

186. Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of
Haworth held on November 9, 2022 via Zoom

Present: Hon. Jacqueline Guenego, Mayor

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

Mayor Guenego called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and upon roll call all members of the council were present with the exception of Mrs. Dhamija. Mr. Regan was not present as he had a conflict tonight with this revised meeting date. The mayor then read the following statement: "This is the Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth. I am informed by the clerk that adequate public notice has been provided by mailing notice to The Record, by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the municipal center, 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."

Salute to Flag

Mayor Guenego led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Guenego noted that yesterday's election results have not been certified yet, thanked all the candidates for all their work, as well as Ms. Fay and Ms. Celotto during this long day and thanked the poll workers also.

Personnel Issues

The mayor went on to say there are several personnel issues in various departments at this time and it has been suggested to retain outside counsel, therefore the matter will not be discussed tonight in open or closed session, noting special counsel has been hired for another matter and there needs to be a motion regarding the fee for outside counsel.

Mr. Poosikian explained a number of names have been presented, all have been interviewed and due to the scope of the investigation the original fee of \$5,000 previously approved would not be enough and a range of \$10,000 is more practical, explaining what tasks would have to be undertaken.

Mr. Rosenberg commented that the borough's policy is to pay bills as they come in, not as a retainer. Mr. Poosikian said some have been done in the past and the borough would get back the portion of the retainer not used.

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A motion was offered by Mr. Bain and seconded by Mr. Poosikian to retain special legal counsel in connection with departmental personnel issues for a retainer amount of \$10,000.

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

Office of Emergency Management Coordinator

Mr. Poosikian reported Mr. Sullivan who holds this title has indicated he will resign effective January 1st, 2023. Mr. Poosikian explained Mr. Sullivan has expanded this role with his very thorough work, etc., secured well over \$100,000 for the borough from FEMA and other governmental entities. Also, Mr. Sullivan has brought the borough's Emergency Operation Plan (OEP) up to date, just completing it for the next three years and has said he will stay as long as necessary.

Mayor Guenego said she appreciates all Mr. Sullivan has done, his tenacity, etc. in obtaining a great deal of money for the borough and for his effort.

Trees

Ms. Siciliano explained she has signed an invoice for tree work in the amount of \$1500 at the pickle ball rink to trim branches which were blocking lights at this court and being charged to the shade tree commission. She explained this has resulted in no money left for the fall tree planting, the commission should not be charged for the tree trimming and suggested it be charged to the pickle ball budget or included in all the work at Memorial Field.

Mr. Bain said he will speak with the CFO to ascertain if this work could be paid from the recreation trust fund.

Mr. Rosenberg commented that the pickle ball budget should not be paying for court maintenance.

Further discussion was held regarding the shade tree budget, fall tree planting, etc.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain and seconded by Mr. Poosikian to approve the following consent agenda. On roll call the vote was as follows: Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Siciliano, Wasser. Nays – none. Declared carried.

Payment of Bills

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of October 25, 2022
Closed Meeting of October 25, 2022

Open Meeting to Public

The meeting was opened to the period of public discussion.

Dr. M. Avissar, 148 Grant Street asked when these meetings will be in person and noted his is concern with one of his neighbors taking many trees down on his property.

Mr. Rosenberg responded the meetings in person will likely be resumed in the beginning of the new year and when some modifications in the borough hall are done, it will be fully opened. He then addressed the tree concern explaining a proposed tree ordinance dealing with trees on private property has come before the council in the past with issues for a balance of what people can do on their own property and which needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Wasser noted the environmental commission has been looking at this situation regarding trees over the years and are looking for a fresh ordinance particularly in connection with new homes being built and residents removing many large trees at a time on their properties. She said the environmental and shade tree commissions have been meeting together regarding this issue, all meetings are opened to the public, all are welcome and these concerns will be addressed.

Ms. Siciliano added the shade tree commission members are looking at other towns regarding their tree ordinances.

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

Adjournment

As there were no other matters to come before the council a motion was offered by Mr. Bain, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried at 8PM to adjourn.

Ann E. Fay, RMC, CMC
Clerk-Administrator

