

Merchantville, NJ

February 12, 2007

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, February 12, 2007. Mayor Frank M. North 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, Waldron, Zeiders and Finnegan

Borough Clerk Thomas and Solicitor Higgins were present.

SWEARING IN NEW COUNCIL PERSON:

Councilman Steven J. Volkert was sworn in by **Mayor North**.

PUBLIC:

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Thomas Cundey, Remington & Vernick Engineers, provided a written report of Borough projects.

Bob Disch, 23 East Chestnut Avenue, had previously requested posting Council agendas on the bulletin board behind Borough Hall. Spoke with Mr. Thomas [Municipal Clerk] on Friday about posting the agenda on the municipal website. **Mayor North** stated that Council agendas will be posted on the website.

Marvin Gaskill, 102 East Chestnut Avenue, stated that budget preparation sessions are difficult for him to follow without proper paperwork and would like the borough to provide him with a copy of the budget preparation packet. Mayor North responded that the Borough has a new projector and believes that will enable attendees to follow along without issue.

Kris Sodano, MBPA, stated that HBS Consultants are being retained to do a new borough business pamphlet. They will produce 10,000 copies. Please consider, during budget sessions, to include monies for consultant's fees along with the purchase of informational pages. Pages are \$395 each; the consultant fee is \$2,000. Mrs. Sodano expects the Borough to purchase seven pages.

Roy Adair, Niagara Fire Company, would like the Fire Company to host a two day wine and beer garden during the Arts Fair. An area approximately 30' X 50' will be sealed off with a snow fence and a guard will be posted at the entrance. **Mr. Higgins** stated that hours of operation need to be outlined prior to submission of any application.

Gail Ford, 135 North Centre Street, thanked Mayor North for supplying [Municipal Assessor] John Dymond to the Tax Payers League for a question and answer session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On the motion of Mr. Finnegan and second of Mr. Alloway, Council unanimously approved (Volkert abstain) the 12/26/06 regular and 1/2/07 reorganization meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

MR. ALLOWAY met with all Public Safety department heads. Delivered the Police report for the month of January. Rosemary Kelly is pursuing a Court Administrator's Certification.

MRS. FIELDS stated that the Planning Board is hosting meetings with the Ragan Group with regards to the Master Plan. Delivered the Code Enforcement report. Dawn Schmidt reported that the Rec Center received \$26,000 in rentals for 2006. Reported on the MEMS for 2006. Three of four members will be returning to the Board of Health in 2007.

MR. VOLKERT thanked **Mayor North** and **Councilman Alloway** for meeting with the Fire Company. Delivered the Fire Department report for the month of January. Kevin Patti has returned from the Middle East and reported to work on January 23.

MR. WALDRON attended the recent Public Events meeting in which they began outlining a calendar of events for 2007. They are looking to add lighting to the downtown area. Delivered the Shade Tree Commission report. Delivered the Historic Preservation Commission report. The H.P.C. has requested participation in certain bid preparations. **Mr. Higgins** responded that an entity cannot take part in preparing a bid when they might have to make a decision on a future application based on the award of that bid.

MR. ZEIDERS informed Council that the School Board now has 3 empty seats for the upcoming election.

MR. FINNEGAN stated that the Public Works Department is prepared for snow season.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

John Fry, Borough Administrator, provided Council with a written report and outlined a few of the points. John Dymond will be hosting an open meeting with Borough residents.

OLD BUSINESS:

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mrs. Fields, Council unanimously approved the following appointments:

PLANNING BOARD: Reappointed the following: Paul Stridick (expiring 12/31/10) and Steven Selverian (expiring 12/31/10) as regular members, and Nicholas DiMatteo (expiring 12/31/08) as an alternate.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Joan Brennan (expiring 12/31/09) as a regular member.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: Reappointed Allen McSparron (expiring 12/31/10) as a regular member.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION: Joanne Steer (expiring 12/31/09) as a regular member.

BOROUGH HISTORIAN: Maureen McLoone as an annual appointment.

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL REPORTS: On the motion of Mr. Zeiders, second of Mr. Alloway and a unanimous roll call vote, Council approved the Chief Financial Officer's Report of Cash Receipts for

January 2007 and the Abbreviated Budget Status through January 31, 2007.

