

BOROUGH OF OAKLAND
Special Borough Council Meeting
MEETING MINUTES

Oakland Senior Center
20 Lawlor Drive
Oakland, N.J. 07436

August 29, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

The Special Meeting of the Borough of Oakland Mayor and Borough Council opened on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland, N.J. 07436.

Mayor Linda H. Schwager presiding.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Linda H. Schwager, Councilmembers Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.

Absent: Councilman McCann.

Also Present: Borough Administrator Richard Kunze, Borough Clerk Michael Carelli, Borough Engineer Kevin Boswell, Boswell Engineering Representative Giselle Diaz, and Boswell Engineering Representative John Yakimik.

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion to excuse Councilman McCann, seconded by Councilman Kulmala.

ALL IN FAVOR.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Schwager announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place, and agenda.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON PFOS/PFOA:

Mayor Schwager welcomed Borough Engineer Kevin Boswell from Boswell Engineering, as he will be presenting updated information on PFOS/PFOA in Oakland's water system. Mr. Boswell explained what PFAS compounds are and where they are found in the environment. Mr. Boswell explained that the Borough's Water System draws from seven (7) wells throughout the Borough. Mr. Boswell explained that the Borough's Licensed Water Operator tests throughout the year for over 90 mandated compounds, as well as unmandated compounds found in water. All results are reported to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and non-reporting is subject to criminal charges against the operator. The current maximum level contaminants set forth by the State is 13 ppt., and new mandates set forth by the USEPA is 0.004 ppt. for PFOA and 0.02 for PFOS compounds. It was explained that MCL's are reported on an annual average. Mr. Boswell then presented several treatment options for the Borough, which include granular activated compounds (GAC), ion exchange, and high-pressure membranes. Mr. Boswell then added that the Borough is proceeding with granular activated compounds (GAC) as a treatment option as it was the most cost

effective measure. The Borough will continue testing as it works to receive approval from NJDEP to install the treatment systems. The installation is on schedule by the end of 2023. Mr. Boswell further added that the installation timeframe is due to manufacturer demand and delays. Should the Borough not install the system in accordance with the timeframe set forth by the State, further public notices must be issued to the water customers. Mr. Boswell ensured the public that the Borough is aggressively acting to install the treatment system as soon as possible. Mr. Boswell added that links for more information from relative State and Federal agencies are available on the Borough website, as well as a copy of this presentation.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Talamini, to open for public comment.

Andrea Levy of 780 Ramapo Valley Road, asked if the Licensed Water Operator is an employee of the Borough and to whom does he/she report to. Ms. Levy also asked what the cost is for the installation of the treatment systems and if there are any ongoing maintenance costs. Giselle Diaz of Boswell Engineering reported that the updated cost estimate is approximately \$3 million dollars, with the ongoing operating costs being the least expensive of the available treatment options. Ms. Levy then asked if there are any current State or Federal Grants available for the cost of the installation. Borough Administrator Richard Kunze advised that there are no applicable grants for this project given the timeframe requirement set forth by the State for installation, but the Borough will be seeking grant money in the future for a system at the Soons Well Field. Lastly, Ms. Levy asked if the Borough can help facilitate group discounts on behalf of the residents for home treatment systems. Mr. Kunze advised that the Borough will look further into it.

Vincent Buccelatto of 28 Stone Fence Road asked if other surrounding municipalities with the same aquifer are experiencing the same problems. Mr. Boswell explained that it is difficult to detect where the contaminants are coming from as there are many sources of water. Mr. Boswell further explained that certain hotspots could be detected such as near a previous fire testing facility that used chemicals with PFOS.

Alison Fleeson of 224 Hiawatha Boulevard asked what the lifespan of the treatment systems are. Mr. Boswell explained that while the vessel lasts 30 to 40 years, the media must be replaced dependent on the flow and maximum contaminant level regulations at the time of replacement.

Vivian Yudin King of 113 Hiawatha Boulevard asked if home carbon treatment systems are effective and whether or not it acts similar to the Borough's system. Ms. King then asked the stage at which the water will be treated within the water system. Mr. Boswell explained that the water is treated before chlorination as the chlorine may damage the treatment media. Ms. King asked where the updated cost estimates will be posted. Mayor Schwager advised that the estimates will be posted on the Borough website as the Borough receives them.

Councilman Talamini asked if bottled water sold in New Jersey is subject to the same testing requirements. Ms. Diaz advised that bottled water is in fact subject to the same testing requirements.

Councilman Kulmala asked if the treatment system is future proofed for more stringent State or Federal regulations. Mr. Boswell advised that new standards take several years to adopt and that Boswell Engineering is continually monitoring same.

Mayor Schwager advised that the presentation and handouts will be posted on the Borough website.

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Talamini, to close public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the meeting be adjourned.

ALL IN FAVOR.


Adjourned: 8:01 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Linda H. Schwager, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michael E. Carelli, Borough Clerk