

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* (7:05)
 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 on January 30, 2021 and The Ocean Star on February 5, 2021. 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 evenings 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 also noted the "Raise your Hand" icon can also be found by clicking on the "More" option. 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.

Motion by Vice President Halloran and seconded by Councilman Mummolo to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 23rd and April 13, 2021 meetings and approve the same.

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call; except:
 Councilman Minichino was absent during Roll Call.

Municipal Budget Hearing

Motion by Councilwoman deJong and seconded by Vice President Halloran to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call; except:
 Councilman Minichino ABSTAINED because he was absent during Roll Call.

Authorize Reading of Budget by Title Only

Motion by Vice President Halloran and seconded by Councilman Mummolo to suspend the regular order of business to accommodate the Budget Hearing:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call; except:
 Councilman Minichino ABSTAINED because he was absent during Roll Call.

Clerk Iannarone announced this is the time fixed for the public hearing on the 2021 Municipal Budget. The budget was introduced by the governing body on March 23, 2021 and was advertised in the Asbury Park Press and the Ocean Star on March 26, 2021 together with notice of hearing for April 27, 2021 at this time.

President Crate outlined the public hearing procedure and noted the 2021 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 Vice President Halloran and seconded by Councilwoman Zapcic to Close the public hearing on the Budget:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

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

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Vice President Halloran to Adopt the 2021 Municipal Budget:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget

President Crate announced the 2021 Brick Township Municipal Budget has been adopted.

Motion by Vice President Halloran and seconded by Councilman Minichino to adopt the following Resolutions:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Authorize Cancellation of Stale Dated Checks

President Crate stated this resolution authorizes the cancellation of a stale dated check in the amount of \$42.64 in the Township's Escrow Account.

Authorize Receipt of Bids – Bay Harbor Phase I Roadway Improvements

Mayor Ducey stated this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for Phase 1 of the Bay Harbor roadway improvement program which includes Van Cortlandt Drive, Marilyn Drive, Shay Lane, and Aida Way.

Authorize Award of Contract through The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System – Three 2021 Ford Bronco Sports

President Crate stated this resolution authorizes the award of contract to Beyer Ford in the amount of \$86,014.02 for the purchase and delivery of three 2021 Ford Bronco Sports vehicles (priced at \$28,671.34 each). She advised the Township is acquiring these vehicles through a cooperative purchasing agreement with the Educational Services Commission of NJ. and noted the vehicles were approved in the 2019 capital budget to replenish the inspection fleet.

Authorize Award of Contract through State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program – Workforce Ready Time Keeping

President Crate stated this resolution authorizes an award of contract to SHI International, in the amount of \$278,410.44 for Workforce Ready and Workforce Telestaff Enterprise software, which includes the installation and setup of new time clocks and related software. She advised SHI International is an approved New Jersey State Contact vendor. She said this new system will bring all employees under the same time and attendance system, providing for a more efficient process for each department, payroll and Human resources.

Authorize Re-Bid – Manufacturing & Printing of Tax Bills

President Crate stated this resolution authorizes the rebid of manufacturing and printing of tax bills. She advised bids were received on April 16, 2021 with one bid received, however, an omission in the bid requires the Township to reject and re-advertise.

Authorize Special Events Permit – Marina Party/Pig Roast

Mayor Ducey stated this resolution authorizes a special event permit for a marina party and pig roast on Saturday, August 7th between the hours of 1:30 and 9:30 pm at Jersey Shore Marina, 841 Route 70 and a rain date has been set for August 8th.

Bond Releases/Reductions:

Clerk Iannarone advised the following:

- Performance Bond Release for 2026 Route 88, LLC on Route 88 in the amount of \$18,330.00.
- Performance Bond Release for Robert Buhot on Princeton Avenue in the amount of \$28,997.47 and inspection fund release in the amount of \$629.52
- Performance Bond Release – Robert Bliesmann on Ridge Road in the amount of \$19,179.37 and inspection fund release in the amount of \$3,096.99

Tax Collector:

Joanne Bergin advised the following:

- Tax Overpayments for 2021 due to Homestead Rebates, there are 19 in total.
- Refund Escheated Monies for CFT Services LLC/Phoenix Funding for Tax Sale Certificate 2015-0190 in the amount of \$26,000.

