

December 7, 2009

Mayor Cooperhouse called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Mayor Cooperhouse read the Presiding Officer's Statement. Present were Council Members Burden, DeNofa, Menapace and Murphy. Council Members Dodge and Keegan were absent. Also present were Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman and Borough Attorney Martin Barger.

RESOLUTION #2009-120 (Executive Session)

Mayor Cooperhouse read Resolution #2009-123 to enter into executive session.

Reconvene Public Meeting

Mayor Cooperhouse reconvened the regular meeting at 8:05 PM. Mayor Cooperhouse read the Presiding Officer's Statement. Present were Council Members Burden, DeNofa, Menapace and Murphy. Council Members Dodge and Keegan were absent. Also present were Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman and Borough Attorney Martin Barger.

Salute to Flag

Mayor Cooperhouse led the Salute to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes: November 16, 2009

Acknowledging the correction to the minutes as stated by Councilman Menapace a motion was made by Councilman Burden, seconded by Councilman DeNofa to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 16, 2009 as amended. The minutes were approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes except Councilman Menapace who abstained.

Certificates of Appreciation for Shrewsbury Police Officers, Sgt. Daniel Calicari, Ptl. Adam Cerminaro, Ptl. Robert Turner, and Police Dispatcher David Leschot

Mayor Cooperhouse reflected on the fire that occurred on June 12, 2009 on Patterson Avenue and how these three officers responded at the scene. The Mayor noted that prior to the fire department arriving the officers had obtained a ladder and were able to rescue one of the residents from the house. He expressed how thankful he and the entire Council were for their heroic response that night. Mayor Cooperhouse shared with the public that the officers and Dispatcher Leschot would be recognized by Chief Wilson at the upcoming PBA dinner.

Mayor Cooperhouse then awarded the Certificates of Appreciation from the Borough recognizing and thanking, Sgt. Daniel Calicari, Ptl. Adam Cerminaro, and Ptl. Robert Turner for their service to the Shrewsbury Borough community.

Mayor Cooperhouse spoke about the professionalism displayed by Dispatcher David Leschot on the night of the fire and how he provided a vital connection between police, firefighters, and first aiders, monitoring their activities, providing information and performing his duties ensuring that emergency response information was handled in a timely and smooth manner. The Mayor then awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to dispatcher Leschot from the Borough of Shrewsbury.

December 7, 2009

Mr. Cooperhouse thanked John Merris for bringing to his attention that the Fire Company felt that these officers and dispatcher Leschot deserved to be recognized.

Captain Tim Spencer spoke about how he appreciated the Mayor and Council recognizing the officers for their commitment to their jobs and the Borough of Shrewsbury. Captain Spencer noted that even with the storm adding additional complications the emergency response went very well.

Certificate of Appreciation for Cub Scout Troop 50 and Boy Scout Troop 50

Mayor Cooperhouse awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked Cub Scout Troop 50 and Boy Scout Troop 50 for their service to the Shrewsbury Borough Community during the H1N1 flu pandemic in which they distributed H1N1 flu vaccine information to all households in Shrewsbury Borough helping the residents make informed decisions in protecting themselves and their families. Accepting the Certificates of Appreciation for the Boy and Cub Scouts were Barry Berdahl, Fred Preissler and Edward Preissler.

Certificate of Appreciation for the Shrewsbury Board of Health

Mayor Cooperhouse awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked the Shrewsbury Borough Board of Health for their service to the Shrewsbury Borough Community during the H1N1 flu pandemic in which they provided information on the H1N1 flu to the residents of Shrewsbury Borough by coordinating and getting this information out in a timely manner through the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts to the residents of the Borough. Accepting the Certificates of Appreciation for the Shrewsbury Board of Health were Barry Berdahl and Meg Levinson.

Mayor Cooperhouse announced that there would be a two minute break to allow people who wanted to leave to do so.

Reconvene Public Meeting

Mayor Cooperhouse reconvened the regular meeting at 8:15 PM. Present were Council Members Burden, DeNofa, Menapace and Murphy. Council Members Dodge and Keegan were absent. Also present were Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman and Borough Attorney Martin Barger.

Mayor Cooperhouse stated that the introduction of Ordinance No. 938 amending Chapter 94, Zoning and Land Development dealing with Open House signage in the Borough would be postponed for introduction in January and he explained the different reasons why this was necessary.

