

A Caucus/Public meeting of the Township Council was held in the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present

Councilwoman Andrea Zapcic*
 Councilman Vince Minichino*
 Councilwoman Heather deJong*
 Councilman Paul Mummolo*
 Councilwoman Marianna Pontoriero*
 Council Vice President Arthur Halloran*
 Council President Lisa Crate

Also Present

Mayor John G. Ducey
 Kevin Starkey, Township Attorney*
 Lynnette A. Iannarone, Township Clerk
 Joanne Bergin, Business Administrator

(*Present via Zoom)

Clerk Iannarone announced adequate notice of this meeting was provided and published in Asbury Park Press and The Ocean Star on January 7, 2020. Copies of the agenda were provided to the newspapers, posted on public bulletin boards and the township website (www.bricktownship.net).

President Crate thanked everyone for participating in this evening's Township Council meeting. She said the COVID-19 pandemic prevents them from meeting in the traditional way, but they have adjusted accordingly so that they can continue to conduct the business of the Township, and serve the residents. She said this meeting is available through the Zoom application, where you can see and hear tonight's meeting, and participate during all public comment periods as you would if they were all together in person. She said to ask a question or comment, please click on your device and a bar will appear on the bottom of your screen. One of the icons posted there is a "Raise your hand" button. Click that to indicate you have a question. She said they can see that on their end and will call on people one at a time. Questions and comments are also welcome by email. The address is publicmeetingquestions@bricktownship.net and they will be checking emails throughout the meeting and will read those questions into the minutes and respond accordingly.

This meeting began with the salute to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

Clerk Iannarone was directed to accept and file the Building & Construction, Certificate of Occupancy, Engineering, Sewer & Water and Vital Statistics Reports for the month of March 2020.

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Councilwoman Zapcic to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 24, 2020 and approve the same.

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Municipal Budget Hearing

Motion by Councilman Mummolo and seconded by Councilman Minichino to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Authorize Reading of Budget by Title Only

Motion by Councilman Mummolo and seconded by Councilman Minichino to suspend the regular order of business to accommodate the Budget Hearing.

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Clerk Iannarone announced this is the time fixed for the public hearing on the 2020 Municipal Budget. The budget was introduced by the governing body on March 24, 2020 and was advertised in the Asbury Park Press and the Ocean Star on March 27, 2020 together with notice of hearing for April 28, 2020 at this time.

President Crate outlined the public hearing procedure and noted the 2020 Municipal Budget is posted on the Township website.

President Crate opened the public hearing on the Budget.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Councilwoman Zapcic and seconded by Councilwoman deJong to Close the public hearing on the Budget.

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Mayor Ducey stated by statute, the Township needs to proceed with this meeting in order to adopt our budget. As Council President Crate said earlier, the format of this meeting is being held in accordance with State guidelines for Council meetings, which specifically call for remote meetings. So many of our first responders, health care workers, residents and township employees continue to work tirelessly to help get us through this crisis and to all of - thank you very much. There are not=00 words to relay the appreciation for your dedication and commitment. The health and well-being rests in your hands, and you have taken that responsibility and put it above all else, even yourselves and your families, to make sure someone answers the call for help. There's no part of life that is not impacted by this pandemic and doing business here in Brick Township is no different. From a municipal perspective, Township employees are needed 24/7 as they were before the crisis. However, so much of what we do has changed and we have done what we always do: rise up to serve our residents by modifying how we do that. The Senior Center may not be holding classes or serving meals, but they are working every day to drive prepared meals, medications and other vital needs to the doorsteps of our seniors. The building inspectors had to become technology experts and are conducting inspections through the Zoom application so that people can finish their projects. Brick Township Recreation Department has a group on the Township Facebook page, *Play at Home with Brick Rec*, where families can participate in activities and share them with our community. Recent activities included a Driveway Chalk Drawing Contest and a pizza party, where families were able to get a free personal pan pizza kit, make their favorites and share to the Facebook page. The said this is just the beginning of a variety of fun activities that can be done safely at home. Please visit the Facebook page for more information - these are just a few great examples of how we are continuing to help our residents. He stated the usual receivables in the budget has changed drastically since early March. Several areas of anticipated revenue in the budget has dropped 50% or more and the Township's anticipated revenues are down close to \$1 million. He said the Township was proactive very early on planned for the realities they are now seeing. They put an immediate stop to new hires, even though they had 12 new police officers in the queue, only one was hired. Any retirements or vacancies were not filled and they are not hiring part-time and seasonal employees. By right sizing the staff to the maximum extent possible they have been able to address the shortfall without amending the budget to modify the tax rate increase they proposed back on March 24th. He applauded the CFO and Department Heads for working so hard to help us tighten the belts in these scary economic times. The efforts to make cuts, save money and be as fiscally responsible as possible while also providing the same or better services remains our number one priority.

