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HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

**November 12, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of November 12, 2019 was included in a meeting notice sent to the Burlington County Times and advertised in said newspaper on July 14, 2019, respectively posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building on July 11, 2019 and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - by Mayor Masciocchi at 7:00 P. M.
2. **FLAG SALUTE**
3. **ROLL CALL** – present were Mayor Masciocchi, Deputy Mayor Gilmore, Committeeman Costa, Committeewoman Schneider and Committeeman Clauss. Also present were Township Administrator/Clerk Kosko and Attorney Jose Calves.
4. **MINUTES**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2019**

Motion: Committeeman Costa. Second: Committeeman Clauss. All yes.
 - B. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2019**

Motion: Committeewoman Schneider. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.
5. **REPORTS**
 - A. **Tax Collector** – October 2019
 - B. **Code Enforcement** – October 2019
 - C. **Fire Official** – October 2019
 - D. **Construction** – October 2019
 - E. **Emergency Services Reports** - October 2019

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeewoman Schneider. All yes.

**6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Agenda items only
(Comments are limited to 5 minutes)**

Anna Evans, 63 Parry Drive – asked about Ordinance 2019-11. She wanted to know if the ordinance was final and Mayor Masciocchi said that was what we would find out tonight. Mrs. Evans asked what the tax abatement was for this. Ms. Kosko stated that those specific terms have not been finalized but we need to get this on the agenda for introduction. The goal is to get to that point before the next meeting. Mrs. Evans then asked about Resolution 2019-163-11; she said this amendment to the employee's handbook sounds like it is a new section and wondered if that is correct. Ms. Kosko said it is not a new section but is a new portion of that section. Mrs. Evans asked if it pertained to political activities and Ms. Kosko answered in the negative. Mrs. Evans asked for the wording of it after the meeting. Mrs. Evans questioned Resolution 2019-164-11. She said it involves the Open Public Records Act and said it is working fine to her and wonders why it is being reviewed. Mayor Masciocchi said it came from Trenton. He said there is a movement for all the municipalities to support streamlining that process. The township was asked to participate. The procedures may change but the access will not.

Luis Lopez, 98 Levis Drive, Mt. Holly – had questions about Resolutions 2019-163-11 and 2019-161-11. Ms. Kosko told him that the first resolution is a request for the governing body to consider adding to workplace policies a section two for electronic device and recording within closed session meetings as well as between and among employees and officials. Basically it is with regard to surreptitious recording activities. Ms. Kosko addressed the second question and said that the Joint Land Use Board would conduct an investigation on specific parcels of land along Route 38, Fostertown and Mt. Laurel Roads to see if those are areas in need of redevelopment. Mr. Lopez asked what would need to be done to bring back a police department to Hainesport. Mayor Masciocchi told him there would need to be an ordinance directing the township to bring back the police. It would be extremely costly to do this. Ms. Kosko said there is a sub-station for the State Police here in the building.

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

- A. Public Hearing on US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Cleanup Grant Application for the Property Formerly Operated by Paul's Tank Cleaning Service located at Block 96 Lot 1.07.

Ms. Kosko said the township is applying for a cleanup grant as well as a community wide assessment grant. We applied for this last year and were not accepted. This year the governing body has authorized application for an EPA Brownfield Cleanup grant. She read the public notice to give an idea of what the grant is. Ms. Kosko stated that the cleanup alternatives document would be available for review in the Clerk's office for the next 10 days and if anyone has any questions, there is also a form to write down any questions and a written response will be provided. Ms. Kosko requested members with public comments to sign in on the sheet at the table.

There were no public comments.

7. ORDINANCES

- A. **ORDINANCE 2019-10** – To Provide for and Determine the Rate of Compensation of Officials and Employees of the Township of Hainesport (**First Reading and Introduction**) (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption December 10, 2019**)

Motion: Committeewoman Schneider. Second: Committeeman Costa. All yes.

- B. **ORDINANCE 2019-11** – To Enter into a Financial Agreement with Hainesport Commerce Center Urban Renewal LLC (**First Reading and Introduction**) (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption December 10, 2019**)

Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeewoman Schneider. All yes.

- C. **ORDINANCE 2019-12** - Authorizing Execution of Easement Granting and Accepting Rights in Public and Private Property (**First Reading and Introduction**) (**Public Hearing and Final Adoption December 10, 2019**)

Motion: Committeewoman Schneider. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.

8. RESOLUTIONS

- A. **RESOLUTION 2019-158-11** – Authorizing Transfers of Funds During the Last Two Months of the Current Fiscal Year and the First Three Months of the Subsequent Year

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeeman Costa. All yes.

- B. **RESOLUTION 2019-159-11** – Rescinding Resolution 2018-164-12 Which Authorized the Purchase of a Command Vehicle with Emergency Equipment for Hainesport Fire Company

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeewoman Schneider. All yes.

- C. **RESOLUTION 2019-160-11** – Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement Between the County of Burlington and the Township of Hainesport for Various Services

Motion: Committeeman Costa. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.

