

January 24, 2023

A meeting of the Township Council was held in the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Township Clerk Iannarone announced adequate notice of this meeting was provided and published in the Asbury Park Press and The Ocean Star on December 9, 2022. Copies of the agenda were provided to the newspapers, posted on public bulletin boards and the township website (www.bricktownship.net)

Present

Councilman Perry Albanese
Councilwoman Marianna Pontoriero
Councilman Derrick T. Ambrosino
Councilwoman Lisa Crate
Councilman Vince Minichino
Council Vice President Andrea Zapcic
Council President Heather deJong

Also Present

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

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

Clerk Iannarone was directed to accept and file the Building & Construction, Engineering, Sewer & Water and Vital Statistics Reports for the month of December 2022.

Motion by Councilman Ambrosino and seconded by Council Vice President Zapcic to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December 27, 2022 and January 3, 2023 Meetings and approve same.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Councilwoman Pontoriero ABSTAINED on the December 27, 2022 Minutes.

Presentation

Mayor Ducey presented Chief James Riccio with a proclamation for his upcoming retirement. He stated that Chief Riccio became a volunteer firefighter with Breton Woods Fire Company and then started working for the Brick Township Police Department in August 1986. During his thirty-six years he served in virtually every role with the police department as well as several significant assignments including the Ocean County Narcotics Strike Force, the Drug Enforcement Unit and the FBI Task Force to investigate official corruption. In 2011 he was made Deputy Chief and in December 2015 appointed as Brick Township's third Chief of Police. He spearheaded several initiatives such as the Blue HOPE Program, creation of dedicated patrol districts, the Neighborhood Watch Program and in efforts to help make schools safe. Chief Riccio will officially retire on January 31, 2023 allowing him to spend more time with his family. Mayor Ducey proclaimed January 31, 2023 Chief James Riccio Day in the Township of Brick and presented him with a Key to the City.

Chief Riccio thanked Mayor Ducey, the Council and Business Administrator. He said leaving is bittersweet. He stated when he started in 1986, it was a very young department and over the years he watched it grow to the department it is today with many dedicated and professional officers. He has witnessed many tragedies over the years and as difficult a career in law enforcement can be, it can also be very rewarding. His dream was realized in 2015 when he was promoted to Chief and given the honor to lead the greatest men and women in law enforcement. He is grateful for their support and the support from other agencies he had the opportunity to work with. He thanked his officers, his wife and children, the community, the Mayor and Council for a great career and said he knows the department will be in good hands.

Motion by Councilman Albanese and seconded by Councilwoman Crate to adopt the following Resolutions:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

Authorize Bid – Mobile Ice Cream Truck

Councilwoman Crate stated this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for an ice cream truck vendor at Windward Beach Park, Traders Cove Marina and various Township parks year-round. Last year, the successful bidder paid \$2,800 to the Township to provide this service.

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Authorize Bid – SummerFest Food Truck Vendors

Councilman Minichino advised this resolution authorizes receipt of bids from vendors to provide food and refreshments during the four Summerfest concerts and the Annual Car Show with an option for the Green Fair, Craft & Yard Sale and Night Out Against Crime. Last year, the award was made to eight vendors in the total amount of \$10,984.50.

Authorize Bid – Beer & Wine Garden Concessions

Councilman Minichino said this resolution authorizes receipt of bids from vendors who currently have the appropriate ABC licensing to provide a beer and wine concession during the four Summerfest concerts and Fall Fest in 2023. Last year, the Township received \$7,000 for the one-year contract.

Authorize Bid – Fireworks Exhibitions

Councilman Ambrosino said this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for aerial fireworks at the Summerfest concert series and Fall Fest. Last year, the Township scheduled a total of five fireworks exhibitions. The total cost to the Township was \$24,800.00 and the vendor was Shaefer Fireworks.

Authorize Rebid – Purchase & Delivery of Various Doors

Council Vice President Zapcic advised this resolution authorizes the re-bid for the purchase and delivery of various doors throughout the Township. This bid is for doors for in-house construction projects. These materials will be needed on various projects during the year including the renovation of the future Senior Center on Aurora Place and construction of the new Special Operations Garage to be constructed at the rear of the Town Hall property. Bids were received on January 5, 2023 with no response.

Authorize Bid – Roadway Improvements to Seaview Village.

Mayor Ducey explained this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for roadway improvements to Seaview Village. Roads are scheduled for mill and overlay in the contract are Mariner Avenue and Seaview Avenue.

