

19. Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
of the Borough of Haworth held on January  
25, 2022 via 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 the regular 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 borough clerk and by mailing notice to all persons who requested same and prepaid the cost fixed by the council."

Salute to Flag

Mayor Ference led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

5K Presentation

Mayor Ference commented that the 5-K Committee runs great events and it is run by a group of volunteers raising money to support a number of organizations.

Dr. J. Pavell, chairman of this organization thanked the mayor and council for their assistance and their support and said \$300,000 has been raised over the life of this race. He thanked the committee and Councilwoman Guenego who has helped this group for many years, noting there are many sponsors in town and participants from Haworth. He then introduced Ms. Meryl Schreiber who announced the recipients of this years' gifts as follows:

Haworth Home & School Association; Friends of the Haworth Library; Haworth Fire Company; Haworth Seniors; Haworth Hope Fund; Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; Hope with Heart; McGee Family Fund; Scholarship Northern Valley Demarest; Closter Food Pantry; Bergen Center for Child Development.

Mr. T. Santagato, Principal and Executive Director of the Bergen Center for Child Development, present in the audience said the generosity of the 5-K group is overwhelming and

5K Presentation – cont'd.

he was hopeful to have the Haworth Girl Scout Troop back in the school as they are a great support for their students and the Bergen Center.

Mayor Ference commented the number of volunteers in the town is enormous, giving freely of their time and thanked all.

Ordinance No. 22-01 – St. Nicholas Av. Trail – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Public Hearing

A motion was offered by Ms. Guenego, seconded by Mrs. Wasser and unanimously carried to offer Ordinance No. 22-01 for second reading.

Ordinance No. 22-01, is as follows:

**PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE ST. NICHOLAS TRAIL IN THE BOROUGH OF HAWORTH, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AND APPROPRIATING \$100,000 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL FUND BALANCE OF THE BOROUGH**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HAWORTH, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1** The improvement described in section 2 of this ordinance is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by the Borough of Haworth, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey. For the said improvement or purpose stated in section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$100,000, from the Capital Fund Surplus.

**Section 2** The improvement hereby authorized and the purpose of the financing of which the appropriation is made as provided in section 1 of this Ordinance is as follows: The creation of a walking trail between Stevens Place and Owatonna Street along the St. Nicholas Avenue paper street.

**Section 3** The capital budget of the Borough of Haworth is hereby amended to conform to the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Borough Clerk and are available for public inspection.

**Section 4** This ordinance shall take effect after final adoption, as provided by law.

The meeting was opened to the public on Ordinance No. 22-01. As there were no comments the meeting was closed to the public on this ordinance.

Ordinance No. 22-01 – St. Nicholas Av. Trail – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Public Hearing – cont'd.

A motion was offered by Ms. Guenego and seconded by Mr. Poosikian that Ordinance No. 22-01 be passed on second and final 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. Bain and unanimously carried that the passage of Ordinance No. 22-01 be advertised as required by law.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Councilman Bain

Finance

Mr. Bain reported he has met with Mr. Monaco with a preliminary look at this year's budget which includes many increases, i.e., the winter shade tree bid which work had been estimated at approximately \$40,000 however the lowest of the two bids received is \$85,470.

Mr. Regan commented the bids can be rejected and the project readvertised.

Ms. Siciliano said perhaps it could be re-bid however there are other issues involved, i.e., 34 more trees on the program this year.

Mr. Bain suggested accepting the bid tonight before the heavy winter weather arrives and then referred to several other projects to be included in the annual budget.

Recreation

Mr. Bain said planning for the Spring Egg Hunt is underway as well as the Fishing Contest.

Massachusetts Avenue Project

Mr. Bain reported a notification is being sent to properties within 200' of this project by the DEP concerning water issues in the area and when this is determined the borough can move forward on the project.

New Sign at Valley Road and Haworth Avenue

Mr. Poosikian referred to this sign depicting the new recycling schedule however the timing is confusing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont'd.

Report of Councilman Bain – cont'd.

Ms. Guenego commented that residents should be going to the borough's website for this information and that sign should only be temporary.

Mr. Poosikian said this is the best location for the sign and Mrs. Wasser said residents should be going to the website for this information.

Mr. Poosikian said the sign for a short time will now be flipped on Monday morning.

Report of Councilman Rosenberg

Zoning and Planning Boards

Mr. Rosenberg reported both these boards have re-organized with new members being sworn in.

Police Department

Mr. Rosenberg noted the department has reported on attempted car thefts and urging everyone to take keys out of their cars.

Report of Councilwoman Siciliano

Library

Ms. Siciliano noted applications are being received for the director's position.

Haworth School

Ms. Siciliano reported the school is holding a virtual forum next week in connection with their upcoming referendum and members of the board will be present at the next council meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Swim Club

Ms. Siciliano noted a grant has been awarded for ADA accessible bathrooms for which the borough will go to bid and authorize the engineer to prepare the bis specs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont'd.

Report of Councilman Wasser

Tennis

Mrs. Wasser reported this committee has re-organized with new members and submitted their 2022 budget.

Report of Councilman Poosikian

Fire Department

Mr. Poosikian said he has submitted his written report and noted the department responded to 304 calls in 2021, an increased volume and they are light in membership.