RESOLUTION # 2009-124 (Authorization for Refund of Over Payment of Taxes to Ron Bernstein and Ellen Bogen)

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Burden to approve Resolution #2009-124 authorizing a refund of overpayment of 2009 taxes in the sum of \$2,189.23 to Ron Bernstein and Robyn Ellen Bogen. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION # 2009-125 (Authorization for Transfer of Funds No. 1)

Councilman Murphy pointed out the typographical error in the total number at the bottom of the

December 7, 2009

Resolution. He read through the correct numbers for the public. Councilmen Murphy stated that this transfer was needed due to various reasons which included overtime and sick time but he pointed out that the budget is still balanced and this is not an emergency transfer.

Amending the Resolution with the correct information a motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace to approve Resolution #2009-125 authorizing a Transfer of funds. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION # 2009-126 (Authorization for Release Business Bond of Forever Changes, LLC, doing Business as Billabong Store)

A motion was made by Councilman Burden, seconded by Councilman Murphy to approve Resolution #2009-126 authorizing a release of the \$2000.00 put in an escrow account in lieu of obtaining the required surety bond two years ago. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION # 2009-127 (Authorization for Release Business Bond of Tula the Boutique)

A motion was made by Councilman Burden, seconded by Councilman DeNofa to approve Resolution #2009-127 authorizing a release of the \$2000.00 put in an escrow account in lieu of obtaining the required surety bond two years ago. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION # 2009-128 (Authorization for the Borough to Participate in the New Jersey Health Benefits Program)

Mayor Cooperhouse presented information to the public as to how the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program would save the Borough money. He pointed out that the Borough currently has Blue Cross Blue Shield and was notified that there would be a 30% increase. Mr. Cooperhouse explained that the Administration, Finance, and Insurance Committee have been working diligently to match a similar program for the Borough employees. He stated that there are certain restraints with the collective bargaining agreements and that in the upcoming week's discussions were planned with the labor unions and the employees in the Borough about the decision to use the State Health Benefits Program. Mayor Cooperhouse noted that there was a need to move on this quickly and that this decision would save the residents of the Borough a substantial amount of money. He explained that there was a provision to opt out if that was necessary without any penalty to the Borough.

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Murphy to approve Resolution #2009-128 authorizing the Borough Administrator to make an application with the State of New Jersey to enter into the New Jersey Health Benefits Program. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Approval: Raffle Applications # 2009-10 for the Monmouth Medical Foundation at the Shadowbrook on June 24th2010

A motion was made by Councilman Burden, seconded by Councilman Menapace to approve Raffle Applications #2009-10 for the Monmouth Medical Foundation to be held at the Shadowbrook on June 24, 2010. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

December 7, 2009

Authorization to Waive the Business License and Zoning Permit Fee for Holiday Express

Mayor Cooperhouse explained that Holiday Express, a charitable organization, was offered the use of an unoccupied store front in the Grove by Mr. Chris Cole as a visual reminder of their presence in the community. Mr. Cooperhouse noted that before Holiday Express was able to move into the vacant storefront there were certain requirements relating to the Business License and Zoning approval process. He explained for the public that because Holiday Express will only occupy the space for four weeks the Council was polled and they agreed to waive the requirements for both the Business License and the Zoning approval process but at this point it was necessary to memorialize that authorization. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Open Meeting to Public

Mayor Cooperhouse made a motion to open the floor to Donald Pignataro, the Executive Director of Holiday Express. A motion was made by Councilman DeNofa, seconded by Councilman Menapace to approve opening the meeting to Donald Pignataro. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes

Donald Pignataro thanked the Mayor and Council for waiving the fees for Holiday Express and allowing them to educate the public on their charity through the use of this store front.

Close Meeting to the Public

A motion was made by Councilmen Murphy and seconded by Councilmen Menapace to close the meeting to the public. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Seaman reported that in regard to the emergency texting and notifying system a meeting and demonstration of the system had been set up with the Cooper Notification System for December 17th in Oceanport. Representatives from Little Silver, Fair Haven, Shrewsbury and the Board of Education will be in attendance. Mr. Seaman offered to give a follow up after the meeting.

Mr. Seaman stated that the Borough received a letter from the Census Bureau requesting the use of one of the Borough meeting rooms during the period of March 19th through April 19th to set up a questionnaire assistance center to assist residents in completing the Census 2010 questionnaire. The Council agreed to allow the Census Bureau use of the meeting room for the requested period of time.

