

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE  
BOROUGH HALL CONFERENCE ROOM  
1 MUNICIPAL PLAZA, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY  
FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 5:08 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: Lisa M. Duncan, Borough 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.

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Marlene Casey and Mike Strusiak from Capital Alternatives were in attendance to discuss grant opportunities.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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

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

No public in attendance to comment.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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

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

Ms. Casey advised that in 2016, the Transportation Trust Fund was refinanced. There is money available. She did research on other bridges in town and found the Lenape Lane Bridge needs repair. She advised that the Borough Engineer should inspect it and the Borough should make application for funding. She advised that there is \$28 million available in the pot for bridge repairs. Councilman Knapp asked about Allerman. Ms. Casey responded it is a culvert which is considered a small bridge. She advised that an inspection should be done. Ms. Casey read the list of bridges from the County's list. She reiterated that if the Lenape Lane Bridge is structurally unsound, the Borough should put an application for funding in. It will not compete with the Patriot's Way Bridge application.

Councilman Kulmala spoke about the Recreation wish list. Ms. Casey advised that there are two places to obtain funding for Recreation projects and that would be from Green Acres and Bergen County Open Space. There is a lot of money available from Green Acres. She spoke of making

an application for the Roller Hockey Rink. She advised that a multi-location municipal rehab application can be filed. She advised Councilman Kulmala to sit with the Recreation Commission and come up with three or four of the most important projects. They must get a cost estimate in order to submit an application for funding. She advised that not all the money available is grant money. There are some low interest loans that charge 2% interest.

She advised there may be a potential pot of money for infrastructure projects such as sewers but we have to wait to see if the Governor allocates money. Councilman Levy asked what needs to be done to get a streetscapes grant. Ms. Casey advised that the funding is not out yet this year. She advised that there should be a Downtown Committee appointed. There needs to be a design schematic and cost estimate in order to apply for grant funding. Councilman Biale asked about grant funding for sidewalk installation at the north end of town. Ms. Casey responded that the streetscape funding will be for 2019 so the money will not be available until July 2019. She advised that there are also a lot of federal regulations.

Councilman Levy spoke about the river restoration project. He advised that the Borough has bonded for \$ 400,000 and has a grant of \$ 100,000 for the project. The project is a holistic repair of the river. He would like see if there is another grant available. Ms. Casey would have to check with the federal government. She suggested perhaps there is a FEMA mitigation grant. However, the Borough cannot ask for money unless they are advertising that grant money is available. She will do research. Councilman Levy asked if there is a grant program to help homeowners with elevating houses. She responded that there is the Blue Acres program but when the homeowner wants to sell the property, it would have to be sold to the State.

Councilman Kulmala asked if there is funding available to put a second level on the Police Building for Borough Hall. Councilman Knapp commented there is a parking issue at that location. Ms. Casey advised the Mayor and Council to talk to their planner about replacing Borough Hall. We will then figure out where to get grant money.

Councilman Biale commented that the Borough has three package sewer treatment plants that are at the end of their life. He explained that we want to transform them into pumping stations and the cost will be \$ 3 million. He questioned if there are grants for this type of project. Ms. Casey responded that we need to see what funding the governor puts in place.

Councilman Kulmala commented that the Borough is interested in installing card key access, security cameras and alarms. Ms. Casey will research if there are any Homeland Security grants available. Ms. Casey asked if we lost power during last week's N'oreaster. Mayor Schwager advised that we lost power in our Senior Center which is used as a warming center. Ms. Casey advised that grants are available for backup generators. She advised that the Mayor and Council needs to pass a resolution stating the Senior Center is used as a warming center in an emergency.

Discussion ensued over funding for School Resource Officer. Ms. Casey advised that it is a federal grant and the School Board has to endorse the application.

Councilman Biale asked if there are any grants for street lighting in order to replace the street lights with LED lighting. Ms. Casey asked if we owned the lights. Councilman Biale explained that we lease them. Councilman Kulmala asked if there is grant money available to remove damaged trees. Ms. Casey spoke about forestry grants. She advised there is a grant that allows you to cut down diseased trees and replace them with healthy trees.

Councilman Knapp left the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Discussion ensued over grants for the Van Allen House and Stream House. Ms. Casey spoke of Historic Trust grants and matching the County grants with grants from SHPBO.

Ms. Casey reminded the Mayor and Council to ensure that all bridges are on the County list for inspections. The Borough Engineer should inspect as well. The Recreation Commission should come up with a plan for the Roller Hockey rink and we should make an application to Green Acres. The Planner should discuss plans for a municipal complex.

Councilman Kulmala asked if we could use forfeiture funds for new radios. Ms. Casey responded there were firefighter grants for that type of expenditure but the grants are finished for this year. Ms. Casey will look for Homeland Security grants for cameras and security.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, the meeting be adjourned at 6:15 pm.

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

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Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk

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Mayor Linda H. Schwager

April 11, 2018

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Date Approved