Municipal Court

Mr. Poosikian reported a new judge has been appointed, Judge Harry Stylianou who had been a substitute for the last few months and congratulated him on his appointment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance to Prevent Obstructions in Right-of-Ways

Mr. Regan said he has drafted an ordinance which he sent to all members and explained some suggested changes.

Mr. Poosikian said the borough is trying to control and limit basketball hoops with poles in the ground and leaning over the roadway.

Mr. Regan suggested a few changes in the language in parts of the ordinance and to add “easement” language.

A discussion followed with overhanging tree limbs in the borough easement.

It was agreed to introduce the amended ordinance at the next meeting.

Shade Tree Bids

Ms. Siciliano offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Poosikian to accept the bid of Beucler Tree Experts, Tenafly, NJ for the 2022 Winter Tree Program in the amount of \$94,670.00.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of DPW Hire

Mr. Poosikian explained this department has been down two people, one was hired recently and interviews have been conducted with another candidate, Michael Bolwell who the DPW Committee has recommended highly. Mr. Poosikian noted Mr. Bolwell already has the Firefighter Training 1 and 2.

A motion was offered by Mr. Poosikian and seconded by Mr. Rosenberg to hire Michael Bolwell as DPW employee subject to his passing the physical and psychological examinations at the starting salary in the current DPW Agreement.

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

Stipends for Fire Department and Ambulance Corps Members

Mr. Poosikian reported a proposed stipend policy for the fire department was brought to him last Fall and now the Ambulance Corps has presented a similar plan. He suggested inviting those groups to a council meeting for a more formal presentation as it needs to be discussed more openly.

Ms. Guenego commented on the continued pressure on these groups with the availability of getting new members and suggested inviting them to the second meeting in February.

OEM Coordinator – Stipend for 2022

Mr. Poosikian explained the duties with this position coordinating emergency services, paperwork regarding storms, FEMA forms, COVID reports, attending meetings, etc. which are all very lengthy and noting other towns pay a salary for this position.

Mr. Poosikian continued noting the amount of money Mr. Sullivan has gotten for the town is very significant and he felt it was appropriate to give him a stipend further noting the borough's emergency plan has to be renewed every three years which is very involved and time consuming. He suggested a stipend of \$2,000. per year, said Mr. Sullivan is probably worth a lot more than that.

A motion was offered by Mr. Poosikian and seconded by Ms. Guenego that the OEM Coordinator be paid a stipend of \$2,000.00 per year on July 1 and December 31.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was offered by Ms. Guenego and seconded by Mr. Bain to approve the following consent agenda. On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Rosenberg, Bain, Guenego, Wasser. Declared carried.

Change Order No. 2, 4 Cleanup – DOT Valley Road Improvements

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council awarded an original contract sum to 4 Cleanup Inc. for the NJDOT 2020 Municipal Aid Valley Road Improvements – Haworth contract for \$157,114.70; and

WHEREAS, the contract sum was increased by Change Order No. 1 by \$35,186.96 to a total of \$192,301.66; and

WHEREAS, the contract sum was increased by Change Order No. 2 by \$3,205.08; and

WHEREAS, the new and final contract sum including this Change Order will be \$195,506.74; and

WHEREAS, the Change Order also represents and adjusts for the actual as-built quantities purchased and used in the contract as ordered and thereafter certified by the Borough Engineer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Change Order No 2 is hereby approved and final payment may be made to 4 Cleanup Inc. in accordance with the conditions of the contract specifications.

Release of St. Gabriel's Bond

WHEREAS, St. Gabriel Syrian Orthodox Church posted with the Borough of Haworth a Cash Bond in the amount of \$15,000.00 to guarantee certain improvements including driveway at Block 701, Lot 1, 750 Sunset Avenue, Haworth, NJ 07641; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer by letter dated April 23, 2021 indicates the site improvements have been satisfactorily completed and recommends the release of the cash bond.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cash Bond in the amount of \$15,000.00 plus interest be released to St. Gabriel Syrian Orthodox Church, 750 Sunset Avenue, Haworth, NJ 07641.

Appointment to Tennis Committee

BE IT RESOLVED that Cora Koch is hereby appointed a member of the Tennis Committee to a one year term to December 31, 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA – cont'd.

Approval of Payment of Bills

FOR COPY OF RESOLUTION AND BILL LIST

SEE PERMANENT MINUTES

PAGES 26A – 26H

Approval of Minutes

Executive Meeting of January 11, 2022

Closed Meeting of January 11, 2022

Open Meeting to Public

The meeting was opened to the period of public discussion.

Mr. N. Nakashian, Brook Street, referred to the earlier discussion regarding a stipend for the OEM Coordinator and said he echoed the hard work Mr. Sullivan has been doing, noted the amount of work in this position is daunting, i.e., paperwork, training, etc. He said the work Mr. Sullivan is doing is amazing and further noted all the requirements of this job.

Ms. B. Borghi, St. Nicholas Av., thanked the mayor and council for her recent recognition from Rep. Gottheimer. She then asked if one can join multiple committees in town.

Mr. Regan responded noting it depends on the specific committee or commission.

Ms. Borghi said she is referring to openings on the Shade Tree Commission. Ms. Siciliano responded that she would look into this matter.

Mr. Robert Hennion, Fire Chief thanked the mayor and council for their support of the fire department in the past year and said he appreciated all they do.

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 8:55PM by Ms. Guenego, seconded by Mr. Bain and unanimously carried to adjourn.

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Ann E. Fay, RMC, CMC  
Clerk-Administrator















