

Merchantville, NJ

February 27, 2006

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, February 27, 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, Zeiders, North, Pagano and Finnegan

Council Absent: Alloway

Borough Clerk Thomas and Solicitor Higgins were present.

PUBLIC:

Gail Ford, 135 North Centre Street, inquired to the acquisition of properties within the Town Centre East Redevelopment Area. **Mayor Brennan** clarified that not all properties had been acquired to date.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 1/23/06 REGULAR SESSION: On the motion of Mr. Finnegan and second of Mr. Zeiders, Council unanimously approved the 1/23/06 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION – MERCHANTVILLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL:

Mayor Brennan instructed **Mr. Finnegan** to get written confirmation from Mr. Beckett, Public Works Supervisor, regarding this proposed agreement. **Mr. Pagano** suggested that Mr. Beckett speak with his employees pertaining to the extra required work this agreement will entail.

EXTEND DUE DATE: MAPLE/ CHAPEL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: On the motion of Mr. Pagano and second of Mrs. Fields, Council approved extending the due date for Maple/ Chapel Request for Proposals until March 31, 2006 at 3:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION – SALARIES & WAGES [PUBLIC DEFENDER]: On the motion of Mr. North and second of Mrs. Fields, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R06-23

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN
NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING SPECIFIC SALARIES AND WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES FOR 2006**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Merchantville have by ordinance adopted May 23, 2005 for the year 2005, a maximum salary of \$8,000.00 for the Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, said Salary Ordinance continues in effect until such time as the retroactive 2006 Salary Ordinance shall be introduced and adopted subject to the appropriation of funds in the 2006 temporary budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Merchantville hereby establishes the annual salary of \$6,000.00 for the position of Public Defender of the Borough of Merchantville to be effective as of January 1, 2006.

RESOLUTION – INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT: GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON

ALCOHOLISM: On the motion of Mr. North and second of Mr. Finnegan, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R06-24

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT REGARDING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

WHEREAS, the Borough of Merchantville (Borough) is desirous of entering into an agreement with the County of Camden (County) to receive Grant funds provided by the Governor's Council on Drug Abuse and Alcoholism; and

WHEREAS, the County has requested execution of an agreement between the County and the Borough for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Merchantville that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to execute a one-year Interlocal Services Agreement with the County of Camden regarding Grant funds provided by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

BOROUGH HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN: Mr. Fry explained the new Borough medical plan which will save approximately \$57,000 after estimated payments compared to the cost of the renewal plan. Employee coverage will be the same as the previous plan. This new plan must be implemented through ordinance and will be introduced at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION – BOROUGH HALL CUSTODIAL SERVICES: Mr. Fry spoke to Chris Swanson of Merchantville Public School regarding a shared use of the school's custodial service. This would increase the borough's service but not its costs.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – PETTY CASH: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Pagano, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R06-25

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS REPLENISHING THE BOROUGH CLERK HEALTH CO-PAY PETTY CASH FUND AND THE POLICE HEALTH CO-PAY PETTY CASH FUND

WHEREAS, the Department of Accounts and Auditing has examined the following Petty Cash vouchers amounting to \$413.32 and finds same to be correct:

CHECKS DELIVERED TO BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE CURRENT FUND:

Police Health Petty Cash Fund (#06-13; 14 & 06-23 – 06-29)	235.00
Borough Clerk Petty Cash Fund (#06-01 – 06-15)	<u>178.32</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$413.32</u>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that these Petty Cash vouchers be approved for payment.

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

Merchantville Little League: Mayor and Council have been invited to attend opening day, April 8.

PUBLIC:

Marvin Gaskill, 102 East Chestnut Avenue, compared the Merchantville tax rate to the rest of Camden and Burlington Counties five years ago. Cutting services to reduce the budget should be explored. Joint meetings between the Council and the School Board to communicate throughout the budget process

should be held. **Mayor Brennan** stated that the School Board has two openings and the School Election is scheduled for April 18. He encouraged Mr. Gaskill to use his talents and become involved with the school. Mr. Gaskill added that the county has again raised there taxes and asked the Borough to implore the County to hold the line, fiscally.

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

ADJOURNMENT: On the motion of Mr. Pagano and second of Mr. Fields the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

OREN R. THOMAS IV
BOROUGH CLERK