeSalvo stated that it is not a formalized process and with new software, the Council will be able to review the maintenance records.

Ms. Clark asked if the Borough had a new police car. Councilman Meyer stated that a few months back the Borough got a used SUV to replace one that was in an accident and the cost was covered by insurance. Ms. Clark stated that she is noticing some dead limbs over roads in the Borough which could be a safety hazard. Councilman Moran stated that he would share her concerns with DPW. Ms. Clark also thanked the Council for the new bulk trash schedule.

Chris Vios, Garden Road, stated that he wanted to clarify a few things. He asked about the original intent of the Audit Committee. Mr. Seaman explained that the committee was to meet with the auditors prior to the audit being presented to Council, which the Finance Committee already does this, making the process redundant. Mr. Vios expressed that he believes that an Audit Committee is more than just interested in financial information and that they should also look at all the Borough's policies and best practices. He stated that he heard the Borough had an independent auditor which the Council confirmed was mandatory by the state. Mayor Burden explained that the auditor, comes to a public meeting every year to explain the audit. Mr. Vios said that he would like more information on why the committee was formed and their duties. Councilman Meyer explained that the Council is using best practices and spending a lot of time researching purchases.

Christopher Vios, 84 Garden Road, Shrewsbury, questioned what the cost was to rebid the basketball courts at Sickles Park. Councilwoman DerAsadourian explained that there are state regulations that govern bids. Mr. Vios questioned if the Borough has to pay the engineer for the work. Mr. Seaman explained that the engineer is paid hourly. Mr. Vios stated that redoing the basketball courts made no sense to him. Councilwoman DerAsadourian explained that the courts are in such bad shape that we either have to close the court or repair it. She explained the soil problems at the location. Mr. Vios stated that he would like to know how much usage it gets. Councilman DeSalvo explained that it gets a lot of use. Mr. Vios stated that the Borough should have properly maintained them so then they would not have reached this point. Councilman

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DeSalvo noted the history of the property and the soil issues. He commented that since it is next to the playground it gets the most use.

Keith McGee, 103 East End Avenue, Shrewsbury asked how long it would take to get shovels in the ground to get work started on the fields. Councilwoman DerAsadourian stated that it is just a matter of getting the proper quotes and certificates of insurance. She stated that her goal was to get this project moving as soon as possible. Mr. McGee commented that other local municipalities were able to get the same grant as Shrewsbury, but use it in different parks, and asked if Council could look into that option. Councilman Meyer explained that the grants had very defined ways it could be used.

Mr. Vios inquired on the status of the tax assessment program. Councilman Eddy explained that it was discussed earlier and that they should have a better idea in April.

Close the Meeting to the Public

Councilman Moran motioned to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Anderson, and approved by all Councilmembers present.

Payment of Bills

Councilman Eddy explained that a majority of the total is for school taxes. Councilman Eddy motioned to approve the bills in the amount of \$62,346.74, seconded by Councilman Meyer, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Meyer & Moran
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Resolution #2016-39A (Executive Session)

Mayor Burden read Resolution #2015-39A to enter into Executive Session at 8:27 PM. Councilwoman DerAsaourian motioned to approve Resolution #2016-39A, seconded by Councilman Eddy, and approved by all Councilmembers present.

Public Meeting Reconvened

The public meeting reconvened at 8:54 PM.

Adjourn

With nothing more to address in the Regular Session, Councilman DeSalvo motioned to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:55PM, seconded by Councilman Moran, and approved by the rest of the Council.

Attest: _____
Kathleen P. Krueger, RMC – Municipal Clerk

Approve: _____
Mayor Donald Burden