RESOLUTION – ESTABLISH PRELIMINARY COSTS FOR COMMUNITY CENTER RENOVATION

PLAN: Mr. Zeiders gave some background information on this project, stating it was a long term commitment by Council of at least five years. On the motion of Mr. Zeiders, second of Mr. Waldron and a unanimous roll call vote, Council approved the following resolution:

R07-30

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING PRELIMINARY COSTS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE MERCHANTVILLE COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville hereby acknowledges the requirement of preliminary costs to determine the scope and cost of proposed renovations to the Merchantville Community/Senior Center and that the amount to be charged is for the purpose for which bonds may be issued under Chapter 2 of Title 40A;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the amount appropriated for preliminary costs shall not exceed \$25,000.00 and the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set up a reserve for preliminary expenses out of the Capital Improvement Fund of the General Capital Fund.

RESOLUTION – APPROVE THIRD PARTY INSPECTIONS CONTRACT (FIRE, ELECTRIC, PLUMBING): On the motion of Mr. Zeiders and second of Mrs. Fields, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R07-31

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR ELECTRICAL, FIRE AND PLUMBING SERVICES WITH EIC INSPECTION AGENCY CORP.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville wish to enter an electrical, fire and plumbing inspection agreement with EIC inspection Agency Corp., 3705-3707 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, New Jersey, to perform such inspections as shall be assigned to it in accordance with the terms of the agreement; and

WHEREAS, EIC Corp. is an inspection authority approved by the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the term of this agreement shall be three years commencing on the 6th day of February 2007 and expiring on the 6th day of February 2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville enter into an agreement with EIC Corp., for electrical, fire and plumbing inspection services.

RESOLUTION – EXTEND OFFICE BASICS CONTRACT FOR 6 MONTHS (PAPER & ENVELOPES):

On the motion of Mr. Zeiders and second of Mr. Alloway, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R07-32

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SIX MONTH OPTION CONTRACT WITH OFFICE BASICS, INC. FOR BID A-36, FOR PRICE ONLY FOR THE PROVISION OF COPY AND COMPUTER PAPER AND ENVELOPES UNDER THE CAMDEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEMS, SYSTEM IDENTIFIER #57-CCCPS FOR A TERM COMMENCING MARCH 1, 2007 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2007

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted July 20, 2006, the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders awarded the low bid of Office Basics, 22 Creek Circle, Boothwyn, PA 19061, for A-36, Copy and Computer Paper and Envelopes for Camden County and for the Camden County Cooperative Pricing System, Section A, Item Number 1, 2, 3 & 4; Section B, Item Number 1; Section D, Item Number 1 and Section E, Item Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 for the term September 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007; and

WHEREAS, said bid specifications provided for an additional six months term at same unit prices; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds that Office Basics has performed the services required under Bid A-36 in an effective and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to exercise the second one-year extension commencing March 1, 2007 and terminating August 31, 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville that the proper officials be and are hereby authorized to extend the contract with Office Basics, 22 Creek Circle, Boothwyn, PA pursuant to the terms and conditions of this bid for a period of one-year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for this purpose for the Borough of Merchantville shall not exceed the maximum line items for office supplies in the Borough's 2007 temporary and/or permanent budget and shall be encumbered prior to incurring the obligation pursuant to NJAC 5:30-5.3(b)(2)

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN STATE CROSS ACCEPTANCE AND AMENDMENTS TO THE PRELIMINARY STATE PLAN MAPS: On the motion of Mrs. Fields and second of Mr. Volkert, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R07-33

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE IN THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN CROSS-ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act of 1985 (N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 et seq.) created a State Planning Commission and an Office of Smart Growth for the purpose of establishing a cooperative planning process that involves the full participation of state, county and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act states that New Jersey needs integrated and coordinated planning in order to conserve its natural resources, to revitalize its urban centers, to provide affordable housing and adequate public facilities at a reasonable cost, to promote equal social and economic opportunity for New Jersey's citizens, and to prevent sprawl and promote the suitable use of land; and

WHEREAS, the primary duty and responsibility of the State Planning Commission under the State Planning Act is the preparation of a "State Development and Redevelopment Plan" (or State Plan); and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act also provides that the State's municipalities are to have an essential role in the development of the State Plan through their participation in the Cross-Acceptance process to be conducted under the Act; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Commission released a Preliminary State Plan and Map on April 28, 2004, thus beginning the Cross-Acceptance process; and

WHEREAS, the Cross-Acceptance process is the primary vehicle under the Act for promoting vertical coordination and integration of state, county and local plans by affording county and municipal governments a full and open opportunity to be involved in reconciling inconsistencies between state and local policies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Camden County has concluded that it is appropriate, necessary and in the County's interest to fully participate in the development of the State Plan through the full and active participation of the County government, including its Planning Board, in

the Cross-Acceptance map comparison phase and to amend their local Cross-Acceptance Reports and county Negotiation Reports; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Commission unilaterally amended the Preliminary State Planning Map without proper notice and procedure on July 19, 2006 and again on August 1, 2006 and compelled all municipalities and counties to re-open the Cross-Acceptance map comparison phase and to amend their local Cross-Acceptance Reports and county Negotiation Reports; and