Mr. Seaman pointed out that the last day for Newsletter articles is December 10, 2009. He also stated that the Mayor and Council received correspondence from Birdsall Services Group concerning the Borough's Environmental Joint Insurance Fund and in reference to certain environmental concerns identified during the audit of the DPW facility and other Municipally owned properties. These items included an above ground storage tank along with some other sites requiring clean up. Mr. Seaman advised the Mayor and Council that Bob Wentway was in touch with them and is addressing these issues.

December 7, 2009

Mayor Cooperhouse and Mr. Seaman discussed the different issues involved and Mr. Seaman assured the Mayor that he would see to it that the Borough responds back in a timely manner.

Councilmen Burden asked Mr. Seaman if he had been in contact with MEL JIF concerning setting up a seminar in Shrewsbury. Mr. Seaman responded that he has been in contact with them and was waiting for a response but that he would contact them again.

Reports of Council

Councilman Burden reported that the Police Committee met on November 25th for Personnel issues and one of the things of interest to the Council and the residents is that the Chief supports a curfew for Mischief Night next year and they will be working on that issue going forward.

Councilman Burden reported that the Traffic Safety Task Force Meeting scheduled for December 8, 2009 has been postponed until January 12, 2010 because of lack of quorum. He noted that additionally the Environmental Commission Meeting scheduled for December 9, 2009 has been postponed until January 13, 2010 with quorum being the issue again. However, Mr. Burden noted that the Shade Tree Commission meeting scheduled for December 12, 2009 will be held. Councilman Burden stated that he was able to secure the Kaplan Gaunt renderings of their tentative plans for the Wardell House and if anyone was interested in seeing these plans they should contact him.

Councilmen DeNofa had no report.

Councilman Menapace referred to a member of Boy Scout troop 50, Eddie Preissler of Obre Place in Shrewsbury who had contacted him regarding his interest in pursuing construction and installation of "Welcome to Shrewsbury" signs as his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Menapace stated that he had recommended that Eddie contact the County and the State because these signs would be on Sycamore Avenue, which is a County road and Broad St., which is a State highway. Mr. Preissler received clearance from the County, provided the signs do not obstruct traffic control signs. Councilman Menapace related that his assistant scoutmaster, Don Eddy, decided that placing the signs on Sycamore Avenue was an ambitious enough project that they decided not to contact the State.

Mr. Menapace stated that Eddie Preissler requested Borough sponsorship of his Eagle Scout project and proposes fundraising through Shrewsbury businesses to raise money to pay for the signs. Mr. Menapace shared that Eddie has examined other local Municipality's signs and visualizes a white and green sign with the Borough seal on it. He will coordinate with the Police Department's Traffic Safety officers and the Department of Public Works. Mr. Menapace pointed out that Eddie Preissler was present to answer any questions the Council might have.

Councilman Burden stated his only concern involved the composition of the signs so the Borough isn't presented with a maintenance issue down the line. The only other concern registered by Mr. Burden was the size of the lettering and he added that you want it to be large enough that people are able to read the signs. Councilmen Menapace stated that Eddie has been in contact with a sign maker who is aware of the proper sizing for lettering, height, etc.

December 7, 2009

A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman Burden for Borough sponsorship of Eddie Preissler's "Welcome to Shrewsbury" Eagle Scout project. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Councilman Menapace asked Mr. Seaman to write a letter to Troop 50 informing them that the Borough of Shrewsbury has approved sponsorship of Eddie Preissler's Eagle Scout project and that Councilman Menapace will be happy to serve as Eddie's point of contact for the project going forward.

Mayor Cooperhouse asked Mr. Seaman where the Borough was with the State in reference to the request involving the island by the Americana Diner. The Mayor informed the public that the traffic island located on the north side of town, across from Dunkin Donuts, had received a sign where the cost was taken care of by the Grove and additionally they had planted a garden which was maintained for several years until a State inspector came by and informed them that they did not have State approval and so it had to be dismantled. The Mayor informed the public that the Grove is again very interested in putting up a sign on the parcel of land across from the Americana Diner.

The Mayor and Council discussed how currently that parcel of land is being maintained by the Borough's DPW because the State only cut the grass once every couple of months. Mr. Seaman indicated that he still had his contact information and would again pursue seeing the State's position on this matter.

Councilman Menapace continued that in reference to the MEL-JIF, he had attended the elected Officials seminar at Wall Twp. on December 3, 2009. He noted that the Borough will receive a \$250 discount on its premium for his attendance.

