

74. Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth held on May 26, 2020 by Zoom

Present: Hon. Thomas P. Ference, Mayor

Councilmembers: Glenn Poosikian
Andrew Rosenberg
Michael Bain
Jacqueline Guenego
Dina Siciliano
Heather Wasser

Borough Attorney: Robert T. Regan

Mayor Ference called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and upon roll call all members of the council were present. The Mayor then read the following statement: "This is a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth. Adequate public notice has been provided by mailing notice to The Record, by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center and on the Borough website, by filing a copy of the notice in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and by mailing notice to all persons who requested same and prepaid the cost fixed by the Council."

Close Meeting to Public

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Bain, seconded by Mrs. Wasser and unanimously carried:

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12B* permits a public body to exclude the public from the portion of a meeting at which certain items are discussed; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body deems it necessary to conduct a closed session and to exclude the public on May 26, 2020 at which time the following items will be discussed:

White Beeches Tax Appeal
Police Personnel

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council does hereby exclude the public from the portion of the meeting at which time the above items will be discussed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the discussion conducted in closed session will be disclosed to the public upon completion or conclusion of the foregoing items and when determined by the Governing Body that the Borough's interests will not be adversely affected.

Reopen Meeting to Public

The meeting was reopened to the public at 7:50 PM.

Salute to Flag

Mayor Ference led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

Settlement of White Beeches Tax Appeal

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain and seconded by Mrs. Wasser to accept the Settlement Agreement of the White Beeches tax appeal and authorize Mayor Ference to sign the document.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Guenego, Siciliano, Wasser. Nays – none. Declared carried.

Police Department Re-Structuring

A motion was offered by Mr. Rosenberg and seconded by Mr. Poosikian to approve the following promotions in the Police Department as recommended by the Police Committee effective July 1, 2020:

Michael Saudino	Captain
Justin Fox	Lieutenant
Thomas Reinecke	Sergeant

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Guenego, Siciliano, Wasser. Nays – none. Declared carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Ference noted that written reports have been received from the councilmembers and asked if there were any additional comments.

Councilman Bain

Finance

Mr. Bain reported the collection of real estate taxes this month was at 97.3% and the next payment due in August will be re-visited. He encouraged residents to sign up for borough e-mails for updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont'd.

Councilman Rosenberg

Police Department

Mr. Rosenberg reported two officers tested positive for the corona virus and two others were out recently with injuries however with the cooperation of the officers the increase in overtime was minimum.

Councilman Poosikian

Department of Public Works

Mr. Poosikian noted the department had been on split shifts and are now working at full capacity with different lunch hours, one member at a time in the vehicles, etc.

Councilwoman Siciliano

Swim Club

Ms. Siciliano reported it has been agreed to extend the early registration rate to July.

A motion was offered by Ms. Siciliano, seconded by Ms. Guenego and unanimously carried to extend the early bird fee to July 31st.

Ms. Siciliano then discussed an offer received from some young people offering volunteer hours to help the DPW in readying the Swim Club; they would be over 18 years and not operating any power equipment.

Furthermore Ms. Siciliano reported a suggestion has been made to go “cash less” and provide a hard reader for the Swim Club which would incur a 2.6% fee on each transaction.

Mr. Bain responded he would discuss this with the CFO.

Councilwoman Wasser

Mrs. Wasser noted she is ready to present the Social Media Policy.

Report of Mayor Ference

Mayor Ference reported the review of the Borough’s sewer charges is underway; a settlement has been reached with Jersey Mulch and a “strong password” policy will be pursued by the borough.

Report of Mayor Ference – cont’d.

Mayor Ference congratulated Mr. John Sullivan for his extensive work as OEM Coordinator in connection with obtaining a new senior van and submitting the borough’s expenses in connection with the corona virus to FEMA for reimbursement.

Memorial Day

Mayor Ference thanked all for their assistance yesterday in this program which went extremely well and the citizens were delighted.

Mr. Poosikian noted the activities were videotaped and will be on the borough’s website.

Further Committee Reports are on Page 81A – 81 D of permanent minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of 2020 Municipal Budget

Mr. Bain reported the Finance Committee met several times for the preparation of this budget, noted the overall assessment of the borough went down slightly, the budget increase is 1.66% or \$81.00 and the municipal portion is 25% of the total bill. He explained increases due to contractual agreements, etc. and this budget is tight on discretionary spending.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Bain and seconded by Ms. Guenego:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local Budget of the Borough of Haworth, Bergen County, New Jersey for the year 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said budget be published in The Record in the issue of June 3, 2020 and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal Center or by Zoom on June 23, 2020 at 7:30 PM or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS

1. Municipal Purposes	\$5,827,446.00
2. Appropriations Excluded from “CAP”	\$2,168,518.00
3. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 185,000.00
4. Total General Appropriations	\$8,180,964.00
5. Less: Anticipated Revenues Other Than Current Property Taxes	\$1,778,861.00
6. Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	\$6,090,115.00
Minimum Library Tax	\$ 311,988.00

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Guenego, Siciliano, Wasser. Nays – none. Declared carried.

Ordinance No. 20-06 – 2020 Administrative Salaries

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain, seconded by Ms. Guenego and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 20-06 be offered for first reading.

Ordinance No. 20-06 was then read by title only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARIES, WAGES, COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, STIPENDS AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES AND CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF HAWORTH, COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain and seconded by Mr. Rosenberg that Ordinance No. 20-06 be passed on first reading.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes. Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Guenego, Siciliano, Wasser. Nays – none. Declared carried.

