

Merchantville, NJ

October 25, 2004

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, October 25, 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: Alloway, North, Pagano, Zeiders and Finnegan

Council Absent: Madden

Solicitor Higgins and Borough Clerk Thomas were present.

PUBLIC: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 2/9/2004 REGULAR AND 2/23/2004 REGULAR & PRIVATE: On the motion of Mr. North and second of Mr. Pagano, Council approved the 2/9/2004 regular and 2/23/04 regular and private session minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

NJ STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Mayor Brennan invited Council members to attend the Annual League Conference in Atlantic City from November 16- 18.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION – WAIVING INTEREST ON SEWER CHARGES: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Finnegan, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R04-121

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY WAIVING INTEREST ON SEWER CHARGES

WHEREAS, Block 34 Lot 11 was erroneously granted a senior citizen deduction for both sewer units on the property; and

WHEREAS, the adjustment made on September 22, 2004 to correct the second half bill for 2003 by adding \$41.00 created a balance due for 2003; and

WHEREAS, the owner upon being notified of the additional charges paid the principle in full on October 14, 2004;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Merchantville that the Tax and Utility collector is authorized to waive interest in the amount of \$1.30 that had accrued as of October 14, 2004 on the additional charge applied to 2003.

RESOLUTION – 2003 NEW JERSEY SAVER REBATE REFUND: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Finnegan, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R04-122

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REFUND OF 2003 NJ SAVER REBATE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the proper officials be and hereby authorized to refund the New Jersey Homestead Rebate as follows:

Block 28, Lot 20	5 Russell Ave	\$600.00
Block 45, Lot 4	215 St. James	\$800.00
Block 45, Lot 2	209 ST James	\$ 98.66

DISCUSSION – NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: MOBILE PHONES: Mr. North explained that when the public contacted the police after business hours their calls were routed through County dispatch. He would like to explore the option of equipping the police on late-night shifts with mobile phones, which would enable them to be contacted directly by members of the Merchantville Neighborhood Watch. This would provide immediate access to on-duty officers during the hours that the Borough was not in business. Chief Ward has expressed interest in implementing this program. **Mayor Brennan** inquired to the possibility of coordination through the County.

DISCUSSION – BICYCLE THEFT: Mr. North will instruct the Police Department to begin stopping all youths in town who are not wearing protective helmets. **Mayor Brennan** agreed that youths coming into the Borough to steal bicycles would not be bringing helmets with them. Mr. Higgins stated that failure to wear helmet as stated in the Borough Code was indeed just cause in stopping bicyclists.

DEFIBRILLATORS: Mr. North updated Council on the status of purchasing defibrillators for the Police vehicles. Quotes were solicited as low as \$1,600. A Doctor must sponsor the Borough in order to purchase. An eight-hour training course must be completed before an officer may use the machine. **Mayor Brennan** suggested that Tami Barnett be contacted and updated of the situation.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – PETTY CASH: On the motion of Mr. Finnegan and second of Mr. Pagano, Council unanimously approved the following bills for payment:

R04-123

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 \$335.00 and finds same to be correct:

CHECKS DELIVERED TO BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE CURRENT FUND:

Borough Clerk Health Co-Pay Petty Cash Fund (#04-108 – 04-113)	\$190.00
Police Health Petty Cash Fund (#4-188 – 04-195)	\$145.00
TOTAL:	<u>\$335.00</u>

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: **Mayor Brennan** announced that Mr. Fry was drafting a letter, which would be forwarded to approximately six developer's regarding the Town Center East

Redevelopment Zone. The Borough currently has a proposal that includes a \$30 million development with approximately \$3 million in land acquisition. The majority of the land belongs to the Borough and would be donated to the developer to complete the project.

PRIVATE SESSION: On the motion of Mr. Zeiders and second of Mr. Finnegan, Council adjourned to a private session to discuss matters of litigation and personnel. The minutes of this meeting will be made public when the matters are resolved.

PUBLIC: When Council reconvened, Mayor Brennan reopened the Public portion of the meeting.

Frank White, 20 West Chestnut Avenue, stated that several residents of Chestnut Station would need transportation to the polls on Election Day. **Mayor Brennan** announced that a jitney would be made available through Conifer Reality for any and all voters wishing to utilize the service.

PRIVATE SESSION: On the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Pagano, Council adjourned to a private session to discuss matters of litigation and personnel. The minutes of this meeting will be made public when the matters are resolved.

PUBLIC:

RESOLUTION – NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH BELGIN ZAFIS: When Council reconvened, on the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. Pagano, Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

R04-124

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE OF BLOCK 29, LOT 12 AND 10 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 19/21 SOUTH CENTRE STREET AND 7 EAST PARK AVENUE BY THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE

WHEREAS, the Borough of Merchantville (hereinafter "Merchantville") is a municipal entity organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey and located in Camden County; and

WHEREAS, Belgin Zafis (hereafter "Zafis") is the owner of real property more fully described as Block 29, Lot 12 and 10 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Merchantville, more commonly known as 19/21 South Centre Street and 7 East Park Avenue (the "property"); and

WHEREAS, Merchantville wishes to purchase the property from Zafis for the purposes of the economic redevelopment of the property; as well as the termination of litigations brought by Zafis and Merchantville against each other; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville to authorize the Patrick J. Brennan, Mayor of the Borough of Merchantville, to negotiate the appropriate terms of the Agreement of Sale for the purchase of the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough of Merchantville, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that Patrick J. Brennan, Mayor of the Borough of Merchantville, be and hereby is authorized to negotiate the appropriate terms of the Agreement of Sale for the purchase of certain property from Belgin Zafis, more fully described as Block 29, Lot 12 and 10 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Merchantville, more commonly known as 19/21 South Centre Street and 7 East Park Avenue.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION – PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY: On the motion of Mr.

Alloway and second of Mr. Pagano, Council unanimously introduced the following ordinance:

04-21**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF BLOCK 29, LOT 12 AND 10 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 19/21 SOUTH CENTRE STREET AND 7 EAST PARK AVENUE BY THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT SAID PURCHASE**

The public hearing will be held on November 8.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, on the motion of Mr. Alloway and second of Mr. North the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

OREN R. THOMAS IV
BOROUGH CLERK