

June 15, 2015

**\*\*\*\*\* Correction to the minutes of June 15, 2015, please see page 69\*\*\*\*\*  
Amended September 21, 2015**

### **Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 June 12, 2015 by the Municipal Clerk.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Councilmembers DeNofa, DeSalvo, DerAsadourian, Dodge & Pellegrino  
Also Present: Borough Attorney Martin Barger, Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman & Clerk Kathleen P. Krueger  
Absent: Mayor Burden & Councilman Meyer

### **Salute to Flag**

Led by Council President Dodge.

### **Presentation by the Municipal Auditor - Robert Allison**

Mr. Allison stated that the audit was completed on May 16<sup>th</sup>. He summarized with the Council the Borough records that are reviewed and the tests conducted in the audit. Mr. Allison added that there were no comments or recommendations in his report, and noted that only a few items needed to be cleaned up and those items were discussed and are being corrected by Mr. Seaman. He stated that the Borough's surplus was adequate. Councilman DeNofa inquired as to the amount of surplus the Borough should have and why surplus is needed. Mr. Allison stated that the Borough's tax collection rate is 98% which is excellent. He pointed out that the Borough has 1.4 million dollars in bonds from 2012 that will start retiring so Council will need to consider this in the next budget.

### **Open the Meeting to the Public**

Councilman Dodge motioned to open the meeting to the public for questions on the audit, seconded by Councilman DeNofa, and approved by all Councilmembers present

### **Close the Meeting to the Public**

*Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak Councilman DeNofa motioned to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Pellegrino, and approved by all Councilmembers present.*

### **Resolution #2015-51 (Accept the Annual Audit)**

Councilman Pellegrino motioned to approve Resolution #2015-51, seconded by Councilman DeNofa, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: DeNofa, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Dodge & Pellegrino  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

### **Open Space Discussion**

Councilwoman DerAsadourian provided suggestions for the use of Open Space monies since the Borough is not going forward with the Manson Park Improvement Project. She suggested the Borough looking into creating trails at the Esther Hymer Nature Preserve. She also recommended spending some of the funds on fixing, replacing, or moving the location of the basketball court at Sickles Park. Councilwoman DerAsadourian also noted that everyone seemed to like the idea of adding the fitness stations to the Manson Park walking trail. She encouraged everyone to contact her regarding their thoughts and ideas and added that she would like to get a priority list together of projects everyone in the Borough would appreciate, not just the list from the Recreation Committee.

Councilwoman DerAsadourian mentioned that the Borough might be able to get corporate sponsorships to help with the trails at the Preserve. Councilman DeSalvo noted how Wall Township successfully received corporate sponsorships for their baseball field. Councilwoman DerAsadourian also explained different possibilities to fund the upkeep of the trails. Councilman Pellegrino shared his experience with the sponsors of the Eagle Scout 'Welcome to Shrewsbury' signs. It was decided that anyone with ideas for open space should contact Councilwoman DerAsadourian and that it would be discussed with the Open Space Committee.

Councilwoman DerAsadourian stated that there might be an opportunity for the Borough to acquire land next to an existing open space property, which she believes would be a good investment.

Councilman Dodge inquired if the Borough was planning to resubmit a Manson Park Improvement Project plan. Mr. Seaman and the Council discussed their letter of response to the County after the proposed plan was rejected at the last meeting. Council determined that there was no consensus on a plan. Councilwoman DerAsadourian stated that this is the reason she is trying to create a wish list in which all the committees and boards are represented. Councilman DeNofa inquired about what the Manson Park Improvement Project had already cost the Borough. Mr. Seaman noted that costs were around \$20,000. Council discussed the future of the Manson Park Improvement Project.

*Councilman Dodge motioned to submit a letter to the County asking for additional time to determine a better plan for Manson Park with the potential of modifying the allotment map, seconded by Councilman Pellegrino, and approved by the following vote:*

AYES: DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Dodge & Pellegrino  
NAYS: DeNofa  
ABSTAIN: None

Councilwoman DerAsadourian asked the Council their thoughts on the Sickles Park basketball courts and they agreed that one court was all that was needed at this time. It was decided to have Recreation look into it and report back to the Council.

### **Resolution #2015-55 (Reappointment of Sub Code Official: James V. Williams)**

Councilwoman DerAsadourian expressed her concerns over the reduction of expected permits and revenue within the Construction Department of the Borough. She stated that the Borough

June 15, 2015

has not looked into changing the job descriptions or salaries of these individuals in light of this reduction. Mr. Seaman pointed out that construction revenue is expected to be comparable to that of a few years back when they were being paid a similar amount. He added that when the workload increased with all the recent building projects these workers did not get an increase in pay to reflect the increase in their work. Councilwoman DerAsadourian argued against Mr. Seaman's point stating that the Borough is completely built out. Councilman DeSalvo asked if the Borough could make the inspectors work at an hourly rate. Mr. Seaman noted that the Construction Department is always in the black and if the Borough paid them hourly they would probably lose the inspectors we currently employ. Councilman Pellegrino motioned to approve Resolutions #2015-55, seconded by Councilman DeNofa, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: DeNofa, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Dodge & Pellegrino  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

#### **Approval of New Members of the Shrewsbury First Aid Squad: Melissa Banal & Matthew P. Suszka**

Councilman DeSalvo motioned to accept these new members pending a clean MVR, seconded by Councilwoman DerAsadourian, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: DeNofa, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Dodge & Pellegrino  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

#### **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Seaman reported that the Borough received a grant to help pay for the court costs for DUIs. He added that he would be attending a webinar on the 'Cadillac Tax' which is an additional tax based on the elements of a municipal health care plan. Mr. Seaman explained how this tax could impact the Borough and its budget. Council discussed different ways the Borough could handle the 'Cadillac Tax' situation. Mr. Seaman also reported that the costs of the Delta Dental's plan did not increase this year.

