

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING – April 18, 2013**

Mayor Allen *calls the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor J. Allen, Deputy B. Muir, Mr. T. Auriemma, Mrs. B. Fort, Mr. F. Gatti

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator V. Mekovetz, Chief Financial Officer T. Carro

ABSENT: None

Mayor Allen led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

2013 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Mayor Allen stated that the goal of these budget meetings is to handle a very difficult budget year through a balanced approach of cuts and expenditures rather than a tax increase alone. Mayor Allen highlighted some of the implemented adjustments from yesterday's meeting, including (1) utilizing funding from the Housing Trust and Museum Trust, (2) making changes to the Recycling Center hours and increasing household cleanup permit fees, (3) eliminating the purchase of three police vehicles and (4) cutting contribution aid to emergency services by 2%. Mayor Allen also reported that they are delaying the hiring of recent vacancy in the police department until the end of the year. Administrator Mekovetz added that there was an adjustment made to the anticipated revenue from the Construction office along with a proposed \$10,000 amount in the Capital Improvement Fund. Administrator Mekovetz continued that there was a discussion to raise revenues through an increased sewer rate for 2014, the increased liquor license fees will be implemented for 2013 and the possibility of auctioning off certain properties. A brief discussion ensued about potential properties for auction and Administrator Mekovetz stated that she will continue to research this venue.

Administrator Mekovetz requested to amend the Executive agenda to include the property on James Street.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Gatti to amend the Executive Agenda to include the property on James Street, seconded by Mrs. Fort with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit "A":

Executive Resolution cont'd:

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Personnel Matters.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of the Township Committee tonight... Other information will remain confidential
James Street.....	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “

It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A”.

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

Mayor Allen announced that the following business was completed during Executive Session:

Personnel Matters/Personnel

Administrator Mekovetz stated that the Committee discussed changing hours in the Zoning Department and it was decided not to change the hours. Mr. Barczyk was present during this portion of the Executive Session discussion.

Administrator Mekovetz stated a discussion took place on reducing the hours of Robert Brown at the Recycling Center by five (5) hours per week due to the reduction in hours at the Recycling Center. Robert Brown waived his right to be present during this discussion.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to reduce the hours of Robert Brown by five (5) hours to reflect that the Recycling Center will only be open the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from the hours of 8:30-12:30, effective July 1, 2013, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Auriemma - Aye
- Mrs. Fort - Aye
- Mr. Gatti - Aye
- Mrs. Muir - Aye
- Mayor Allen - Aye

Administrator Mekovetz stated a discussion took place on reducing the hours of Linda Jacukowicz in the Planning and Zoning Department, due to a significant number of meetings which have been canceled and a reduced number of applications in both Planning and Zoning Board, as well as a reduced amount of work for the Environmental Commission the Committee by one day a week, equating to seven (7) hours. Mrs. Jacukowicz was present during this portion of the Executive Session discussion.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to reduce the number of days that the Planning and Zoning Office will be open from five (5) to four (4) days and the hours of the Department Head from 35 to 28, effective April 29, 2013, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma - Aye
Mrs. Fort - Aye
Mr. Gatti - Aye
Mrs. Muir - Aye
Mayor Allen - Aye

Contract Negotiations/ James Street

Mayor Allen stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

As there was no further business, A **MOTION** was made at 12:00 p.m. by Mrs. Fort to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Administrator/Municipal Clerk