WHEREAS, the Camden County Planning Board has agreed, under protest, to provide Camden County municipalities with information about the Commission's amendments to the Preliminary State Plan Map and its staff's recommendations as to the applicability of the Commission's proposed map amendments, and to amend its County Negotiation Report to reflect these map amendments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville has concluded that it is necessary and in the municipal interest to provide comment on these map amendments and to fully participate in the development of the State Plan through the full and active participation of the Municipal government, including in particular its Planning Board, in the Cross-Acceptance process.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION – AMEND CHAPTER 94, ZONING: On the motion of Mr. Zeiders and second of Mr. Alloway, Council unanimously introduced the following ordinance:

07-03

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 94, ZONING, OF THE CODE OF
THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE**

The public hearing will be held on February 26.

TEMPORARY ABC LICENSE – NIAGARA FIRE COMPANY: On the motion of Mr. Zeiders and second of Mr. Volkert, Council unanimously approved the applications for Temporary ABC Licenses, submitted by Niagara Fire Company. The dates are identical to the Annual Arts Fair, May 19 and 20th.

APPROVAL OF FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICATION – ANTHONY ADAIR: on the motion of Mr. Volkert and second of Mr. Alloway, Council unanimously approved Anthony Adair admission into the Fire Department.

COMMUNITY CENTER – SHIP'S WHEEL: Mayor North informed Council that Merchantville Country Club has requested that the Ship's Wheel, which is currently housed at the Community Center, be returned to the County Club. Maureen McLoone, Merchantville Historical Society, gave background information on the wheel. The ship it came from was disassembled and the wheel was donated to Merchantville Country Club. It was temporarily given to the Borough until the Country Club was able to display it. Mr. Volkert stated that the wheel has been at the Community Center for almost 50 years and it was a strange request to suddenly ask for it back. Mr. Alloway added that the wall must be patched and repainted when the wheel is removed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Zeiders, Council unanimously approved the following bills for payment:

CURRENT FUND: (PER 2/12/07 CHECK REGISTER)
CHECKS DELIVERED

CHECK #12245- 12257	\$ 139,970.11
CHECK #12258- 12340	\$ 1,577,089.83
	<u>\$ 1,717,059.94</u>
<u>DOG ACCOUNT: (PER 2/12/07 CHECK REGISTER)</u>	
CHECK #760	\$ 100.20
	<u>\$ 100.20</u>
<u>GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT: (PER 2/12/07 CHECK REGISTER)</u>	
CHECK #1400- 1402	\$ 4,195.18
	<u>\$ 4,195.18</u>
<u>MERCHANTVILLE SEWER UTILITY: (PER 2/12/07 CHECK REGISTER)</u>	
CHECKS DELIVERED	
CHECK #1595- 1596	\$ 1,410.04
CHECK #1597- 1598	\$ 79,558.13
	<u>\$ 80,968.17</u>
<u>PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND: (PER 2/12/07 CHECK REGISTER)</u>	
CHECK #	\$ -
	<u>\$ -</u>
<u>RECREATION COMMISSION: (PER 2/12/07 CHECK REGISTER)</u>	
CHECKS DELIVERED	
CHECK #2704- 2702	\$ 745.00
CHECK #2703- 2709	\$ 3,206.47
	<u>\$ 3,951.47</u>
<u>TRUST ACCOUNT - OTHER FUNDS: (PER 2/12/07 CHECK REGISTER)</u>	
CHECKS DELIVERED	
CHECK #1099- 1100	\$ 496.84
CHECK #1101- 1104	\$ 3,809.00
	<u>\$ 4,305.84</u>
<u>UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: (PER 2/12/07 CHECK REGISTER)</u>	
CHECK #	\$ -
	<u>\$ -</u>
	<u>TOTAL: \$ 1,810,580.80</u>

EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT: (SIGNED ROBERT H. ZEIDERS)
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING
R07-34

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:

BANS: Mrs. Walker issued a memo to Mayor and Council stating the Bond Anticipation Notes issued on August 4, 2006. The BANS were rolled over on February 2, 2007 for a six month period with an interest rate of 3.80%.

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 Mrs. Fields the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

OREN R. THOMAS IV
BOROUGH CLERK