

Merchantville, NJ

February 13, 2006

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, February 13, 2006. Mayor Patrick J. Brennan presided. Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer were observed. Announcement was made that the meeting had been advertised in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the "Open Public Meetings Act".

ROLL CALL:

Council Present: Fields, Alloway, Zeiders, North, Pagano and Finnegan

Council Absent: None

Borough Clerk Thomas and Solicitor Higgins were present.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Tom Cundey, Remington & Vernick Engineers, provided an update of borough projects.

DISCUSSION - VOLAN STREET PARKING: **Mayor Brennan** gave some brief background to the issue at hand. **Joseph Anselmo**, 187 Morris Street, stated that residents of the apartments at 100 Volan Street park vehicles throughout the area. The apartment should provide parking to relieve the situation. **Robert Grant**, 104 Volan Street, stated that parking vehicles across from driveways leads to poor visibility and a public safety issue. Volan Street is lined on both sides by large trees which already hinder vision while driving. **Gerard Blessing**, 108 Volan Street, believes that the hedgerow and tree line along create a public safety hazard. **Mayor Brennan** asked Mr. North and the Police Department to further study the situation.

PUBLIC:

Marvin Gaskill, 102 East Chestnut Avenue, expressed concerns about the AST Development proposal, calling it "inappropriate". Park Avenue is 27 feet wide and the increased traffic will cause congestion in the area surrounding the project. Would like to inspect the lease regarding the "Rails to Trails" railway. Developing the last "open spaces" in town is inappropriate and it won't alleviate the borough's financial burden. There is currently 8,000 square feet of office space available within the borough. **Mayor Brennan** stated that council asked the Planning Board to look into the property to see if it was in need of redevelopment. The Planning Board contracted with Camden County Improvement Authority and these agreements all took place via public meetings. An application has not yet gone before the Planning Board regarding the Merchantville Town Centre East Redevelopment Project. The railway lease is through Conrail, not "Rails to Trails". Mr. Gaskill has spoken to Edward Stutz of AST with regards to the concept and believes the buildings will crowd the downtown area and believes Council should notify the public of the plans to redevelop the area.

Gail Ford, 135 North Centre Street, inquired to the height of the medical building at 1-3 South Centre Street. It is an estimated 55 feet in height.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 1/9/06 REGULAR: On the motion of Mr. Finnegan and second of Mrs.

Fields, Council unanimously approved the 1/9/06 regular meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Edward Hill, F.W. Grigg American Legion Post, donated an American flag to the borough.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

MR. NORTH updated Council on the situation at 606 West Maple Avenue. Transportation was an obvious weakness for the borough. The employee insurance increase is 33% for 2006 and Mr. Fry will be exploring other options in an effort to stabilize the price spike. The Court and Police reports were delivered.

MR. ALLOWAY provided a CDBG update. The Board of Health report was given. Gerald Seneski will be employed by the Finance Department, assisting with the General Ledger.

MRS. FIELDS gave the Licensing, Planning Board and Recreation Commission reports. Met with Walter Sikorski to discuss Code Enforcement issues. Fred Koehler will again act as liaison for the Municipal Coordinating Agency.

MR. PAGANO delivered the public Events report. Monthly [January] numbers were provided for the M.E.M.S.

MR. ZEIDERS delivered the Fire Department report. Mr. Fry has held "maintenance" meetings regarding Buildings and Grounds.

MR. FINNEGAN provided an update of the Public Works Department.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT - NPP LIAISON: **Mayor Brennan** appointed Mrs. Fields as NPP Liaison for 2006.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: **John Fry**, Borough Administrator, highlighted a few points from his written report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL REPORTS: On the motion of Mr. Alloway, second of Mr. Pagano and a unanimous roll call vote, Council approved the Chief Financial Officer's Report of Cash Receipts for January 2006 and the Abbreviated Budget Status for the year of 2006.

DISCUSSION – MERCHANTVILLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL:

Tabled until 2/27/06.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS PERMIT – MERCHANTVILLE JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB [3/17/06]: On the motion of Mr. North and second of Mr. Alloway, Council unanimously approved the submitted Social Affairs Permit from the Merchantville Junior Women's Club.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: On the motion of Mr. Alloway, second of Mr. Finnegan and a unanimous roll call vote, Council unanimously approved the following bills for payment:

CURRENT FUND: (PER 2/13/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #11219- 11232	\$ 138,130.97
CHECK #11233- 11322	\$ 1,593,349.70
	<u>\$ 1,731,480.67</u>

MERCHANTVILLE SEWER UTILITY: (PER 2/13/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED	
CHECK #1562- 1563	\$ 6,380.94
CHECK #1564- 1565	\$ 10,323.19
	<u>\$ 16,704.13</u>

RECREATION COMMISSION: (PER 2/13/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED	
CHECK #2564- 2565	\$ 505.00
CHECK #2566- 2576	\$ 6,028.59
	<u>\$ 6,533.59</u>

TRUST ACCOUNT - OTHER FUNDS: (PER 2/13/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED	
CHECK #1046- 1047	\$ 662.46
CHECK #1048- 1050	\$ 2,165.45
	<u>\$ 2,827.91</u>

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: (PER 2/13/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECK #331	\$ 1,845.90
	<u>\$ 1,845.90</u>

TOTAL:	<u>\$ 1,759,392.20</u>
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EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT: (SIGNED JOHN N. ALLOWAY)
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING
R06-22

RESOLUTION that the Report of the Department of Accounts and Auditing be accepted and spread upon the minutes and the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to pay the bills therein.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Council will hold a budget session immediately following the Council meeting.

BUDGET: Council discussed and made recommendations for various line items in the Current Fund budget.

ADJOURNMENT: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Pagano the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 PM.

 OREN R. THOMAS IV
 BOROUGH CLERK