Vice President Halloran stated he has a resolution to present at this time Amending the 2020 Municipal Budget.

Clerk Iannarone read the Budget Amendment into the record in full.

Motion by Councilman Mummolo and seconded by Councilman Minichino to Amend the 2020 Municipal Budget

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Authorize State Required Budget Amendment Resolution

Councilwoman deJong requested that the Clerk be instructed to read the Resolution Adopting the 2020 Municipal Budget.

Clerk Iannarone read the Budget Adoption into the record in full.

Motion by Vice President Halloran and seconded by Councilwoman Pontoriero to Adopt the 2020 Municipal Budget.

All Council voted AYE on Roll Call.

President Crate announced the 2020 Brick Township Municipal Budget has been adopted.

Adoption of the 2020 Municipal Budget.

Motion by Councilwoman Zapcic and seconded by Councilwoman Pontoriero to adopt the following Resolutions.

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Authorize Purchasing Standard Policy Regarding Claimant's Certification

President Crate stated this resolution establishes a claimant's certification policy that allows the Township to issue certain refunds without needing a signature from the vendor. This will allow for significant improvement in efficiencies in both the finance and purchasing departments and will prevent a significant number of old monies not paid, which they try and avoid in the operating budget, especially those that go past the calendar year. She advised this policy is specific to certain circumstances including: refunds for activities, debt service, vendors paid through procurement card purchase orders, vendors who do not provide certifications as part of the normal course of business, utilities regulated by the Board of Public Utilities, payment obligations to State or Federal governments, educational courses, membership in a non-profit organization, registration for a conference or convention sponsored by a non-profit organization and web site hosting.

Bond Releases/Reductions:

Clerk Iannarone advised the following:

- Performance Bond Release – Hough Petroleum Corp. – Brick Blvd – a cash performance bond in the amount of \$10,136.65 along with the \$15.14 remaining in the engineering inspection fund.
- Inspection Fund Release – Perry M. Petrillo Architects – Route 88 - in the amount of \$776.32.
- Inspection Fund Release – Bohler Engineering NJ, LLC – Route 88 - in the amount of \$806.72.

Tax Collector:

Joanne Bergin advised the following:

- State Tax Appeal Granted – Block 44.15 Lot 5 – 350 Bay Lane in the amount of \$3,071.23.
- Reverse Refund for 100% DAV – Block 1192.12 Lot 44 DAV – in this refund, the Veteran's Administration has advised the Township that the veteran's disability was erroneously calculated; therefore, they are reversing the cancellation of taxes and are being reimbursed for the previously issued refund.

Motion by Councilwoman Zapcic and seconded by Councilwoman Pontoriero to remove the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

- **Rescind Resolution No. 184-20 Extension of the Grace Period - REMOVED**

Mayor Ducey stated at the last council meeting the council passed a resolution to extend the grace period for property taxes – property taxes are due on May 1st. He advised it would be a 30- day grace period with no interest or penalties. He said they received notice from the State that what was done was illegal and advised the council that a resolution is needed to rescind Resolution No.184-20. He said today the Governor decided to sign an Executive Order, which will allow towns to put this extension of the grace period in exactly what they wanted to do.

