

Merchantville, NJ

February 26, 2007

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, February 26, 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, Volkert, Waldron, Zeiders and Finnegan

Borough Clerk Thomas and Solicitor Higgins were present.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - CHAPTER 94, ZONING: Mayor North opened the public hearing on 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**

There being no public comment, the hearing was closed.

PUBLIC:

Gail Ford, 135 North Centre Street, inquired if the tax assessor was still hosting a meeting for borough residents. Ms. Ford continued that she believes the business pamphlet/ booklet should be self-sufficient and fund itself.

Marvin Gaskill, 102 East Chestnut Avenue, addressed some proposed budget expenses. Municipal employees taking courses and therefore earning higher pay are an issue. Read a statement regarding the size of the Police force relative to the borough's population and presented an abbreviated crime report to substantiate his position.

Christina Wintters, 202 Glenwood Avenue, thanked the Public Works Department for their work on Glenwood Avenue recently. Asked about progress with New Jersey Transit with regards to the fence guarding the ditch behind the train tracks on Glenwood Avenue. Has New Jersey Transit scheduled any cleanings?

Mark Brunton, 28 South Cove Road, asked about the website line expenditure in the 2007 budget proposal. **Mayor North** responded that Shane Brennan has paid for hosting of the website out of his own pocket; Council is looking into purchasing the website and paying a host to run the site.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE ADOPTION – AMEND CHAPTER 94, ZONING: On the motion of Mrs. Fields, second of Mr. Zeiders and a unanimous roll call vote, Council adopted 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****RESOLUTION – APPOINT WESTFIELD ARCHITECTS (COMMUNITY CENTER PRESERVATION**

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

R07-35**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY SELECTING WESTFIELD ARCHITECTS & PRESERVATION CONSULTANTS TO PREPARE PRESERVATION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY/ SENIOR CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville desires to contract with Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants, Haddon Heights, NJ for the preparation of a preservation plan for the Merchantville Community/ Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified as to the availability of funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville does hereby select Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants to provide the services as detailed in their September 20, 2006 proposal letter in an amount not to exceed \$19,775.00.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Finnegan, Council confirmed the following mayoral appointments:

BOARD OF HEALTH: GEORGE HENDERSON (3 year term)

PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE: ROBERT DISCH (2 year term)

DEPUTY CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL: DANIEL BECKETT (annual)

DEPUTY ZONING OFFICER: FREDERICK J.F. KOEHLER (annual)

DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE & BUILDING INSPECTION: PATRICIA A. FIELDS (annual)

ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: STEVEN J. VOLKERT (annual)

MAPLE/ CHAPEL REDEVELOPMENT ZONE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Mayor North appointed Mrs. Fields (Council liaison to the Planning Board) and John Alloway (Council President) to a committee to examine the submittals for the Maple/ Chapel redevelopment zone.

NEW BUSINESS:

MERCHANTVILLE CAR SHOW – STREET CLOSURES: Council received a request from the Car Show regarding street closures for the 10th Annual Car Show. **Mr. Alloway** will review request with Chief Bauer for future action by Council.

PROCLAMATION – READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY: Mayor North read the following proclamation aloud:

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Borough of Merchantville stand firmly committed to the promoting of reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic success, their preparation for America's jobs of the future, and their ability to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education of our youth, grounded in the principal that educational investment is the key to the community's well-being and long term quality of life; and

WHEREAS, NEA's Read Across America, a national celebration of reading, will be conducted on March 2, 2007, which would have been the 103rd birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss; and

WHEREAS, Read Across America-NJ is being conducted statewide by the New Jersey Education Association, in partnership with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Library Association, Saturn-UAW, and their local affiliates across the state to promote reading and adult involvement in the education of our community's students:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville calls on the citizens of Merchantville to assure that every child is in a safe place reading together with a caring adult on March 2, 2007;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body enthusiastically endorses NEA's Read Across America and Read Across America-NJ, and recommits our community to engage in programs and activities to make America's children the best readers in the world.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION – SALARIES & WAGES 2007: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Volkert, Council unanimously introduced the following ordinance:

07-04

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ENTITLED "SALARIES & COMPENSATION"

The public hearing will be held on March 12.

DISCUSSION – COMPUTER FOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS: Mayor North stated his desire that a computer be placed in Council chambers for use by Mayor and Council. Mr. Fry will obtain current pricing through Dell Inc. (State Contract Vendor).

PAYMENT OF PETTY CASH BILLS:

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

R07-36

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 \$650.00 and finds same to be correct:

CHECKS DELIVERED TO BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE CURRENT FUND:

Police Health Petty Cash Fund (#07-32- 07-48)	\$450.00
Borough Clerk Health Petty Cash (07-15 – 07-22)	<u>200.00</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$650.00</u>

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ragan Design Group: Currently conducting a Master Plan review and update. Special Planning Board

meetings will be held at the Community Center on February 27, March 27, April 24 with a presentation being made on May 22.

Philadelphia Magazine: Mayor North noted that in the current issue of Philadelphia Magazine an article on up-and-coming communities in the South Jersey region listed Merchantville as one of four such towns. Current and past Council's should be commended for their hard work in making such a statement possible.

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