

January 2, 2018

### **Meeting Called to Order**

The public meeting convened at 7:00 PM.

### **Presiding Officer's Statement**

In accordance with the requirements of Section 4(a) of C.231, P.L. 1975, the required 48 hour advance notice of this meeting was given by mailing/faxing a copy of the agenda to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times, in addition, to posting on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on December 29, 2017 by the Municipal Clerk.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Burden, Councilmember's Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eulner, Eddy & Meyer  
Also Present: Attorney Peter W. Kenny, Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman & Clerk Kathleen P. Krueger  
Absent: Marty Barger Borough Attorney represented by Mr. Kenny

### **Salute to Flag**

Led by Mayor Burden.

### **Approval of Minutes: December 4, 2017**

Councilman Anderson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Eddy and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian & Eddy  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: DeSalvo, Eulner & Meyer

### **Presentation of the White Road Rivalry Cup - Mr. Rick Brandt and Mr. Rob Brandt**

Mr. Rick Brandt wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated Mr. Anderson and Ms. Doran Eulner on their appointment to Council. Mr. Brandt summarized the history of the White Road Cup and noted that the event benefits Lunch Break. He stated that they were able to collect over \$10,000 in addition to canned goods and clothing. Mr. Brandt presented the White Road Rivalry Cup to the Mayor for the "Shrewsbury 34 and Up Team", who were the winners of the that category at the game. Mr. Brandt thanked the Shrewsbury Police Department and Fire Department who support the games. Mr. Brandt noted that Councilwoman Eulner participated in the games and dominated on the field. He thanked the Mayor and Council and the residents who participated in supporting this annual event. At Mr. Brandt's request, the Mayor and Council posed with the trophy for pictures. The trophy was left in Shrewsbury's care to display their achievement.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Approval of New Jr. Member for Shrewsbury First Aid Squad: Leanne M. Spears and Full Membership for Shrewsbury First Aid Squad: Janna Meyers and Lexas Banfield**

Councilman Eddy stated that a criminal and motor vehicle background check is done on each applicant for the First Aid Squad. Once they are through that process and approved by Council, they begin their training as a First Responder.

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Councilman Eddy motioned to approve the applicants for the Shrewsbury First Aid Squad, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Eulner & Meyer  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

### **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Seaman reported that the newsletter would be going out by the end of the week. He informed the Council, that as the Finance Officer, he is working on closing out the year. He noted that the close out information will allow the continuation of the budget process.

Mr. Seaman reported that the Tax Department collected over a million dollars in prepayments for the 2018 first and second quarter taxes. He cited the Local Finance Notice issued by the state stating that we have to accept prepayments by the postmark date. He explained this decision will put the closeout of taxes behind by at least a week. Mr. Seaman stated that as the Tax Collector for the Borough he was not going to accept resident requests for refunds on these tax payments unless it is a special set of circumstances and he gave the example of someone moving out of town.

Mr. Seaman informed the Council that the Directory changes are being drafted and to please notify his office with any needed changes.

### **Reports of Council**

Councilman Anderson had nothing to report.

Councilwoman DerAsadourian had nothing to report but stated that she hoped by the next meeting to have an update on the new Clerk.

Councilman DeSalvo had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Eulner stated that since she was just sworn in, she had nothing to report. The Mayor referred to former Councilman Moran, who was present in the audience, for any update on DPW. Mr. Moran stated that DPW will do a onetime brush pickup from January 2 through January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Eddy reported they would be closing out the books on 2017 and begin finalizing a preliminary draft of the 2018 budget which may require revisiting some of the committees budgets.

Councilman Meyer had nothing to report.

### **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported on meetings he had attended recently which included the Caucus meeting of December 20<sup>th</sup>, a ribbon cutting for Lightbridge Academy on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a shared services meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> and a ribbon cutting for Simone's Jewelry on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Correspondence**

Municipal Clerk Krueger stated that the Dog and Cat Licensing for 2018 is now in progress. She stated that just as a reminder, residents have the month of January to renew their pet licenses but after that an additional \$5 a month late fee would be incurred.

### **Open the Meeting to the Public**

Councilman Meyer motioned to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo, and approved by all Council present.

Edward (Lefty) Grimes, East Hanover spoke about his past drug use and how he was able to stop using these drugs through the use of medical cannabis. Mr. Grimes stated that he read in the newspaper what Shrewsbury had to say about having cannabis shops in the town. He spoke to what he considered ignorance and referred to people who are suffering with a multitude of ailments which prevent them from being present to speak out. He spoke about how we have been lied to about cannabis by the government. He referred to this behavior as “reefer madness” which he stated brings with it institutional racism and sexism. He provided a history of how he felt we were lied to by named individuals in history. He spoke to the need for the legalization of cannabis for addiction reasons, medical reasons and the need to substitute cannabis for opiates. He stated how cannabis will help the economy.

Charles Kwiatkowski, Hazlet spoke about having MS for 26 years which has made him eligible for medical cannabis. He referenced the article in the paper about Shrewsbury taking a stand against pot shops and he stated that more of them are needed for people like him. He stated how difficult it is to drive to Edison to obtain his medical cannabis and the cost of cannabis currently. He stated that he was here to speak as a patient who needs to have greater access to cannabis.