#### **Reports of Council**

Councilman DeNofa reported various DPW issues including line/crosswalk painting and tree trimming. He noted that the gas pumps would be installed in a few weeks. He also noted that the Silversmith building has been demolished and they hope to have a CO for the new buildings by October.

Councilwoman DerAsadourian reported that she provided Council with the Red Bank Regional tax levy. She mentioned that the Shrewsbury Borough School Board of Education is currently dealing with an issue that occurred during a school event. \*\*\*\*\**Councilwoman DerAsadourian stated that there has been some discussion by people as to the thought of asking Recreation to support the school when children are suspended from school activities if Recreation could follow suit and do the same.* \*\*\*\*\* Attorney Barger stated that the school legally cannot be disclosing that type of information to the Borough as per state and federal law. He noted that Recreation could adopt a code of conduct for its participants. Council discussed the school, Borough, and police liability in situations of bullying or assault that occur at the school.

June 15, 2015

Councilman DeSalvo asked Attorney Barger to look into other municipalities' code of conduct for Recreation. Councilwoman DerAsadourian asked if the travel teams could be held to abide by the same code if the Borough chooses to adopt one.

Councilwoman DerAsadourian reported on the success of Memorial Day. She thanked Ms. Brookes on the wonderful job she did organizing the ceremony. She stated that DPW also did a wonderful job on preparing Patriot Isle for the event.

Councilman DeSalvo had nothing to report.

Councilman Dodge reported that the police department has had more vehicle accidents than normal this year, and as a result, there was a need to authorize the purchase of two cars within the 2015 Municipal Budget. Council discussed the addition of the two vehicles.

*Councilman Dodge motioned to authorize the Administrator, Thomas Seaman, to obtain two leases on two cars for the Police Department which was approved within the annual budget, seconded by Councilman DeNofa, and approved by the following vote:*

*AYES: DeNofa, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Dodge & Pellegrino*  
*NAYS: None*  
*ABSTAIN: None*

Councilman Dodge stated that another police car is out of service due to an accident and he recommends purchasing a used vehicle in the amount of \$23,000. He noted that the Borough has funds available for the purchase due to the insurance payout and monies in the police maintenance account. Councilwoman DerAsadourian questioned why the Borough seems to purchase two vehicles for the police department each year and if we could plan on getting only one next year since the Borough is getting three this year. Council discussed the number of accidents the police have had within the last year.

*Councilman Pellegrino motioned to purchase a used car for the Police Department in the amount of \$23,000 which will be supplemented by the insurance and maintenance monies, seconded by Councilman DeNofa, and approved by the following vote:*

*AYES: DeNofa, DeSalvo, Dodge & Pellegrino*  
*NAYS: DerAsadourian*  
*ABSTAIN: None*

Councilman Pellegrino reported that the Insurance Committee would be looking into the Cadillac Tax and that OEM would be having their annual meeting the following week. He also noted that the Borough received a letter stating that a developer would like to build an exclusive development within the municipality which the Council discussed. Councilman Pellegrino discussed various issues within the Community Garden and informed the Council that an Eagle Scout will be working on providing a new corner sign for the Borough.

Councilman Pellegrino read his letter of resignation, which takes effect June 30<sup>th</sup>, into the record. Councilman Dodge stated that the Borough is very sad to lose him and thanked him for all that he did for the Borough.

June 15, 2015

**Correspondence**

Clerk Krueger stated that it was a joy to work with Councilman Pellegrino and his presence on the Council would be missed.

**Open the Meeting to the Public**

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

Marjorie Clark, 213 Garden Road, Shrewsbury, expressed her best wishes to Councilman Pellegrino and complimented him on this contribution to the Council.

Ms. Clark inquired about the type of police cars the Borough was planning to lease. Councilman Dodge explained that they were Ford Interceptors which are small SUVs. She questioned the process the Borough uses in selecting this type of car. Councilman Dodge explained the Borough did a lot of research on this model and noted the reasons it was selected.

Ms. Clark asked if the Borough could reach out to the State to see if they could get a turning arrow light allowing a left turn from Route 35 North onto White Street. She explained how difficult it is to make a left onto White Street especially when school is dismissed. Ms. Clark said that it would be a help if the crossing guards could even just signal people to turn during that time. Councilman Dodge stated that the Police Committee has discussed this but it involves a much larger issue than just the left turn. He stated that the Borough has a hard time getting approvals from the State but he will bring it up again at the next Police Committee meeting.

**Close the Meeting to the Public**

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

**Payment of the Bills**

Councilman Pellegrino motioned to approve the bills list in the amount of \$1,542,627.89, seconded by Councilman Dodge, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: DeNofa, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Dodge & Pellegrino

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

**Adjournment**

Councilman DeNofa motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, seconded by Councilman Pellegrino, and approved by all Councilmembers present.

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen P. Krueger, RMC – Municipal Clerk

**Approve:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Council President William Dodge