

**MINTUES
WORKSHOP MEETING
BOROUGH OF SEA BRIGHT**

APRIL 14, 2021 (Wednesday)

SEA BRIGHT, NEW JERSEY

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS AND THE NEED FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD REMOTELY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

PUBLIC ACCESS LINK

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/726803157>

United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

Access Code: 726-803-157

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and requested those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kelly read the following Compliance Statement:

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT (N.J.S.A. 10:4-18)

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. This Meeting Is Now Called to Order:

In Line With The Borough Of Sea Bright's Longstanding Policy Of Open Government, And In Compliance With The "Open Public Meetings Act" I Wish To Advise You That Adequate Notice Of This Regularly Scheduled Meeting Was Sent to the Asbury Park Press and other local newspapers on January 4, 2021. In each instance, the Date, Time, And Location of This Meeting Were Provided in the Notice. This Meeting Is Open to The Public."

PRESENT: Mayor Brian P. Kelly
Councilmember's Kevin Birdsall, Jefferey M. Booker, Sr.,
William J. Keeler, John M. Lamia, Jr., Marc A. Leckstein

ABSENT: Councilmember Samuel A. Catalano

OTHERS: Administrator Joseph L. Verruni, Attorney Richard Shaklee
Borough Clerk Christine Pfeiffer

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: (limited to 3 minutes)

The Public Comment portion of this meeting allows members of the audience to bring their concerns or comments to the Mayor and Council's attention. Pursuant to Borough Ordinance 3-2011, a member of the public who wishes to speak shall give his/her name and address for the record and may have up to three minutes to state his/her comments to the Mayor and Council as a Body. If additional time or information is requested, an appointment can be made with the Administrator's office during regular business hours.

No one wished to be heard.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

SUBJECT: Capital Projects Update

ACTION: Administrator Verruni reported we have settled with the bonding company, Travelers Insurance Company regarding the completion of the Beach Pavilion and the liens placed against the building. Mr. Verruni reported we are preparing for phase II of the Shrewsbury Riverfront Park and we received an \$80,000 grant from Monmouth County Open Space – Mr. Verruni will get the design plans to the new Councilmembers. Concerning the 2020 Roadway Improvement Program, there is a preconstruction meeting tomorrow and the project should begin in the next couple weeks. Monmouth County received bids for the bridge replacement and the lowest bid came in \$7 million over budget – the County will be asking the Federal Government to increase the budget or figure out a way to rebid the project with changes to reduce the cost. Mr. Verruni said he spoke to the County about utilizing parking in the old Dunkin Donuts lot.

SUBJECT: Public Safety Update (Chiefs of Police and Fire)
- Municipal/Employee Parking

ACTION: Chief Friedman provided an update on the past month's police activity and reported parking passes are in and they will begin distributing them in the beginning of May. The Chief reported the Church Street parking lot utilized for business and Borough employees has been secured for the 2021 season. The Police Academy has been shut down again due to COVID and is hoping our Special officers will complete the course in time for the summer season. Chief Murphy provided an update for the Fire Department and reported membership continues to flourish and four members are enrolled in the swift water rescue technician program – we will have about 20 members with this certification.

SUBJECT: Ordinance Prohibiting Smoking Cigarettes/Marijuana in Public Places including the Municipal Beach

ACTION: Chief Friedman would like a Borough Ordinance as a tool for writing tickets for smoking (tobacco, cigars, marijuana, etc.) in public on beach, sidewalks, etc. with a substantial fine. Councilman Birdsall cautioned the Chief since we haven't written tickets for smoking in the past. Councilman Booker would be supportive of an ordinance giving the appropriate tools to law enforcement to manage this effectively. Mayor Kelly asked the Borough Attorney to review the State rules on this subject and prepare a draft ordinance for review.

SUBJECT: Municipal Options – Marijuana

ACTION: Mayor Kelly opened the discussion by reviewing the municipal legislation guidelines and asked the Governing Body how they would like to proceed with restrictions on marijuana in Sea Bright. Councilman Birdsall said he is in favor of allowing retail sales in town since it will be the only business in town we make a 2% profit from. Administrator Verruni reported many towns in the County have adopted ordinances prohibiting the sales. Councilman Birdsall explained that if we do not take any action, we are locked in for at least five years and any established retail stores will be grandfathered in and added the state issues the licenses and there is no guarantee that one will be issued for operation in Sea Bright. As there appears to be a consensus, Council asked the Borough Attorney to draft an ordinance which allows retail sales. Mr. Verruni asked that our Zoning Officer, Mary Tangolics, be involved with this ordinance as well.

SUBJECT: Salary Ordinance

ACTION: Mr. Verruni explained that this is our annual ordinance that needed to be amended to align with new minimum wage rates and certain salaries that exceeded the current range. Councilman Leckstein requested lowering the range for Mayor and Council to the stipend amount of \$3,000 as the current amount (\$32,800) is very misleading. An amended copy of the ordinance will be on the April 20 agenda for introduction.

