

Merchantville, NJ

April 10, 2006

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, April 10, 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: Alloway, Fields, North, Finnegan and Zeiders

Council Absent: Pagano

Borough Clerk Thomas and Solicitor Higgins were present.

PUBLIC:

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Tom Cundey, Remington & Vernick Engineer's, provided an update of borough projects.

B.I.D. STEERING COMMITTEE: Karl Wirth, updated Borough Council on the BID/ SID program. Mr. Wirth strongly believes that the committee will benefit the town.

Isabelle Watson, 12 East Park Avenue, inquired why Borough Council invited potential developers into Merchantville. Also questioned status of the Maple/ Chapel Redevelopment Zone. **Mayor Brennan** explained the request for proposal process and where the borough was with regard to the Maple/ Chapel Zone. There are rumors circulating that the Niagara Fire Company was going to be merged with an engine company from Pennsauken. Mayor Brennan stated this option has not been discussed. Mrs. Watson continued that eminent domain is used in an abusive manner and she does not approve of borough council using it in Merchantville. Has written a letter to Senator Arlen Specter encouraging him to take action against eminent domain.

Gene Wallace, 6 Fithian Avenue, stated that in the most recent issue of the newsletter, Chapter 94-52B of the Borough Code is outlined, which prohibits parking vehicles on lawns. **Mayor Brennan** informed him that parking can only take place on an improved surface.

Elaine Paulson, 19 North Centre Street, suggested a fitness trail along the bicycle path. It would both beautify and call attention to the borough. **Mayor Brennan** asked Mr. Zeiders [Buildings & Grounds Director] to look into potential grant monies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 2/27/06 REGULAR MEETING: On the motion of Mr. North and second of Mrs. Fields, Council approved the 2/27/06 regular minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Smart Growth Grant: Mayor Brennan announced that the borough had been notified of a \$25,000 grant award.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

MR. FINNEGAN delivered the Public Works report. There has recently been an issue regarding broken

glass and trash at the Community Center basketball courts.

MR. ZEIDERS reported on the Fire Department. The new boiler and heavy duty washing machines have been installed.

MRS. FIELDS delivered the Planning Board report. The rental fees for the Community Center are low compared to neighboring towns. Delivered the Code Enforcement report.

MR. ALLOWAY reported that the CDBG application has been submitted to the county office.

MR. NORTH delivered the Court and Police reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: John Fry, Borough Administrator, delivered a written report to all council members and highlighted some points. Relocation costs have not been paid to date from Dr. Malik, owner of 606 West Maple Avenue. Mr. Higgins stated he will file the paperwork in Superior Court. The Interlocal Services Agreement with the school has been approved. Mayor Brennan asked Mr. Fry to gather information regarding replacing the windows in borough hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION – MAPLE/ CHAPEL REDEVELOPMENT AREA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Mr.

North has reviewed all submissions and was impressed with three of the four. The “bank” proposal was unimpressive. Mr. North believes that the borough should be looking for a mixed use structure utilizing both retail space and condominium units. **Mr. Zeiders** believes that council should use this opportunity to turn an unused site into something beneficial to the town. **Mayor Brennan** appointed a committee of Mr. North, Mr. Zeiders and Mr. Finnegan to inspect the submitted proposals and make a recommendation to council.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: Mr. Fry stated that Capital Budget numbers have been received from all departments except for Public Works. **Mr. Finnegan** wishes to implement a Capital Plan in the future. Mrs. Walker stated that the budget will be introduced on April 24.

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL REPORTS: On the motion of Mr. Alloway, second of Mrs. Fields and a unanimous roll call vote, Council approved the Chief Financial Officer’s Report of Cash Receipts for March 2006 and the Abbreviated Budget Status as of March 31, 2006.

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF SMART GROWTH GRANT: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Finnegan, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R06-34

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY BY AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$25,000.00 to fund the following project:

AMEND MASTER PLAN TO SMART GROWTH GUIDELINES

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville that the Borough of Merchantville hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Borough of Merchantville recognizes and accepts that the Department of Community Affairs may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Borough of Merchantville and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville resolves that Patrick J. Brennan, Mayor of the Borough of Merchantville, and Oren R. Thomas, IV, Municipal Clerk, are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

RESOLUTION – APPOINTING OEM COORDINATOR: On the motion of Mr. North and second of Mrs. Fields, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R06-35

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN,
NEW JERSEY APPOINTING MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COORDINATOR**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Merchantville recognizes the need for a Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Christine Zia, 20 West Walnut Avenue, Merchantville, New Jersey has performed the duties of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for the previous three years and possesses the necessary qualifications to continue; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that Christine Zia be reappointed for a three year term as Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough of Merchantville effective January 1, 2006.

RESOLUTION – REFUND DUPLICATE TAX PAYMENTS: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. North, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R06-36

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF
NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF DUPLICATE OR OVERPAYMENT TAX PAYMENTS
DUE TO AN APPEAL JUDGMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville that warrants be drawn to the parties listed below in the designated amount representing a duplicate or overpayments tax payment as follows:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>NAME & ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
33/5	16 E Park Ave	\$946.91
33/6	E. Park Ave	\$2,531.93
33/12	15 E. Maple Ave	\$17,276.24

All refunds to be made to the address below:

McCarter & English, LLP
Susan A. Feeney
Four Gateway Center
100 Mulberry St
Newark NJ 07101-0652

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, all parties have advised that they would like to have a refund rather than applying this payment to subsequent property taxes.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT INTRODUCTION – CHAPTER 94 [FENCES]: Tabled until April 24.

9TH ANNUAL MERCHANTVILLE CAR SHOW: On the motion of Mr. North and second of Mrs. Fields, Council unanimously approved the annual car show be held on July 8, with a rain date of July 15, pending a meeting with Chief Bauer to approve requested street closures.

F.W. GRIGG POST#68 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE IN WELLWOOD PARK (5/29/06): On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mrs. Fields, Council unanimously approved annual Memorial Day Ceremonies. Council President Finnegan will attend on behalf of Borough Council.

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

CURRENT FUND: (PER 4/10/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #11403- 11410	\$ 128,992.28
CHECK #11411- 11474	\$ 80,870.82
	<u>\$ 209,863.10</u>

DOG ACCOUNT: (PER 4/10/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECK #

\$ -
<u>\$ -</u>

GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT: (PER 4/10/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECK #1378- 1380

\$ 47,272.78
<u>\$ 47,272.78</u>

MERCHANTVILLE SEWER UTILITY: (PER 4/10/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #1568- 1569	\$ 5,644.93
	<u>\$ 5,644.93</u>

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND: (PER 4/10/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECK #

\$ -
<u>\$ -</u>

RECREATION COMMISSION: (PER 4/10/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #2588- 2590	\$ 1,151.34
CHECK #2591- 2599	\$ 3,238.32
	<u>\$ 4,389.66</u>

TRUST ACCOUNT - OTHER FUNDS: (PER 4/10/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #1056- 1057	\$ 393.31
CHECK #1058- 1059	\$ 356.25
	<u>\$ 749.56</u>

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: (PER 4/10/06 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECK #

	\$	-
TOTAL:	\$	267,920.03

EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT: (SIGNED JOHN N. ALLOWAY)
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING
R06-37

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.

PRIVATE SESSION: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Zeiders the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

OREN R. THOMAS IV
BOROUGH CLERK