

A Public meeting of the Township Council was held in the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present

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

Also Present

Mayor John G. Ducey  
 Scott Kenneally, Township Attorney  
 Lynnette A. Iannarone, Township Clerk  
 Joanne Bergin, Business Administrator

Absent

Council President Lisa Crate

Clerk Iannarone announced adequate notice of this meeting was provided and published in Asbury Park and The Ocean Star on June 11, 2021. Copies of the agenda were provided to the newspapers, posted on public bulletin boards and the township website.

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

Vice President Halloran announced tonight's meeting of the Township Council is for the purpose of public hearings on the recreational improvements and upgrades to Mallard Point Park. These hearings are being held in accordance with NJAC 7:36. A public notice advertised on June 11, 2021 as outlined by the NJDEP Green Acres Program. This hearing has been advertised as a public meeting of the Governing body specifically to provide a public overview of the Township's intent to apply for Green Acres funding and to solicit feedback from the public.

Councilwoman Zapcic explained the purpose of this hearing is to provide an overview and to solicit comment and feedback on the Township's application to the NJDEP Green Acres Program for improvements to Mallard Point Park. She said this hearing has been advertised in accordance with NJDEP Green Acres guidelines. She explained this year's funding request is part of the Township's overall goal to maintain and enhance playgrounds, parks and other recreation areas in town. The Township has completed several playground & park reconstruction/construction projects over the past several years, including new turf at Drum Point Sports Complex, Herbertsville Park, Lake Riviera Park, Angela Hibbard Park, Hank Waltonowski Memorial Park (also known as Birchwood Park), Bernie Cooke Park, Bayside Park and the reconstruction of the municipal Tennis Courts. In all of those projects, the Township leveraged funds as much as possible to lessen the financial impact. She said Mallard Point Park is a small, neighborhood park in Mallard Point. It is very similar in nature to two other parks in terms of its waterfront component, those being Bay Harbor Beach Park and Cedar Bridge Manor Park. She advised waterfront parks require Army Corps of Engineers and NJDEP permits to address the shoreline stabilization that is required. The Township implemented a unique approach at Bay Harbor Beach that has proven successful. The Township used that success to facilitate a similar approach at Cedar Bridge Manor Park. Those permits are under review. But, the Township has funded the design and construction of the Cedar Bridge Manor Park Project and will start construction as soon as all permits are in hand. She advised in terms of the design for Mallard Point Park, they have already begun the process of soliciting input from the neighbors within that community. As they did with Cedar Bridge Manor Park, a letter was sent to the residents in Mallard Point asking for their unit on park amenities. They are still in the process of collecting the data from both the online surveys and those sent back via mail. That data will be used to direct the professionals on the park design.

She said this application will provide the Township with sufficient funding to pursue the Mallard Point Park Project. This project is critical due to the fact that this park serves both the passive and active recreational needs of the Mallard Park neighborhood. She said as a community which boasts some of the best recreational facilities in Ocean County, with over 15% of its land set aside for recreational or conservation purposes, the town's success depends upon its ability to maintain and improve its park system. The Township has successfully redeveloped seven neighborhood and regional parks over the past seven years with the assistance of the Green Acres program. The Township has over 675 acres of active recreational lands to maintain, improve and upgrade. It is essential to continue to invest in the infrastructure. The goal of this project is to ensure the sustainability of this park that in need of redevelopment and

modernization, and protect the public's ability to use them throughout the future. She advised the estimated total cost for design and construction is \$950,000. The funding formula is a 75% grant with 25% match. This an application for the Urban Parks Program and Green Acres Development, two pots of funding the State is making available for this project. If the Township receives partial or no funding from the Urban Parks program, the remainder will roll into the Green Acres Development fund. She said the Township's is seeking funding in the amount of \$712,500 in the form of a \$712,500 matching grant and if available, a \$237,500 loan from the State, to fund the Mallard Point Park project at a total cost of \$950,000.

Vice President Halloran opened the public hearing on the Park Development Grant Project for Mallard Point Park.

There were no comments from the public.

Vice President Halloran closed the public hearing on the Park Development Grant Project for Mallard Point Park.

Motion by Councilwoman deJong and seconded by Councilwoman Zapcic to Adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

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Arthur Halloran  
Council Vice President

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Lynnette A. Iannarone  
Township Clerk