

**WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF OGDENSBURG
14 HIGHLAND AVE. OGDENSBURG AT 7:00PM
February 26, 2018**

Mayor Slater called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Mayor Slater led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Astor, Gunderman, Hutnick, Nardini, Nasisi, Opilla.

Also in attendance was Richard Briigliodoro, Borough Attorney.

STATEMENT BY MAYOR: “Notice requirements of P.L. 1975, Open Public Meeting Act, NJS10:4- et.seq. have been satisfied with a schedule of all meetings, together with the time, location and agenda of same being sent to the NEW JERSEY HERALD and NEW JERSEY SUNDAY HERALD and posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall on January 3, 2018.”

Councilman Hutnick moved Councilman Opilla seconded motion for approval of items on the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes for February 12, 2018.
2. Approval of budget workshop meeting minutes for February 13, 2018.
3. Approval of application from Ogdensburg Fire Department for an off premise 50/50 raffle license to be held on October 6, 2018.
4. Resolution 30-2018 Housing Rehabilitation Program Coordinator fee.

Upon Roll call Vote:

Yeas: Astor, Gunderman (abstain from #1), Hutnick, Nardini, Nasisi, Opilla (abstain from #2)

Nays: None Absent: None Abstain None

Councilman Hutnick moved Councilman Opilla seconded motion for approval of items on the consent agenda.

Resolution 30-2018

WHEREAS; Steve Weinberg, has been the Coordinator for the Ogdensburg Housing Rehabilitation Program since 1989, and

WHEREAS; the coordinator fee is paid from the Ogdensburg Housing Rehabilitation Revolving fund, fed by repayment of past housing rehabilitation loans; and

WHEREAS; the coordinator’s fee of \$2,200 per unit completed has not been increased in many years; and

WHEREAS; Steve Weinberg has requested the coordinator’s fee be increase to \$2,700 per unit completed;

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED; the Borough of Ogdensburg Mayor and Council approve the increase of Steve Weinberg, Ogdensburg Housing Rehabilitation Program Coordinator’s fee to \$2,700 per unit completed.

Upon Roll call Vote:

Yeas: Astor, Gunderman, Hutnick, Nardini, Nasisi, Opilla

Nays: None Absent: None Abstain None

OLD BUSINESS

Heaters Pond Dam – Mayor Slater commented there are no additional updates other than they are working on it.

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Repair of Loop- Councilman Opilla reported we are waiting for the weather to set dates to start work.

JCP & L – Mayor Slater commented there are no further updates; Ms. Espinoza is going to get back to her as to when JCP& L is going to start work on the lights.

Predmore Road – Councilman Astor commented there is no news on that project.

Councilman Astor asked if he could mention something, we received an email (today) about a resident who was upset about a tree that fell. It is diverting water from the drainage ditch and is flooding certain sections. Councilman Astor commented he is going to reach out to the individual they might have to contact a local tree company to take care of it. Councilman Astor wanted to update the Council on that matter which is on Glenn Brook Road. There was a discussion regarding the drainage ditch that is being blocked.

Councilman Astor asked Mr. Briigliodoro; it is his understanding the Borough can't go on other people's property and take care of it. If the tree falls on the road it is still their responsibility or does the Borough cut what is on the road. Is that correct?

Mr. Briigliodoro commented if a tree falls and it is in the roadway you have the right to move what is blocking the road. Councilman Astor asked but that is it. There was a discussion on the fallen tree, the property, storm drain and DEP regulations.

Mr. Briigliodoro suggested notifying the Borough Engineer regarding DEP notification/permitting or application to go in and clean the tree out.

Councilman Astor will meet with the Borough Engineer and contact the individual.

Elizabethtown Gas – Mayor Slater commented we are having a town hall meeting April 10th at 7:00PM at the Fire House. All the information has been received regarding permitting, etc. On the 10th they will go over everything with the residents, the residents will be able to sign up then and there to have it done. Elizabethtown Gas will run the line to the house put the meter right outside the house and it is the homeowner's responsibility to bring it inside the house. Elizabethtown Gas will be sending out a letter to homeowners. There was a discussion on having local plumbers there at the meeting.

Land Use Board Appointment – Mayor Slater commented no update on the position open. Councilman Nasisi asked someone that might be interest, this individual was checking on this.

Backup/Assistant job requirements – Councilman Nardini commented he has a completed job description for this position. We can start the process in getting someone to fill in for Rob Lawler.

Water billing software update – Councilman Nardini explained the software update on reading the meter; if this is programmed right he can do the readings in a few hours and more accurately. Councilman Nardini explained he reviewed the current ordinance regarding turning water on and off. Councilman Nardini commented there is no on/off fee if it is done during 7:00am to 3:00pm. There is something in the ordinance regarding if there is damage done to the meters that would be paid for by the consumer. Mayor Slater commented to check with Chris Ross to see the owners of meters that have been broken.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal to provide Collection Management Service for Municipal Collections – Mayor Slater commented Maggie Rodriguez, Court Administrator sent information regarding a collection agency to collect outstanding fees. This service doesn't cost the Borough anything. There was a discussion on the agreement for municipal collections; the Borough Attorney will look into the agreement and additional information is needed.