Rose McGill, Lawrenceville spoke about the unnecessary fear of cannabis usage. She offered documentation on the use of cannabis and hemp as an herbal medicine before it was banned by what she termed the “industry giants”. Ms. McGill gave a history of how it was outlawed after being used previously for different conditions and how it was banned and fear was used to control the public. She stated that it was used until 1937 when its crops were banned, books were burned and a patent was obtained on all the research of this complex plant. Ms. McGill stated that cannabis as medicine helps millions of people with serious illnesses which she listed. She spoke to the synthetic pharmaceuticals that are easily distributed to American households. Ms. McGill provided information on its different uses and the different misconceptions surrounding this plant. She stated that if the sale of this is banned in the Borough that people would still use it, they would just be forced to obtain it elsewhere. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their time.

Hugh Giordano, Union Representative from the USCW whose union members consist of Acme, Foodtown, Shop Rite, etc. He stated that the USCW has 1.2 million members across the globe. He stated that they are a large union that represents cannabis workers both in recreational and medical cannabis fields. He referenced the article in the paper regarding Shrewsbury banning cannabis dispensaries and that he was present to speak for the workers in that industry which includes members from our area. He spoke to the point that cannabis is slated to bring in 1 billion dollars in sales in the first year. He spoke of the loss of tax revenue from these sales. Mr.

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Giordano stated he was here to make sure that his workers are treated with respect and dignity at the job and outside the job. He spoke about the training required by USCW for the workers to be properly trained through state programs and the union itself. He compared these workers to other unions. Mr. Giordano spoke about patient's rights and the issue this causes for their workers who should be protected by law. He stated that USCW is committed on a national level to stand with councils that stand with patients and workers and he stated they will not sit back when faced with this opposition. Mr. Giordano stated that cannabis is here to stay as it is a growing industry, and that by banning it, the Council was hurting workers and in turn hurting the economy of the town. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their time.

Leo Bridgewater, Trenton President for the New Jersey Chapter for Minorities for Medical Marijuana and also Cofounder for the New Jersey Cannabis Commission introduced himself. Mr. Bridgewater stated he was one of three veterans who testified at the Senate Committee about the issue of PSD and the need for medical programs. He spoke about the issue of veteran's suicide and the estimate of 22 a day being an understatement, with half of them being Viet Nam veterans. Mr. Bridgewater spoke about his personal experiences with veteran friends who committed suicide. He spoke about the dispensing of what he termed an arsenal of pharmaceutical pills by the Veterans Hospitals contributing to the suicide rate. He spoke about the serious Opioid addiction epidemic and how the states that have medical marijuana distribution programs have changed the suicide rate in a positive way. He spoke about the seminars and conferences he has attended and the information shared on the Opioid addiction rate. He provided information related to the use of cannabis properly. Mr. Bridgewater thanked the Mayor and Council for their attention to the discussion and he stated that he hopes they will consider some of the information shared at this meeting related to this subject. Mr. Bridgewater stated that he would gladly be available to any of the Council that would like to have a continued discussion on this issue.

Brandon Chewey, Asbury Park relayed his personal journey with the use of drugs stating that he is now in recovery. He related how he was arrested 16 times and he named the different local towns where he had been arrested. He stated that due to possessing marijuana and Oxycontin he was incarcerated for years. He spoke about the trauma suffered by being incarcerated and how his crime was only for possession not for any other criminal action. Mr. Chewey shared that he was jailed at 18 for the first time and this cycle continued over and over until he was 27. He relayed the story of his addiction which started with prescription pills at 16. Mr. Chewey currently works for a research company that is performing trials with people coming out of extended incarceration. He stated that recovery programs just introduce more prescription pills. Mr. Chewey stated there needs to be some type of herbal or alternative medicine that takes the place of prescription pills. He spoke about his own personal journey and all the ramifications it has had on his life. He shared that he is 32 now and through therapy he discovered he had PTSD. Mr. Chewey stated he felt he could not have beaten his addiction or become the individual he is today without the medical marijuana. He thanked the Mayor and Council for being willing to listen to what he shared.

The Mayor acknowledged the information that was shared by the different individuals but noted the need to return to other Borough business. He asked if anyone else wanted to make a brief comment on this matter before they concluded this discussion.

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Jeffrey King, Eatontown stated that he just wanted the Mayor and Council to keep an open mind and think about the decisions that are made and the impacts they have on the population. He asked that decisions not be based on fear.

**Close the Meeting to the Public.**

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Councilman DeSalvo motioned to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman Anderson, and approved by all Councilmember's present.

**Payment of the Bills**

Councilman Eddy motioned to approve the bills list in the amount of \$1,520,890.62 with 1.5 million of that going to school taxes, seconded by Councilman Meyer, and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Anderson, DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eulner, Eddy & Meyer  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**Adjourn to Executive Session**

Councilman Meyer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:42PM, seconded by Councilman Eddy, and approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

**Public Meeting Reconvened**

The public meeting reconvened at 8:05 PM

**Adjourn**

Seeing no one present from the public and with no further business to conduct, Councilman Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:06PM, seconded by Councilman Meyer, and approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen P. Krueger, RMC – Municipal Clerk

**Approve:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Burden – Mayor