

Merchantville, NJ

January 12, 2004

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, January 12, 2004. 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: Madden, North, Pagano, Finnegan and Zeiders (seated at 7:31)

Council Absent: Alloway

Borough Clerk Walker and Administrative Assistant Thomas were present. Paul Gilligan was present for Solicitor Higgins.

PUBLIC:

Gail Ford, 135 North Centre Street, asked about the Centre Street redevelopment area and the PNC parking lot. **Mayor Brennan** responded that the Borough is working on a plan to better utilize the open space. The Camden County Improvement Authority will do a determination of need and redevelopment study. With regard to the status of 19/21 South Centre Street, the Mayor indicated that Remington & Vernick is doing a determination of need and redevelopment study. The liquor license transfer resolution was done on December 29, 2004, to JVS Inc. of Moorestown, NJ. The two salary ordinances published in the paper were for 2003 and 2004 police salaries. Neither includes a salary amount for the Chief. **Mayor Brennan** and **Mr. North** denied that the Borough is researching the possibility of merging some police functions with Pennsauken Township.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Chris Fazio, Remington & Vernick Engineers, provided an update of Borough projects. The Redevelopment Study for 19/21 South Centre should be completed within the week. The Borough needs to establish guidelines for the use of the flagpoles. The electric pole in the middle of the Chestnut Station parking lot must be removed. **Mr. North** asked what size banner the flagpoles are designed for. **Mayor Brennan** stated that the Borough couldn't get New Jersey Transit to clean the drainage ditch along Holly and Glenwood Avenues. **Mr. Finnegan** has spoken with several residents and a meeting is scheduled for the end of January with New Jersey Transit and Larry Lewis of Assemblyman Connors office. The Maintenance Bond from the Alexander Avenue project has been pulled. Repairs will begin once the weather permits. **Mayor Brennan** commented on the need to determine what caused the problem.

CORRESPONDENCE:

BOWMAN BUDGET SEMINARS: Let Mrs. Walker know if interested in attending either of the budget seminars offered this month.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

MRS. MADDEN will be conducting the department meetings for **Mr. Zeiders**. Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of the month and lunch will be provided. There have been more complaints from Mrs. Kelly regarding the Schanz' woodburning stove. Since the Borough cannot act, it was suggested that she retain a lawyer and take legal action. **Mayor Brennan** asked **Mrs. Madden** to continue as NPP liaison.

MR. ZEIDERS will arrange to have someone from the Fire Department attend the department meetings. Estimates for the Fire House ventilation system are high. A temporary, full-time, replacement is being sought for Kevin Patti during his military service. Resident Thomas Shemeley, previously expressed concern regarding adequate coverage by the Fire Company. He will be meeting with Mr. Zeiders tomorrow evening.

MR. PAGANO reported that the swearing in of new officers would be at 7:30 PM at the MEMS ceremony. The officers will be Edward Abrams, Chief; Christine Zia, Lieutenant; Gary Pilcher, Assistant Chief. The Public Events Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the upcoming year's events. The Recreation Commission is experiencing funding problems because the Beechwood property is no longer tax exempt and will be returning to the tax rolls this year. They provided \$6,000 a year to the Recreation Commission. Money will have to be allocated in the budget to make up for the lost revenues.

MR. FINNEGAN delivered the MEMS report. All squad members took training courses including bloodborne pathogens. The squad has four interns and their 2003 response rate was 54%. The coin toss raised \$1,400.00. Mr. Finnegan is getting acquainted with the Public Works Department. Water in the streets is a problem. Mr. Higgins will look into an ordinance requiring sump pumps to divert into sewers as a matter of public safety. The status of apartment trash pick-up was discussed.

Mayor Brennan will review the Planning Board minutes to see what was agreed to for the Chestnut Station Apartments. The Maplevue Apartments will receive reimbursement for trash pick-up only if they recycle. **Mrs. Madden** asked Mr. Finnegan to look at the dangerous tree at the Church Road bridge.

MR. NORTH stated that the Glenwood Avenue file would be turned over to **Mr. Finnegan**. He delivered the Police report for 2003. He also commented that the Court is operating very efficiently. Fred Koehler drafted a form to request use of the banner poles. Council must review the prior to approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: **Mayor Brennan** stated that the minutes would be reviewed to determine appointment dates for the Recreation Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL REPORTS: On the motion of Mrs. Madden, second of Mr. Finnegan and a unanimous roll call vote, the Chief Financial Officer's Report of Cash Receipts for December 2003 and the Abbreviated Budget Summary as of December 31, 2003 were approved.