Mr. Menapace noted that the DPW garage repairs which will be done by Rocon Construction, who was awarded the emergency repair of the building, is expected to sign a contract with the borough by December 8, 2009 or no later than December 11, 2009 per the Borough Engineer. He noted that a preconstruction meeting and Notice to Proceed will follow shortly. Mr. Menapace stated that work could commence as early as December 14, 2009 and should take about two weeks.

Councilman Menapace noted that he had met with Al Thompson, the President of the Thornbrooke Residents Association, Herman Allen, Thornbrooke resident and Peter Berkeley, of Residential Property Management, regarding the potential changes in the Borough recycling pick up. He noted that the Thornbrooke residents specific concerns centered on the capacity of containers currently provided to the residents. Mr. Menapace related that they would like to be kept notified of any changes to the recycling program as soon as possible. This way if they need to purchase additional containers they have the time to obtain and distribute them.

Councilmen Murphy had no report.

December 7, 2009

Mayor's Report

Mayor Cooperhouse reported that the Borough received notice from the State that the balance due from Trenton on the Borough's Town Aid in the amount of \$650.00 will not be received by the Borough.

The Mayor noted that in Councilman Keegan's absence he asked him to present to Council the Recreation Committee's request to increase the number of members to the Recreation Committee. The Recreation Committee is requesting that they increase that body to 10 regular members and with the liaison from Council make it a total of 11. The Council discussed the request and the reasons for it. Mayor Cooperhouse stated they wanted to get more people involved and he pointed out that the Borough does not have a paid Recreation Director and that all of the programs are run exclusively by volunteers. He explained that they hope to get more people involved and at the same time share the work load. Mayor Cooperhouse acknowledged that in view of the timing of this request they would wait till January to pursue this.

The Mayor referenced the discussion that the Council had previously visited about revising the Ordinance regarding dogs and parks. Councilman Murphy stated that he was still researching that because the information he had received from the attorney had more to do with the animals themselves rather than parks. Mr. Murphy informed the public for their benefit that a couple of months ago he had brought to the Council's attention that dogs or other animals are not permitted in any of the parks. He acknowledged that people still bring their dogs to the parks but that with the current Ordinance this is a violation.

Mr. Murphy stated that he had suggested that this should be addressed and handled as some of the surrounding communities do. He stated that there had been some discussion about it and everyone seemed okay with the animal aspect of it but he noted that that the park Ordinance needed to be addressed instead of the animal Ordinance. Mr. Burden asked if they had received any information from the Environmental Commission. He noted that they are favorably disposed to having dogs on leash. He continued that they pointed out that it may help to keep some of the geese off as well as some of the deer away from the parks.

The Mayor stated that Councilman Burden had been approached as Liaison to the Environmental Commission, Board of Health and Shade Tree Commission regarding the problem with deer in town. To date there have been 22 deer accidents with vehicles here in town. The Mayor noted that it was suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to address this issue. He responded that he would prefer to have Mr. Seaman and perhaps a member of Council with input from the Board of Health plan a meeting with the appropriate individuals from the State to discuss what options are available. The Mayor noted that when this issue was addressed at a previous council meeting there had been close to 80 people in attendance and they were split 50/50 for culling versus just leaving the deer be. The Mayor suggested it may be time to revisit this issue.

Councilman Burden suggested discussing the options with the residents of the Borough before involving the State or the County. The Mayor responded that the first step was to find out what our options are by State statute and he asked for a volunteer to handle this. Councilman Burden

December 7, 2009

volunteered for this.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

Open Meeting to Public

Councilman Menapace motioned to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Burden. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Donald Eddy, 75 Spruce Drive commented that when he contacted the County about the signage project for the Eagle Scout project the County engineer sent him a 35 page document explaining how the “Welcome to Shrewsbury” sign should be done and he added that he would be glad to forward that information to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Eddy shared that the document was a State document dealing with signage on State roads.

The Mayor asked if there were any other comments from the public and as there were none.

Close Meeting to the Public

A motion was made by Councilmen Burden, seconded by Councilman DeNofa, to close the meeting to the public. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace to authorize payment of all bills as submitted by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes, except Councilmen Burden who abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace and approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Attest: _____
Kathleen P. Krueger, RMC – Municipal Clerk

Approve: _____
Terel Cooperhouse, Mayor