Authorize Bid – Roadway Improvements to Laurelhurst, Phase III

Councilman Albanese advised this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for roadway improvements to Laurelhurst, Phase III. Roads scheduled for improvements in this contract include Harmony Lane, Bonnie Lane, Bonnie Court, Ellen Drive, Cottage Place, Walden Road, Tanglewood Road, Fieldcrest Lane, Glen Ridge Court, Orchard Court, Wayside Drive and Greenhill Drive.

Authorize Close-Out Change Order #2 – Roadway Improvements to Woodland Valley, Phase III

Councilwoman Pontoriero stated this resolution authorizes change order #2 and contract close out with Z Brothers Concrete Contractors for the roadway improvements to Woodland Valley Phase III project. The change order represents an increase in the amount of \$10,703.04 as a result of final as-built quantities.

Authorize Award of Contract – SummerFest Concert Management – LaGuardia & Associates

Councilwoman Crate advised residents to get their calendars out as this resolution authorizes the award of contract to La Guardia Associates, in the amount of \$33,000.00 for Entertainment and Production Services for the 2023 Summerfest concert series. The first concert will be June 29 and will be the 4th of July show and the band will do the music for the fireworks display. She listed the remaining three additional concerts to be held in July.

Authorize Sale of Surplus Personal Property – Solar & Class I Renewable Energy Certificates

Council President deJong stated this resolution authorizes the sale of surplus property via auction, specifically the 48 solar renewable energy credits generated from the rooftop solar panels at Town Hall and 6 Class I Renewable energy certifications from the wind turbine at Drum Point Sports Complex. The Township will utilize the services of Flett Exchange to administer the auction when the market price peaks.

Authorize Submission of Application & Acceptance – Safe & Secure Communities Grant

Councilwoman Pontoriero said this resolution authorizes the submission of a grant in the amount of \$32,400 under the Safe and Secure Communities Program. Grant funds will be utilized to fund officers who will be assigned to patrol duties, burglary details, narcotic and gang activities.

Authorize Police Dept. to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency 1033 Program

Councilman Minichino stated this resolution authorizes the Brick Township Police Department to participate in the Defense Logistics Agency Law Enforcement Support Office 1033 Program which allows the Township to make use of excess Department of Defense personal property. The equipment provided through this program is at no cost to the Township. However, the Township is responsible for the costs associated with delivery, maintenance, fueling, and upkeep of the property and for specialized training on the operation of any acquired property.

Authorize Placement of Tax Liens for Property Clean-Ups

Councilman Ambrosino advised of the following tax liens for:

Block 902.06, Lot 5 in the amount of \$1,801.54

Block 30, Lot 117 in the amount of \$202.51

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Authorize Return of Deposit – Liquor License Bid to BRX NJ License LLC

Council President deJong stated this resolution authorizes the return of a deposit in the amount of \$57,500.00 to BRX NJ License LLC as part of their bid for a plenary retail distribution license.

Bond Releases/Reductions

Clerk Iannarone advised of the following:

Cash Performance Bond Release for Scallywags Block 91, Lot 1, (PB-2781) in the amount of \$17,420.95

Inspection Fund Release for Deb Associates, LLC – Block 130, Lot 16 in the amount of \$913.56

Inspection Fund Release for All Out Services, LLC dba All Out Parking Lots – Block 868, Lot 14.01 in the amount of \$725.38

Tax Collector

Business Administrator Bergin advised of the following:

100% DAV/Widow of Veteran Cancel & Refund Taxes – Block 792, Lot 20

100% DAV/Widow of Veteran Cancel Taxes – Block 43.05, Lot 15

100% DAV/Widow of Veteran Cancel & Refund Taxes – Block 856, Lot 24

100% DAV/Widow of Disabled Veteran Cancel & Refund Taxes – Block 1210.12, Lot 23

100% Widow of Veteran Cancel & Refund Taxes – Block 1192.02, Lot 109

Senior Citizen Deductions & Refunds – 2022

Cancel 2022 Tax Balances & Credits of \$10 or under

Veteran/Widow of Veteran Deductions & Refunds – 2022

Redemption of Tax Sale Certificates – Block 756, Lot 1

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

Nan Coll, 18 Greenbriar Boulevard, complained about the lack of caucus meetings and the need to include addresses along with block and lots. She questioned the first four resolutions and why last year was included in the explanation.

Council President deJong replied that it was mentioned what types of vendors they had last year but are now going to bid for this year.

There were no comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Resolutions.

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Computer Bill Resolution.

There were no comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Computer Bill Resolution.

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

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

2023 Computer Bill Resolution in the amount of \$24,131,365.54

Council President deJong opened up the public hearing on the Manual Bill Resolution.

There were no comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Manual Bill Resolution.