RESOLUTION – SALE OF POLICE VEHICLE ON E-BAY: On the motion of Mr. North and second of Mr. Zeiders, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R04-17

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF 1997 FORD EXPLORER ON AN ONLINE AUCTION WEBSITE

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville has determined that the 1997 Ford Explorer, VIN# 1FMDU34E9VUC01744, is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville advertised the sale of the Ford Explorer on October 31, 2003 and received one bid in the amount of \$1,075.00; and

WHEREAS, the estimated fair market value of the vehicle is greater than \$1,075.00 but less than the bid threshold of \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey permits the sale of surplus property through the use of online auction services provided the estimated fair market value of the property is less than the bid threshold and provided the municipality has advertised the property for public sale; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services has approved this sale;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to post an offer to sell the 1997 Ford Explorer on an auction website as follows:

Online Auction:	eBay
Length of Auction:	Opening date of auction to be on January 27, 2004 and will remain open for 10 days
Account:	Personal eBay account of Councilor Robert Zeiders: zeidersz@worldnet.att.net
Auction Fees:	To be paid with personal credit card of Councilor Robert Zeiders, who will be reimbursed for expenditures on behalf of the Borough of Merchantville upon presentation of supporting documentation.
Method of Payment:	20% down payment will be due within 3 days of bid award. Balance to be paid within 14 days of bid award. Payment to be by certified check or money order.
Shipping:	Buyer is responsible for all shipping arrangements and costs.
Possession:	Possession must be taken within 21 days of bid award.
Other terms:	Sale is an "as is/where is" sale
Minimum bid:	\$2,500.00

RESOLUTION – HIP: On the motion of Mrs. Madden and second of Mr. North, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R04-18

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING RECIPIENTS FOR THE CAMDEN COUNTY HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING CAMDEN COUNTY DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AS ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT

WHEREAS the Merchantville Housing Rehabilitation Agency, hereinafter referred to as "Agency" has received and reviewed applications by certain homeowners specified herein for rehabilitation of their dwellings under the Camden County Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS said Agency has determined that said homeowners are eligible under the guidelines of said program; and

WHEREAS the County of Camden has been authorized by Cooperation Agreements between the County and the various municipalities to administer the Housing Rehabilitation Program from funds received under Community Development Block Grant Program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

(1) That the following homeowners are hereby determined eligible for assistance under the Camden County Home Improvement Program:

1. 20-D-078

(2) That the Camden County Division of Community Development is hereby authorized to process the aforementioned homeowner's application for rehabilitation of their dwellings as specified herein.

(3) That the Camden County Division of Community Development is further authorized to do the following:

a) Execute any and all documents and perform all administrative functions which may be required or desired in order to carry out the terms and conditions of the Community Development Block Grant Program.

b) Make payments to the homeowners and contractors in amounts determined by the County for services performed in rehabilitating the dwellings specified herein.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: On the motion of Mrs. Madden, second of Mr. Finnegan and a unanimous roll call vote, the following bills were approved for payment:

CURRENT FUND: (PER 1/12/04 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #9116- 9164	\$ 265,706.53
CHECK #9165- 9251	\$ 129,986.10
	<u>\$ 395,692.63</u>

DOG ACCOUNT: (PER 1/12/04 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECK #735- 736

\$ 210.00
<u>\$ 210.00</u>

GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT: (PER 1/12/04 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECK #

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

MERCHANTVILLE SEWER UTILITY: (PER 1/12/04 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #1467- 1469	\$ 6,483.49
CHECK #1470- 1472	\$ 16,052.10
	<u>\$ 22,535.59</u>

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND: (PER 1/12/04 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECK #

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

RECREATION COMMISSION: (PER 1/12/04 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #2280- 2283	\$ 1,105.41
CHECK #2284- 2296	\$ 2,665.43
	<u>\$ 3,770.84</u>

TRUST ACCOUNT - OTHER FUNDS: (PER 1/12/04 CHECK REGISTER)

CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #918- 920	\$ 5,589.51
CHECK #921- 926	\$ 3,111.58
	<u>\$ 8,701.09</u>
<u>UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: (PER 1/12/04 CHECK REGISTER)</u>	
CHECK #	\$ -
	<u>\$ -</u>
	<u>TOTAL: \$ 430,910.15</u>

**EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT: (SIGNED AGNES A. MADDEN)
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING**

R03-19

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:

BUDGET WORK SESSIONS: Sessions will be held on January 26, February 9 and February 23 immediately following the Council meetings. Budget worksheets will be available by Saturday. This will be a difficult budget year with a PFRS payment due along with dump and insurance increases. The Recreation Commission must hold the line as much as possible. There will also be a need to expand office space to meet the changing needs of the administrative offices. The PILOT payment from the Senior Housing will be allocated as \$11,000 to the School and \$8,000 to the Borough. The Borough is losing the Beechwood PILOT payments. **Mr. Finnegan** asked about the status of Main Street monies. **Mayor Brennan** responded that there is no Main Street money. Instead, he anticipates creation of a Business Improvement District to promote local businesses.

TAX OFFICE: Barbara Adams has resigned as Deputy Tax Collector. The Mayor and Mrs. Walker are interviewing replacements.

PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT: The union must return the contract to the Borough. Mr. Higgins will email it to everyone once the union has approved the contract.

BANNER POLES: **Mayor Brennan** will get JIF's blessing on our proposed guidelines. **Mr. North** will review the guidelines with JIF at Wednesday's Safety meeting.

PUBLIC II:

Gail Ford asked if the Beechwood properties are back on the Borough's tax rolls. The Mayor confirmed they are no longer tax-exempt. The Police Chief's salary was not included in the salary ordinance because the position is not included in the Police contract. The amount will be determined during the budget process.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, on the motion of Mrs. Madden and second of Mr. Finnegan the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

SUSAN B. WALKER
BOROUGH CLERK