

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Berger called this meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

2. Opening Statement and Roll Call

Township Clerk Ciranni read the opening statement. Adequate notice of the holding of this meeting of the Howell Township Council was provided for in the following manner: (1) By the posting of a copy of said notice upon the bulletin board in the Township Municipal Building on January 8, 2020. (2) By copy of said notice to the Asbury Park Press, Tri Town News and Star Ledger for information and publication on January 8, 2020. (3) By the filing of a copy of said form of notice in the Township Clerk's office on January 8, 2020. The public will be allowed to attend and will be allowed to participate pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law. The public is reminded that civility and decorum will be maintained during the meeting. Any contracts awarded at this meeting, or between now and the next meeting will be required to comply with the requirements of Public Law 1975 Chapter 127 (NJAC 17:27).

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Theresa Berger, Deputy Mayor Evelyn O'Donnell, Councilman John Bonevich, Councilwoman Pamela Richmond, Councilman Thomas Russo. Also present: Township Manager Brian Geoghegan, Community Development Director/Deputy Township Manager James Herrman, Township Attorney Joseph Clark, Chief Financial Officer Louis Palazzo, Township Clerk Allison Ciranni.

3. Executive Session

Cancelled

4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

5. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- January 7, 2020 Reorganization/Regular Meeting
- January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting + Executive Session + Public Release

Deputy Mayor O'Donnell made a motion to accept the above minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Richmond. Roll Call: Ayes: Councilman Bonevich, Councilwoman Richmond, Councilman Russo, Deputy Mayor O'Donnell, Mayor Berger.

6. Reports of Township Officials

- **Proclamation** – Centennial of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

Deputy Mayor O'Donnell asked that everyone keep the Walsh family in their prayers. Former Mayor Robert F. Walsh recently lost his battle with brain cancer.

Township Clerk Ciranni stated that changes on the agenda from Preliminary to Final Agenda include:

Added to the Agenda

Resolution:

*R-20-113 9A.22 Resolution Opposing NJ Senate Bill "S-2"

Township Manager Geoghegan updated the Governing Body about the status of veterans' parking spaces at Township buildings. The Department of Public Works recently posted signs at Town Hall, the Library, and Echo Lake reserving a parking space for veterans at each location. Mr. Geoghegan also informed the Governing Body that privatizing janitorial services is being considered starting with Town Hall. There have been discussions about sharing that cost with the schools once the Board of Education moves in to see if it is more cost-effective. He added that no positions will be laid off. Mayor Berger requested that the Governing Body see the numbers; Mr. Geoghegan stated he will email the information. Mr. Geoghegan also stated that today the Finance Department rolled out their new program so we are fully on Edmunds. Mr. Geoghegan also wished to inform the Governing Body and residents who review the Township's bill lists that they will now have a slightly different appearance but will contain the same information. Mr. Geoghegan asked the Governing Body members to let him know if a public budget hearing on February 25th at 4 PM would work for them.

Mayor Berger discussed a letter that recently went out from the Republican portion of the Council regarding the proposed Randolph Road solid waste transfer station. Governing Body had a lengthy, involved discussion about the transfer station situation, timeline of events, and actions by previous and current Governing Body members.

Mayor Berger stated she is very excited about the new Farmers Market and wished to thank Township Attorney Clark and Joan Osborne who worked tirelessly with the team to make it happen. She added that they will hopefully be utilizing the area of old Town Hall which would be wonderful because the area needs some re-gentrification. Mayor Berger stated that residents will be kept posted with that information.

Deputy Mayor O'Donnell inquired about the status of the tree fund. Township Manager Geoghegan stated that we can have our tree expert go out and start doing analysis; if there is a specific area of concern we can concentrate on that first. Councilman Bonevich mentioned that at the last meeting they discussed the idea of revisiting the tree ordinance which is 15 years old. He added that prices have changed and replacing trees costs a lot of money. When a developer comes in and removes trees they opt to pay rather than replace because it is cheaper. Manager Geoghegan stated he will look into updating the ordinance. Deputy Mayor O'Donnell inquired if management has begun the process of investigating the energy savings plan that the schools have implemented for possible use in Township buildings. Manager Geoghegan stated he met with Ron Sanasac about their program and he recommended a different blend than what they have

done. He is planning on meeting with Mr. Sanasac again. Regarding the farmers market, Deputy Mayor O'Donnell stated that it has been a five-year uphill plan and it is wonderful that it is coming to fruition.