A motion was offered by Ms. Guenego, seconded by Mr. Poosikian and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 20-06 be advertised as required by law and a date set for public hearing on June 9, 2020 at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Center or by Zoom.

Ordinance No. 20-07 – 2020 Index Ordinance and Establish a CAP Bank

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 20-07 be offered for first reading.

Ordinance No. 20-07 was then read by title only as follows:

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain and seconded by Mr. Rosenberg that Ordinance No. 20-07 be passed on first reading.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Guenego, Siciliano, Wasser. Nays – none. Declared carried.

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain, seconded by Ms. Guenego and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 20-07 be advertised as required by law and a date set for public hearing on June 9, 2020 at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Center or by Zoom.

Summer Recreation Program

Mr. Bain noted questions about this program consist of should it run this year, not have a live camp and that most camps will be closed due to the corona virus. He said stringent oversight

Summer Recreation Program – cont'd.

would be an impossible task for all involved – sanitation requirements, etc. and the school might not be available. also they have been discussing a virtual program.

Mrs. Wasser suggested if New Jersey allows camps to open, perhaps there could be a change in venue or a shorter day or be held at the Swim Club. Further discussion included a weather situation if at the Swim Club, a shine only program, no indoor activities, the age of the counselors, etc.

Other comments included younger children not wearing masks, no social distancing with a potential for an increase in case load, the need to make a decision, what to tell the residents and it appeared firm not to have a live camp, virtual learning which it appears the children are tired of by now and people need an answer.

Mr. Bain said all are putting a great deal of thought into this matter and it appears it is not a great idea to hold the summer camp.

Mr. Regan referred to liability concerns and it is the overwhelming consensus of the council not to have a live camp which all agreed to. It was suggested the Board of Health be part of the discussion and the Recreation Commission will work out a statement for notification regarding the cancellation of the program.

Social Media Policy

Mrs. Wasser discussed a formal policy regarding social media to be shared by all regarding oversight, the need for guidelines and the designation of a liaison for the policy. She read parts of the proposed policy, noted the need to get control and get out the information in a coherent manner.

Mr. Poosikian discussed various policies that have to be included, the need for a process for committees to start and be approved by the borough.

Further discussion included regulations, limitations and the need for an over-sight process.

Mayor Ference commented the matter requires some thought and perhaps a formal ordinance could be considered for the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain and seconded by Ms. Guenego that the following consent agenda be approved. On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Guenego, Siciliano, Wasser. Nays – none. Declared carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – cont'd.

Authorize Purchase of Rider Lawnmower

WHEREAS, quotations were sought for the purchase of a Commercial Rider Lawnmower for the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, three quotations were received; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Mayor and Council that the quotation from Strauss Bros. Service is the most responsive.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a contract be awarded to Straus Bros. Service Engine & Equipment, Inc., 399 De Wolf Place, Hackensack, NJ 07601 in the amount of \$3,200.00 as outlined in their proposal dated May 21, 2020.

Approval of Payment of Bills

FOR COPY OF RESOLUTION AND BILL LIST
SEE PERMANENT MINUTES
PAGES 81E – 81K

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of April 28, 2020

Police Department Payment of Uniform Allowance

A motion was offered by Mr. Rosenberg and seconded by Ms. Guenego authorizing the payment of the uniform allowance to police officers in the pay of May 31.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Guenego, Siciliano, Wasser. Nays – none. Declared carried.

Open Meeting to Public

The meeting was opened to the period of public discussion

Mrs. M. Groh, Haworth Avenue thanked all the governing body for their service, especially for working hard on a social media policy and noted the Joint Insurance Fund has provisions for such a policy with more directives coming out. She then said she has concerns regarding directives coming out on having to wear a mask and the closure of Flats Road and the Pond for fishing and asked how those decisions were made noting the borough has an autonomous Board of Health who should be calling the shots and why is that Board not making decisions and furthermore where is the power for the Mayor to make these decisions.

Open Meeting to Public – cont'd.

Mayor Ference asked Mr. Regan to respond.

Mr. Regan referred to Mrs. Groh's comments regarding the Board of Health and their ordinances noting these closures were never intended to be permanent and it takes one to two months to adopt an ordinance and then if there was a decision to reopen would require a new ordinance. He further said the Mayor did not make the decisions unilaterally, he consulted the council, the borough has followed the executive orders since March 9th, noting the several orders of the Governor, read a memo from the JIF regarding their recommendations and said the borough has acted in a consistent manner, the executive orders were followed.

Mrs. Groh referred to the closing of certain parks which were provided through Green Acres funding.

Mr. Regan responded it does not preclude them and there is no mention of distinguishing areas with this type funding.

Mrs. Groh then referred to the closing of Flats Road which she said was over reaching and asked if the police can enforce an e-mail from the mayor.

Mr. Regan replied that he believed they can.

Mrs. Groh thanked the council for listening.

Mr. S. Chval, Woodland Pl. asked where the public can get a copy of the budget and was told it will be posted on the website.

As there were no further comments the meeting was closed to public discussion.

As there was no further business to come before the council, a motion was offered at 9:20 PM by Mr. Poosikian, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried to adjourn.

Ann E. Fay, RMC, CMC
Clerk-Administrator

81A. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020

81B. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020

81C. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020

81D. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020

81E. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020

81G. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020

81H. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020

81I. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020

81K. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020