President Crate opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

There were no comments from the public.

President Crate closed the public hearing on the Resolutions.

President Crate opened the public hearing on the Computer Bill Resolution.

There were no comments from the public.

President Crate closed the public hearing on the Computer Bill Resolution.

Motion by Vice President Halloran and seconded by Councilwoman Pontoriero to adopt the following Resolution.

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call; except:
Councilman Minichino ABSTAINED on Teamsters and
Councilwoman deJong ABSTAINED on CME Associates and
Councilman Mummolo ABSTAINED on Meridian Occupational Health

2020 Computer Bill Resolution in the amount of \$20,905,930.65

President Crate opened the public hearing on the Manual Bill Resolution.

There were no comments from the public.

President Crate closed the public hearing on the Manual Bill Resolution.

Motion by Councilwoman Zapcic and seconded by Councilwoman Pontoriero to adopt the following Resolution.

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

2020 Manual Bill Resolution in the amount of \$1,771,059.93

Ordinance on First Reading: Amend Chapter 245 – Fences

Clerk Iannarone read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

President Crate explained this ordinance comes as a recommendation from the Council's Land Use Committee as the result of an increasing number of complaints regarding living fences. She explained an ordinance was adopted in 2010 that prohibits vegetation or fences within 200 feet of a body of water higher than four feet and if someone wants to plant it's an issue, even just one tree. She advised the Township's Zoning Officer requested the Committee revisit the ordinance. She said this ordinance requires a 15' setback requirement for a living fence for homes that front on a body of water and only homes that front on a body of water must comply with the 15' setback for living fences.

Motion by Councilman Mummolo and seconded by Vice President Halloran to adopt the following Ordinance on First Reading and said Ordinance be published as provided by law:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 245-33 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "FENCES"

President Crate opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Carlos Betancourth, 9 Morey Lane, questioned if there are existing bushes/trees at this moment prior to this Ordinance being passed would it be grandfathered in or would it be required to be rip out the bushes/trees if they are within 15' of the water.

President Crate advised it would be grandfathered in.

There were no further comments from the public.

President Crate closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Mayor Ducey said Facebook Live Show is available on B-20; he gave an Coronavirus update; he said if anyone needs help whether it is food, service, domestic violence resources, etc., please call his office and they can get you to the right resources; he said that New Jersey is still on stay at home order by the Governor; he advised they are working on a plan to try to open the beaches and noted that he is working with all the mayors on the Barrier Island so they can come

to plan all together to have the same type of restrictions and possibly the same opening date; he said they are also working on parameters for the Farmer's Market and how to do that safely; he said they are going to have a "great" Memorial Day service, not a parade, but it will be a fitting service for the men and women that gave their lives for our Freedom; he gave an update on the Coronavirus testing locations in Brick; he said be safe, stay well and maintain social distancing.

Councilwoman Zapcic gave the particulars on some free webinars that the DART Prevention Coalition of Ocean County is offering on various topics/resources; she said stay home – stay safe.

Councilwoman deJong urged all to "like" the Buy in Brick on the Facebook page and mentioned some business that are offering "virtually" until we can all come back together; she said everyone please remain safe.

Councilman Mummolo said everyone stay safe.

Councilwoman Pontoriero gave some particulars on Harvard University's free virtual classes they are offering; she thanked all the teachers for all they do.
Vice President Halloran said be safe.

President Crate thanked all for their hard work on the Budget and for everyone that tuned in via Zoom and for your patience with technology.

Motion by Vice President Halloran and seconded by Councilman Mummolo to Adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

Lisa Crate
Council President

Lynnette A. Iannarone
Township Clerk