7. Discussion

8. Hearing of Citizens & Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

Mayor Berger opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Dixel, 62A Piazza Vittoria. Mrs. Dixel spoke about the solid waste transfer station situation; she stated she has several letters regarding the situation and will bring them to the next meeting. Mrs. Dixel requested an explanation of agenda item 9A.22. Councilman Russo explained he added it to the agenda today based on a letter that came out on January 31st from Freehold Regional High School District (FRHSD) Superintendent Dr. Charles Sampson to Governor Murphy opposing Senate Bill S-2. He explained that the bill would severely cut aid to Howell Township schools and the FRHSD. Councilwoman Richmond mentioned that Marc Parisi, a Board Member of the FRHSD, is here this evening and perhaps he could provide additional information. Mr. Parisi agreed. Mrs. Dixel asked why agenda item 9A.21 was removed. Councilman Russo explained that he is investigating revisions or additional language to the resolution. Mrs. Dixel expressed her concerns about gun violence.

Marc Parisi, 2 Castle Court. Mr. Parisi stated he supports the Council passing the resolution opposing S-2. He explained that over the last 10 years, state aid funding had remained flat throughout the state. Some districts had increasing enrollment without increasing aid and some had decreasing enrollment without decreasing aid. Mr. Parisi provided a thorough explanation of how this bill will be affecting Howell Township schools and FRHSD schools. FRHSD will be losing funding of \$30 million over a 7 year phase-in - losing \$3.8 million this year and will escalate to \$30 million by 2025. He added that both districts are in a really bad position. Mr. Parisi stated that there are two Trenton politicians at odds with each other and the school districts are in the middle. He continued that Superintendent Sampson has been very vocal about it and is doing everything he can to try to reverse what is going on but it is not an easy situation we find ourselves in. Mr. Parisi stated it is important that parents of students pay attention to what is going on to understand the impact of what may be coming. Councilwoman Richmond stated there is a petition for concerned individuals to sign. She requested that a link to the petition be placed on the Township website. Mr. Parisi stated that Freehold Regional is one of the largest regional high school districts in New Jersey and educates students for less money than any other regional high school district in the state. Mayor Berger asked Mr. Parisi if he or any of the other school board members have gone to Trenton to have discussions on this matter. Mr. Parisi stated that mostly the Superintendent and his administration are the ones going. Councilman Bonevich stated he is glad this resolution was added to the agenda; many residents moved to Howell and the FRHSD because of the schools and this is going to impact everyone. Mr. Parisi stated he is also on the Shade Tree Commission and he saw the new spider lift and is happy the Commission was able to help purchase it for the Department of Public Works. Perhaps with this piece of equipment a lot of the tree trimming work can be done in-house.

Mr. Parisi asked Mr. Herrman if he thinks water service might be offered to residents on Castle Court since Lanes Mill Road will soon be opened for water system installation. Mr. Herrman stated that he had inquired about that three years ago and the water company was not interested; it was something they did not want to pay for. He added that to run that much water main for just eight houses would be very expensive. Mr. Parisi suggested to Council that they consider passing a resolution regarding the Monmouth Commerce Center, if and when that application gets challenged in court, that the Township would consider filing at that time as an intervener. Mr. Parisi also commented on the solid waste transfer station letter being misleading to those not familiar with the situation.

Tina Smilek, 33 Charles Street. Ms. Smilek stated she would like to meet with Deputy Mayor O'Donnell and former Township Manager Jeff Mayfield. Brief discussion between Ms. Smilek and Deputy Mayor O'Donnell. Ms. Smilek stated she is very happy about work to be done on playgrounds but questioned the amount of \$30,000 for various items that may be needed. Mr. Herrman explained that he is still finalizing a few of the items and felt that that amount would provide a little bit of extra if needed, for example, to replace parts, repair broken steps, instead of cutting another purchase order he asked to include those two line items which will not be used unless he receives proposals to do so. Ms. Smilek asked if anything is being installed by Township employees to save money. Mr. Herrman stated that Township employees are doing all of the demolition on existing playgrounds, digging out some existing safety surface so installer does not have to, all restoration work around the new timber ties and perimeters, and grading. Ms. Smilek stated that regarding the S-2 bill, we are all in agreement that everyone is against it. She feels that the problem with adding it to the agenda last minute is that we are leaving out certain things like having it state we want them to release their funding formula. She added that we cannot make suggestions if we do not know the funding formula. Councilman Russo agreed and stated he would not have a problem amending the resolution at the next meeting. Ms. Smilek also stated she would like to see all politics taken out of it and see the Governing Body unitedly encourage residents reach out to officials to oppose it.