SUBJECT: Sidewalk Cafés – Keeping sidewalks passable/penalties

ACTION: Councilman Keeler reported he received a complaint last weekend about sidewalks being unpassable and would like to send a letter to the operators of the restaurants to let them know that we are taking this very seriously. Administrator Verruni said the restaurants are required to provide us with a diagram of their outdoor dining configuration that must be approved by the Zoning Officer and Chief of Police. He has also called them all personally and explained they will be strictly enforcing the approved diagram. Mr. Verruni said it is the recommendation of the Chief of Police to revoke the permit after two violations. Councilman Lamia suggested the Borough offer alternative locations to the businesses for outdoor dining. Mayor Kelly explained that we tried this last year and it wasn't successful. Councilman Leckstein would like to enforce – 3 strikes you're out and feels sending letters is not effective – and feels enforcement would be better served in superior court vs. municipal court. Councilman Leckstein would also like Code Enforcement to take a look at the antique store's outside display as it is taking over the sidewalk and the bench. Mayor Kelly stated people congregating on the sidewalks waiting for tables is a big part of the problem. The consensus of Council is to amend the ordinance to include a 3 strikes you're out penalty.

SUBJECT: Audit – Contract increase with HFA

ACTION: Mayor Kelly explained that our Auditors are required to do an additional audit due to the amount of grant funds the Borough received in 2020. The CFO, Michael Bascom, anticipated this contract increase and built it into the 2021 budget. Council approved.

SUBJECT: Library Reopening

ACTION: Mr. Verruni explained the Library Director, Jane Farmer, would like to reopen and is prepared to follow the Monmouth County Library COVID guidelines and recommendations. Mayor Kelly would like to align the opening with our open meetings sometime in May – Council agreed. Mr. Verruni will arrange a Library Committee meeting to review the opening details.

SUBJECT: Donation of Beach Badges – 2022 Season

ACTION: Council agreed to donate two (2) 2022 season beach badges for a fundraiser by Holiday Express.

SUBJECT: Beach Rules & Regulations

ACTION: Mayor Kelly explained that we would like to amend our current ordinance to allow the Beach Manager to adopt beach rules and regulations as necessary. Administrator Verruni explained that it came up at the budget hearings that Beach Manager, Don Klein, is concerned that people are challenging him regarding some of the rules and regulations he tries to enforce and would like some written authority. Attorney Shaklee will amend the ordinance to include the Beach Manager. Councilman Lamia would like to see a list of what he thinks would be helpful to alleviate the problems.

SUBJECT: Sewer Vent Location

ACTION: Councilman Birdsall stated the Department of Public Works discussed the relocation of the sewer vent and recommends leaving it at its current location and just make it more presentable.

SUBJECT: Woody's

ACTION: Administrator Verruni explained Chris Wood offered a plan to landscape, irrigate and plant a permanent Christmas tree on the south side of the Municipal Complex which would cost about \$15,000. In return, Mr. Wood and asked if in return the Borough would forgo the 3 months of rent he pays for parking spaces during the pay to park season – Council agreed and wants to make sure the plantings don't interfere with anything underground. Councilman Keeler expressed his concern about pedestrians cutting across that strip of land and recommends putting a walkway through that area.

SUBJECT: Seasonal Rental

ACTION: Administrator Verruni reported the Code Enforcement Officer requested that we either amend or clarify our seasonal rental ordinance concerning the number of bathrooms required for non-family member rentals. Councilman Leckstein will meet with the Administrative Committee and Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Haege, and draft something for Council’s consideration.

SUBJECT: Alleyway behind downtown businesses

ACTION: Councilman Keeler is concerned with congestion in the alleyway behind the downtown businesses and feels it is a major hazard. There are also many utility wires that are within reach and we need to put significant pressure on the utility companies to identify who owns what and clean it up. Administrator Verruni said he will reach out to our reps and speak to the Borough Attorney and local legislators about the best way to proceed. Councilman Birdsall said the restaurant garbage is out of control and feels the businesses should be responsible for their own garbage collection if they have over a certain amount of cans. Shawn Thomas, Deputy Director of Public Works, put together a cost analysis last year and will redistribute it to Council for review.

Councilman Leckstein would like to adopt a resolution urging the State Legislature and Governor to make Condo associations immune from COVID liability and will prepare a resolution for next Tuesday’s meeting.

SUBJECT: Resolutions

1. Approving Revised 2021 Cash Management Plan
2. Renewing Lease for Seasonal Employee Parking
3. Appointment to Fire Department
4. Hiring DPW Seasonal Employee
5. Consideration of Bids Received for 2020 Roadway Improvement Program
6. Consideration of Bids Received for Street Sweeping Services

ACTION: The above resolutions will be prepared for the April 20th meeting for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Kelly announced the 2021 Budget Public Hearing will be held at the Tuesday, April 20 Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Councilman Booker questioned as the budget currently sits now, is our municipal tax rate staying flat or decreasing. Administrator Verruni clarified that there will be a slight reduction in the tax rate for 2021. Mayor Kelly wanted to make everyone aware that this is just the municipal portion of the tax and there still is a potential for taxes to increase.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive session not held.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Leckstein offered a motion to Adjourn the Workshop meeting; seconded by Councilmember Birdsall:

Roll Call:	Birdsall	Booker	Catalano	Keeler	Lamia	Leckstein
	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes

Prepared by,

Christine Pfeiffer, Borough Clerk