

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
HELD AT THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NJ
WEDNESDAY JUNE 6, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Schwager called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Talamini. Absent: Councilman Pignatelli. Also Present: Kathlyn Gurney, Deputy Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Schwager announced this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law duly announced and included in the schedule of regular meetings.

Councilman Biale enters the meeting a 7:04pm.

Councilman Biale shared Ms. Preciado's qualifications with the Council and once her references checked out, it was agreed that she would be hired.

RESOLUTION 18-224 HIRE SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR-ARIELLE S. PRECIADO
On motion of Councilman Knapp, seconded by Councilman Levy, the following resolution be introduced, adopted and duly passed by roll call vote:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has a need to hire a Senior Center Director; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator and Senior Center liaison recommend that Arielle S. Preciado be appointed to fill the full-time vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council believes such action to be in the best interest of the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough does hereby hire Arielle S. Preciado as Senior Center Director effective Monday, June 18, 2018 at an annual salary of \$55,000.

DISCUSSION ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE DESIRED TABLE OF ORGANIZATION.

Councilman Knapp explained the purpose of the meeting and reminded Council of all the changes and new leadership within the department. He explained that Captain Sanzari wanted to educate Council on the function of the Police Department and reinforce the need for more officers.

Mr. Talamini entered the meeting 7:08pm.

Councilman Kulmala expressed that he was under the impression that this meeting was going to be televised. Mayor Schwager responded that they decided not to televise the meeting due to sensitive information to be discussed. A discussion ensued concerning the importance of televising topics like this and the protection of sensitive information. Captain Sanzari explained that he wanted to give a closed and informal presentation on the structure, staffing and the table of organization.

Captain Sanzari continued with the Table of Organization for the department. He explained that currently there are 24 police officers and gave reasons why the department should have 29 officers. A department of 29 police officers would provide the town with 5-man squads consisting of 4 patrol officers and a supervising sergeant. In addition, it would allow the schools a resource officer and a supervisor in the detective bureau. All of this provides better service, response time and allows the department to provide more than what is mandated.

Councilman Pignatelli questioned the time when calls decrease and the possibility of a floating officer to be available to provide coverage. Councilman Talamini added that providing a “jumping jack” officer could reduce the amount of overtime. Captain Sanzari responded that there is a decrease in calls past 11:00 p.m. but the floating officer would be hard to schedule.

Captain Sanzari continued to explain that the benefit of a 5-man squad would allow officers to be more proactive, more time could be spent on special details and availability for training opportunities.

He gave examples of the “man hours” spent by a police officer for 2017 when involved with certain calls. He explained that a typical call involves two officers showing up at the scene, a possible arrest, fingerprinting the victim and filling out the mandated paperwork. A discussion ensued concerning various tasks involved during a domestic violence case, motor vehicle accidents and medical calls. Man hours include traffic details, mandatory training and elective training.

Captain Sanzari noted that since the increase in school shootings, it is important to have a strong police presence in the schools. He discussed the possibility of having one officer allocated to the schools, Monday through Friday and during the summer, that officer could be used as a fill-in for other officers during vacations.

It was discussed what it costs the town when a police officer is hired and carried through to their retirement. Councilman Kulmala responded that it could cost the Borough approximately 5-6 million dollars. A discussion ensued concerning Board of Education, private school and grant assistance to help pay the salary of a resource officer.

Captain Sanzari discussed the need for a sergeant supervisor for the detective bureau. The sergeant would be the supervisor to two detectives to ensure better control of case management and distribution and documentation of activities. He gave more detail of the detective bureau functions, responsibilities, training and mandatory requirements. Councilman Kulmala questioned if the department was currently meeting their objectives. Captain Sanzari responded that the department is meeting their objectives but feels they can do better.

Captain Sanzari reviewed the departments table of organization. A discussion ensued concerning the Captain and Chief functions. Councilman Levy questioned if this is the typical command structure. Lt. Eldridge responded yes and that when he was hired, the department was structured this way. Councilman Biale added that this could save the town on over-time.

Captain Sanzari explained the baseline ratio of officers to population size. Based on a 2016 census, Oakland has a population of 13,130. He explained that based on the IACP study, the national average is 2.5 officers per 1,000 residents requiring Oakland to have 32.8 officers. Based on the FBI UCR, there should be 21.4 officers per 10,000 residents requiring Oakland to have 28.1 officers.

Captain Sanzari reviewed the call statistics for 2017. The uniqueness of Oakland must be factored in with geography, topography and weather patterns. In addition, Oakland has a complex street composition as well as main thoroughfares such as 287, 208 and Skyline Drive. A discussion ensued concerning front desk over-time, the hiring of 3 full-time dispatchers and hiring per diem dispatchers.

Captain Sanzari compared the over-time amounts from 2013 to 2017 and how it could be reduced by increasing the number of officers. He compared statistics between a 4-man squad versus a 5-man squad pertaining to motor vehicle stops, traffic enforcement details, summonses issued and municipal court fines. Councilman Kulmala confirmed that the department was not under strain and able to accomplish their workload. Captain Sanzari responded that the department accomplish the workload but with additional officers, it would run more efficiently and increase revenue for the Borough. Councilman Kulmala commented that the police department should not be concerned about the revenue aspect of their proposal.

Councilman Levy questioned a realistic timeline for the increase of officers. A discussion ensued concerning salary, pension and health benefits for a police officer. Captain Sanzari responded that they figure the project would take 2 to 4 years to complete the desire of the department. Councilman Pignatelli questioned the number of officers they are looking to hire this year. Captain Sanzari responded that they are requesting that three officers be hired by the June 27th Council meeting so the officers can make the July academy. Councilman Knapp expressed that a decision needs to be made tonight so that the candidates can take their physicals, be sworn in at the July 27th Council meeting and attend the July academy.

Captain Sanzari thanked Lt. Eldridge, Lt. Keenan, P.O. Dowcra and Mr. Kunze for all their help in assisting the police department to move forward to serve Oakland the best they can.

Mayor Schwager entertained a motion to open the meeting to the public. OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Levy, this portion of the meeting be opened for public discussion.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Levy, Talamini.

Mr. Donald Broek, father of P.O. Broek, expressed that the police officers work hard and by increasing the force, this would add to the morale of the department.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, this portion of the meeting be closed to public discussion.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Pignatelli, Kulmala, Levy, Talamini.

Councilman Talamini and Councilman Kulmala expressed that they did not know that action would be taken since it was not on the agenda. Suggestions were made and discussion ensued concerning the possibility of two officers retiring next year. Mr. Kunze explained that there is a July 7th deadline for the academy so whether it is decided 2 officers or 3 officer, they will need to be sworn in by the June 27th meeting. He suggested that a straw poll be taken for 2 or 3 officers.

Straw Poll Vote:

Councilman Biale – 3 officers
Councilman Knapp – 3 officers
Councilman Kulmala – 2 officers
Councilman Levy – 3 officers
Councilman Pignatelli – 3 officers
Councilman Talamini – 2 officers

Consensus of the Council is 3 police officers will be hired at the June 27, 2018 Mayor and Council meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED:

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 pm.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini.

Kathlyn Gurney, Deputy Clerk

Mayor Linda H. Schwager

July 11, 2018

Date Approved