Close Hearing of Citizens

9. Consent Agenda

Council reviewed and discussed the Consent Agenda. Councilman Bonevich made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9A.1 through 9A.22 with the exception of Item 9A.21 which has been removed from the agenda, and Motions 9B.1 through 9B.3, seconded by Councilwoman Richmond. Roll Call: Ayes: Councilman Bonevich, Councilwoman Richmond, Councilman Russo, Deputy Mayor O'Donnell, Mayor Berger.

Resolutions

- R-20-92 9A.1 Authorize Refund of Construction Permit Application, Orchard Estates, L.L.C., Permit #NP-20-00011, \$390.00
- R-20-93 9A.2 Authorize Return of Unused Planning Board Escrow Funds, Zev Spira, Dynamic Wholesale Distributors LLC, Block 38, Lot 5, Lakewood Farmingdale Road (Mon. Co. Rt. 547) (Intersection of Route 547 & Randolph Road), Case No. SP-870, \$1,244.48

- R-20-94 9A.3 Authorize Return of Unused Planning Board Escrow Funds, Howell Plaza LLC, Block 41, Lot 21.02, Oak Glen Road – Global Business Park (Between Lakewood Farmingdale Road and Maxim Southard Road), Case No. SP-984, \$12,410.93
- R-20-95 9A.4 Authorize Return of Unused Zoning Board Escrow Funds, Quick Check Corporation, Block 185, Lot 49, Colts Neck Road (Intersection of Route 33 & Colts Neck Rd), Case No. BA10-09, \$173.37
- R-20-96 9A.5 Authorize Return of Unused Zoning Board Escrow Funds, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc., Block 28, Lot 14.06, Target – Lanes Mill Marketplace, 4955 US Highway 9 (1000 Lanes Mill Rd), Case No. BA18-22, \$710.00
- R-20-97 9A.6 Authorize Return of Unused Zoning Board Escrow Funds, Daniel Neto, 340 Ramtown Greenville Road, Block 3, Lot 28, (Between Arnold Blvd and Michelle Blvd), Case No. BA19-04, \$285.75
- R-20-98 9A.7 Authorize Return of Unused Zoning Board Escrow Funds, My Deer Farm, LLC, Block 42, Lot 53, 132 Easy Street (Between Lakewood Farmingdale Rd and Herbertsville Rd), Case No. BA19-16, \$3,508.00
- R-20-99 9A.8 Authorize Return of Unused Zoning Board Escrow Funds, Kateryna Turilina, Block 59.01, Lot 43, 30 Windeler Road (Between Georgia Tavern Rd & Pinewood Rd), Case No. BA19-22, \$2,000.00
- R-20-100 9A.9 Authorize Return of Unused Zoning Board Escrow Funds, Howell Baptist Church, Inc., Block 41, Lot 39, 1554 Maxim Southard Road (at the intersection of Maxim Southard Road and Oak Glen Road), Case No. BA18-12, \$824.75
- R-20-101 9A.10 Authorize Return of Unused COAH Concept Escrow Funds, Down to Earth Farms, LLC, Block 73, Lots 3, 4, 17, 21 & 21.02, South Side of Route 9 between Lanes Mill Road and Estelle Lane, (property extends from Route 9 back to Kent Road), Case No. COAH Concept 40012, \$1,675.00
- R-20-102 9A.11 Authorize Acceptance of Performance Guarantee, Car-Tech Auction, Inc., Car-Tech Auction, Block 183, Lots 27.03 & 28, Route 33, Case No. BA-18-21
- R-20-103 9A.12 Authorize Return of Restoration Guarantee for Road Opening Permit, Thomas Deseno, 1232 West Farms Road, Block 138, Lot 47.04, Road Opening Permit No. RO-18-015, \$500.00
- R-20-104 9A.13 Authorize Acceptance of Performance Guarantee, Oak Gen Developers, LLC, Hawke Point (formerly Oak Glen Estates), Block 35.87, Lots 86, 87, 88 & 89, Oak Glen Road, Case No. SD-2946
- R-20-105 9A.14 Authorize Release of Maintenance Guarantee, Howell Office, LLC, Howell Office, Block 74, Lot 2, Route 9 South & Kent Road, Case No. SP-901A, \$9,152.09
- R-20-106 9A.15 Authorize Award of Contract, State Contract Purchase through Division of Purchase and Property, Winner Ford, Seven (7) Ford Utility Interceptors, Howell Police Department, \$223,012.40