President Crate opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

Rich Campbell, 48 Bretonian Drive, asked if they had considered going to electric vehicles instead of gas.

Mayor Ducey advised they have applied for grants for electric vehicles through Volkswagen.

There were no further 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 Councilman Mummolo and seconded by Councilwoman Zapcic to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call; except:
Councilwoman deJong ABSTAINED on CME.

2021 Computer Bill Resolution in the amount of \$2,060,768.55

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 Councilman Minichino and seconded by Councilwoman deJong to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call; except
Councilwoman Pontoriero ABSTAINED because she was absent during Roll Call.

2021 Manual Bill Resolution in the amount of \$1,722,000.05

Ordinance on Second Reading: Amend Chapter 245 – Prohibit the Operation of Cannabis Businesses

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

President Crate stated this Ordinance bans the operation of cannabis establishments and distributors or delivery service locations in Brick Township. She addressed some concerns about tax revenue: The State has allowed towns to put up to a 2% tax on sales; the State has estimated that they will sell \$1 billion of marijuana; there also is an estimate that 300 of the 565 towns in NJ will allow the sales; the \$1 billion in sales would amount to \$3.3 million per town;

2% of the \$3.3 million is \$66,000; that is the great revenue that the town will see if stores were allowed, it will actually be less due to the costs of collection of the tax; the issue of a windfall of money that would help schools or help lower taxes simply does not exist. She said the money equates to approximately one \$35,000 employee. She explained the law was enacted in February of this year legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults 21 or older and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational (adult use) cannabis operations, use and possession. The law states that municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted within 180 days of the effective date (by August 22, 2021). Failure to do so shall mean that for a period of five years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones. She explained by passing this ordinance and not being the test program for the State, they can sit back and objectively observe what towns have to deal with on the issue as a whole. She said maybe there are no issues, maybe there are many issues, in any event the Township will be protected from being test subjects. She advised the town is not locked in to the ban for five years by passing this ordinance. The town would be locked in for five years if nothing was passed and any operations that opened in that five-year period would be grandfathered in forever. She said the Council's Land Use Committee reviewed the new law and is recommending the Council act on banning the operation of cannabis establishments.

President Crate opened the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Rich Campbell, 48 Bretonian Drive, spoke and stated his displeasure with prohibiting cannabis businesses.

There were no further comments from the public.

President Crate closed the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Motion by Councilwoman Zapcic and seconded by Vice President Halloran to adopt the following Ordinance on Second and Final Reading and said Ordinance be published as provided by law:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 245 AND DELETING CHAPTER 340 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK

President Crate opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Susan Meier, 51 Las Olas Drive, spoke and stated her concerns with the tax increase and questioned the reason for the increases especially when mostly everything was shut down due to the pandemic.

President Crate advised that all Township services continued through the pandemic.

Mayor Ducey said the budget increased less than one percent; he explained this year's budget contains a number of significant increases and they include over \$1,000,000 in bond principal payment, an increase of \$771,000 in police salary and wage, over \$666,000 in pension contributions and \$193,000 in EMT salary and wage.

Justin Delaney, 301 Sandra Place, thanked the council for adopting the ordinance prohibiting cannabis businesses and being proactive.

Rich Campbell, 48 Bretonian Drive, urged the Township to get more proactive with the idling of police vehicles.

There were no further comments from the public.

President Crate closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Mayor Ducey mentioned some of the events he attended and some upcoming events; he advised they will have another COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at the PAL; he congratulated the new police officers.

Councilwoman Zapcic mentioned that the Recreation brochure is online.

Councilwoman deJong reminded all of the Farmer's Market on Saturdays.

Motion by Councilman Mummolo and seconded by Councilwoman Zapcic to Adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

Lisa Crate
Council President

Lynnette A. Iannarone
Township Clerk