Motion by Councilwoman Crate and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

2023 Manual Bill Resolution in the amount of \$5,308,855.98

Council President deJong opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

John Sluka, 950 Sylvia Court, read his letter dated January 20, 2023 regarding his concerns with

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the parkway expansion project and the toxins produced as a result. He said there is a need for a large wall in many areas in Brick that are impacted by these toxins and noise. He said it is time to act like Monmouth County is doing.

Nan Coll, 18 Greenbriar Boulevard, asked about the consent agenda and questioned when the council all come to an agreement. She said there is supposed to be a debate and arguing and that they should wait to hear from "We the People." Her final comment was about the Safe & Secure Grant resolution and said that nothing is safe in town particularly the roadways.

Vic Fanelli, 24 Meadow Point Drive, responded to comments from the December 27, 2022 meeting and the need for Social Security to give better raises to justify the new contracts awarded for employees. He said that they based their increase on the Social Security increase and advised that they are looking at developing a consumer price index for the elderly. Congress would need to pass that. A new phrase we are hearing is equity not equitable. He noted that Social Security got a break when over one million seniors died from COVID. He still believes 6 percent increases were too much especially those making a lot of money. He closed with commending the construction work being done on the Duck Pond Bridge. He said he travels that way and the detour is working out very well.

There were no further comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Ms. Bergin advised the Duck Pond Bridge is a County project. She then thanked Chief Riccio for his many years of partnership, support and commitment. His love of Brick Township shows that whether he's in uniform, at home or responding to fire calls his devotion to the Brick Township Police Department has been a hallmark of his leadership. She said she feels truly blessed to having worked with him and she wished the Chief, his wife Joy and family many blessings.

Mayor Ducey gave an update on two newer committees. TNR is very successful he said they are very active and it is a committee that was reestablished. He advised Councilman Albanese sits on that committee. The next committee is the EV – Electric Vehicles Committee – who received grant monies for charging stations and two vehicles. He said that the vehicles are currently at DPW getting their logos put on and will be used for Parks security. The EV Committee is made up of citizen volunteers and staff and has been very successful. Council President deJong is also on the EV Committee. The third committee is the BOSS Committee – Brick Open Space and has also been very successful. Letters of interest get sent to potential properties for acquisition. The main goal currently is the Breton Woods property – the Visitation Church/Diocese of Trenton property but they also look at smaller properties – such as 14 & 16 Brower and 305 Princeton but haven't been successful so far with those. We have been successful in obtaining 20 Brower Lane and it will be open space forever. He said he attends the meeting but does not vote on which properties to acquire. There are 20 or so residents who vote on the properties and then letters are sent to the property owners.

Township Attorney Starkey congratulated Chief Riccio. He said he has worked with him for many years and he was tough and effective along with being a decent and genuine person which can be difficult to balance. He said its been great to work with him and offered his personal thanks.

Clerk Iannarone, Ms. Murphy, Councilman Albanese and Councilman Minichino all congratulated Chief Riccio and wished him all the best.

Councilwoman Pontoriero said that she owes a lot of gratitude to the Chief for all the work he's done with her these past seven years. He was solely responsible for or inspired many programs. He has the ability to inspire others and leads in the right direction. She thanked his wife Joy and family for sharing him.

Councilman Ambrosino also thanked Chief Riccio for his leadership and thanked all the men and women on the police force for keeping us safe, which is the bedrock of a community along with enhancing the community with events.

Councilwoman Crate congratulated Chief Riccio on his retirement. She said she did not know a lot about policing when she first became a councilwoman and it has been an honor and pleasure

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to work with him. She wished him well and hopes he can enjoy more time with his family.

Council Vice President Zapcic offered her heartfelt congratulations to Chief Riccio and said she will miss him dearly. In 2015 at the height of the opioid epidemic, BMAC was reinstated with a grant written by Chief Bergquist in collaboration with Chief Riccio and BMAC. The Chief strengthened community policing by establishing districts, putting officers on bicycles, grew the Neighborhood Watch Program, the prescription medication drop-off box has enabled them to collect 1400-1600 lbs. and properly dispose of unused medicines, a youth prevention program in middle and high schools with peer mediation, the Maple Leaf mentoring program and the responsible alcohol beverage servers where officers are trained and to ensure businesses are in compliance. She said PD and BMAC leveraged that \$40,000.00 grant into thousands of dollars more of additional services. The Chief had a vision and she credits him into making it happen.

Council President deJong spoke about upcoming events. She congratulated Chief Riccio and said he was everything you would want in a Chief and she wished him well. She advised the next meeting is Tuesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Councilman Ambrosino and seconded by Councilwoman Crate to Adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

Heather deJong
Council President

Lynnette A. Iannarone
Township Clerk