- R-20-107 9A.16 Authorize Award of Contract, Co-Op Purchase through ESCNJ, Mall Chevrolet, One (1) Chevrolet Tahoe LS, Howell Police Department, \$38,700.42
- R-20-108 9A.17 Authorize Execution of a Land Use Developer's Agreement, Perry Willett, Janice Willett, and Oak Glen Developers LLC, Block 35.87, Lots 86, 87, 88 and 89, Planning Board Case No. SD-2946, Hawke Point
- R-20-109 9A.18 Authorize Award of Contract, Co-Op Purchase through ESCNJ, Marturano Recreation Company, Playground Equipment, Site Furnishing, Outdoor Circuit Training, \$343,699.73
- R-20-110 9A.19 Authorize Award of Professional Services Contract, Ray Raya, Esq., Municipal Public Defender for the Year 2020
- R-20-111 9A.20 Authorize the Township of Howell to Enter Into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance, NJCPA
- R-20-112 9A.21 *Removed from agenda.*
- R-20-113 9A.22 Resolution Opposing NJ Senate Bill "S-2"

Motions

- 9B.1 2020 Renewal, Coin Operated Amusement Games, Shore Suds Laundromat, 4054 US Hwy. 9
- 9B.2 2020 Renewal, Limo Owner License, Terrence White, Dependable Taxi and Car Service
- 9B.3 2020 Renewal, Junkyard License, John Blewett, Inc.
- 246 Herbertsville Road
 - 260 Herbertsville Road

10. Public Hearing on Ordinances

None

11. Introduction of Ordinances

11.1 O-20-3 Ordinance Authorizing the Leasing of a Portion of the Property Located at 4567 Route 9 North and at 251 Preventorium Road in the Township of Howell Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:A:12-13 Et. Seq.

Councilwoman Richmond read Ordinance Introduction Statement. Motion to introduce Ordinance No. O-20-3 on first reading by title and to order the same to be published in the 2/7/20 issue of the Asbury Park Press together with notice of its introduction and passage on first reading by title only, and that it will be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on 2/18/20 at 7:30 PM, prevailing time, in the Municipal Building. Councilman Bonevich seconded the motion.

Township Clerk Ciranni read title of ordinance. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL, MONMOUTH COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE LEASING OF A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4567 ROUTE 9 NORTH AND AT 251 PREVENTORIUM ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:A:12-13 ET. SEQ.**

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilman Bonevich, Councilwoman Richmond, Councilman Russo, Deputy Mayor O'Donnell, Mayor Berger.

11.2 O-20-4 Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Schedule VII, Through Streets

Deputy Mayor O'Donnell read Ordinance Introduction Statement. Motion to introduce Ordinance No. O-20-4 on first reading by title and to order the same to be published in the 2/7/20 issue of the Asbury Park Press together with notice of its introduction and passage on first reading by title only, and that it will be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on 2/18/20 at 7:30 PM, prevailing time, in the Municipal Building. Councilman Bonevich seconded the motion.

Township Clerk Ciranni read title of ordinance. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL AMENDING CHAPTER 7, SCHEDULE VII THROUGH STREETS OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL**

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilman Bonevich, Councilwoman Richmond, Councilman Russo, Deputy Mayor O'Donnell, Mayor Berger.

12. Unfinished Business

None

13. Information

None

14. Meeting Dates

Regular Meeting

- Tuesday, February 18, 2020

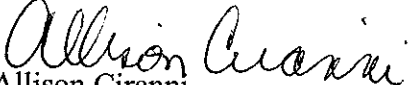
Executive Session 4:00 P.M.

Regular Session 5:00 P.M.

15. Adjournment

Councilwoman Richmond made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Russo. Roll Call: Ayes: Councilman Bonevich, Councilwoman Richmond, Councilman Russo, Deputy Mayor O'Donnell, Mayor Berger. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully,


Allison Ciranni
Township Clerk
Township of Howell