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Project Self Sufficiency's March Press Conference Invitation – Mayor Slater referenced an invitation during the day, a represented from the Municipality is requested.

Tree planting at the pond – Councilman Astor commented he spoke to the Water Shed Ambassador about and doing some time of educational lessons at the pond. We have mentioned community service at the pond. She went ahead and put a grant in; we have 50 trees that have to be planted at the pond. Councilman Astor spoke with Councilman Nardini, we are going to get together and figure out exactly where these trees are going to be planted. Councilman Astor commented he believed it is the third grade that will go up there and work with the Water Shed Ambassador and plant 50 new trees. Councilman Astor will get back with a date as to when this will be done.

Mayor Slater commented going back to Project Self Sufficiency the date is March 15th at 10:00am.

PUBLIC SESSION

Councilman Astor moved, Councilman Gunderman seconded motion to open the public session of the meeting. All were in favor.

Pat Sabourin, Wilson Drive Ogdensburg; asked if the First Aid Squad has to get an ok to use the ball field for an Easter Egg Hunt. Everything has been submitted and the date is March 24th.

There being no further business from the public, Councilman Opilla moved, Councilman Nasisi seconded motion to close the public session of the meeting. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L., 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ogdensburg, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows;

Personnel

The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter(s). The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when settled. Action may be taken on the above listed matter/matters or on other matters discussed in closed session. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

At 7:30p.m. Councilman Opilla moved, Councilman Nardini seconded motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel.

Upon Roll call Vote:

Yeas: Astor, Gunderman, Hutnick, Nardini, Nasisi, Opilla

Nays: None Absent: None Abstain None

The Mayor and Council returned from executive session at 7:40p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Councilman Nardini moved, Councilman Nasisi seconded motion to open the public session of the meeting. All were in favor.

Thomas Ricalde, 33 Glen Brook Road, stepped forward. Mr. Ricalde commented several months ago he called regarding a tree that fell into the brook. Last time a tree came down in the

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brook he called Steve and within 36 hours later it was taken care off. Last November a tree went down in the brook. The town had put labor and money into cleaning the egress ditch between 35 and 33 Glen Brook which three storm drains on the street empty into so the water can run off down into the brook. Since this tree went down last November it is blocking the egress of both the brook as well as the drainage ditch from the storm sewers entering into that egress ditch that we have. Mr. Ricalde commented he called about it in November at least three times. Mr. Ricalde also called the State and Senator Oroho office and explained he was asked where the egress was from and was asked if the pond was a natural pond. Mr. Ricalde commented he told them the pond was not a natural pond it used to be just a brook until the town back in the 70's converted the brook into a recreational area for swimming. Mr. Ricalde commented Heaters pond is a recreational facility all egress drainage overflow which is part of the Heaters Pond project is the town's responsibility to maintain it to make sure it is clear of debris.

Councilman Astor commented they said any egress in our town is our responsibility because of Heater's Pond. Mr. Ricalde commented it is a drainage overflow from the recreational facility. Councilman Astor asked Mr. Briigliodoro, Esq. if he ever heard of that. Mr. Briigliodoro commented he thinks we should talk to our Borough Engineer and have him take a look at it to see if there is anything that is our responsibility or not.

Mayor Slater commented when that work was done in the past DEP fined the Borough of touching it. Mr. Ricalde commented you were fined because the town had done something that wasn't in the permit. There was a back and forth discussion on the permits. Mr. Ricalde explained the water flow, 29 Glen Brook has four trees down in the brook, several of them are from the property 29 Glen Brook and there is at least one or two from the other side of the brook. Mr. Ricalde commented when Steve was Mayor he would call and 36 hours it was taken care off.

Councilman Gunderman asked who took care of it then.

Mayor Slater commented when she asked (DPW) they said they are not allowed to touch anything in the brook.

There was a discussion that things done in the past may or may not have gone through the proper channels and Heaters Pond being a recreational area.

Mr. Ricalde commented egress is the responsibility of the town.

Councilman Astor commented we have to get our Borough Engineer out there look at this.

Councilman Nasisi commented we had already talked about this before you got here and are taken steps; we have to make sure we don't over step our bounds it's not like you can have some guys get together and go over. Mr. Briigliodoro explained an example of a similar situation in a different town and the town was fined. Mr. Briigliodoro commented we will get the Borough Engineer involved because it is involving water courses and the DEP to see what we are allowed to do and not allowed to do and what permits we would need.

Councilman Astor commented our engineer will assess the whole situation.

There being no further business from the public, Councilman Nasisi moved, Councilman Hutnick seconded motion to close the public session of the meeting. All were in favor.

There being no further business, Councilman Astor moved, Councilman Opilla seconded motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Robin Hough, Borough Clerk

Rachel Slater, Mayor

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