- D. **RESOLUTION 2019-161-11** – Authorizing and Directing the Joint Land Use Board to Cause a Preliminary Investigation to be Made Pursuant to the New Jersey Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, as to Whether Certain Areas Along Route 38, Masonville-Fostertown Road, and Hainesport-Mt. Laurel Road, and Specifically Block 103.01, Lots 1, 2, 2.01, 8. 9, 10, 10.01; Block 103.02, Lots

1, 1.01, 5.01, 7, 7.01, 8, 9, 10 and 11; Block 113, Lot 4.05 Within the Township are “Areas in Need of Redevelopment” or “Areas in Need of Rehabilitation” Within the Meaning and Intendment of Said Statute

Motion: Committeeman Costa. Second: Committeeman Clauss. All yes.

- E. **RESOLUTION 2019-162-11** – Authorizing Contract for Fire Prevention Software Updates

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeewoman Schneider. All yes.

- F. **RESOLUTION 2019-163-11** – Authorizing Amendment to Hainesport Township Employee Handbook to Provide for Electronic Device and Recording Policy

Motion: Committeewoman Gilmore. Second: Committeewoman Schneider. All yes.

- G. **RESOLUTION 2019-164-11** – Calling for Study Commission to Review the Open Public Records Act

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeewoman Schneider. All yes.

- H. **RESOLUTION 2019-165-11** – Authorizing Purchase of 2019 F-250 4WD Truck with Snow Plow

Motion: Committeeman Clauss. Second: Committeewoman Schneider. All yes.

9. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Comments are limited to 5 minutes)**

Anna Evans, 63 Parry Drive –brought up the extremely high MHMUA rates in the township. She said that pretty much all of the committee members ran on the stance that they would work on lowering the rates. Mayor Masciocchi told her that the township signed a contract with the MUA and it is still in effect for about ten more years. There is no wiggle room out of the contract. Mr. Gillespie did look into the contract and found there is no way out. Mayor Masciocchi said there have been certain billing issues with the MUA that have come up whereby people do not pay the bill and then the MUA exercises their right by putting a lien on the property. There was a resident that argued that they were not billed fairly. The township intervened and reserved the right not to enforce that lien. This was resolved with litigation and it did not worked out for the authority. That is one way where we are trying to help out. Mrs. Evans asked if there was some sort of “watch dog” that we could engage with because the rates have so egregiously been raised. Mayor Masciocchi said he does not think the utility commission covers the MUA. Mrs. Evans said they are clearly price gouging the residents.

Angela Shively, 117 Pennsylvania Avenue – said she is here as the voice of “John Dog”. She asked that the township terminate the contract with the NJ Animal Control LLC. She is sure the committee is aware of emails and conversations concerning the situation. They are asking for a public update on where it stands with the township. Mayor Masciocchi said he is sure they are aware of the alleged mistreatment of the dog in question. His understanding is that there was no probable cause to charge the individual. The contract comes up at the end of this year and the township will be entertaining bids for animal control services. Ms. Shively said that four townships have already terminated their contracts with the company. Mayor Masciocchi said what happens in their towns is up to them to decide what to do.

Tammy Skyler, 400 Buttonwood Street, Mt. Holly – said that on behalf of “John Dog”, he needs a voice and they are here for him. They understand that the township has a good understanding of what is going on. For the right side of animals she wanted it to be known that Charles Garrity is the animal control officer that was abusive to the dog. She asked that they do not forget that. Mayor Masciocchi said he was sure that everyone would keep that in mind.

Carol Pickenger, 216 Cardinal Lane, Mt. Hilly – said she was the original owner of “John Dog”, when she had him he was never aggressive. He was a very timid dog. Mayor Masciocchi said the new owner has not had a problem with him.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Kosko had no comments tonight.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR

Attorney Jose Calves thanked everyone for having him tonight and also thanked Mr. Gillespie for another easy night at Hainesport.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Costa thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He commented that the decorated houses for Halloween were very good. He and his wife drove around the township and were very impressed with them. He went on to acknowledge the comments about the MHMUA and that it has been a contentious issue for a number of years. We have a great attorney who looked into it and it does not look good for challenging these things, but he got a copy of the contract and Hainesport is a little different from the other towns because they own their own sewer infrastructure such as pipes the pump stations. If he can find something he will bring it to the attention of our attorney.

Mrs. Gilmore thanked everybody for coming tonight. She and Ms. Kosko attended a round table discussion last month with the Burlington County Bridge Commission

and came away with more good information to use on how to promote available properties using our website along with other things. She invited the committee and any seniors from Hainesport to attend the November 21st meeting of the Senior Citizens Club. They will be honoring Nina Mattson on the occasion of her 100th birthday. There will be cake. Mrs. Gilmore also noted that the tree lighting ceremony will be held on December 6th at 6:30 here at the township building.

Ms. Schneider congratulated Leila Gilmore and Bruce MacLachlan on their victory. She looks forward to serving beside them. Ms. Schneider thanked everyone for coming out tonight and wished them all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Clauss said that sometimes the people do not hear what the committee does but at one time shortly after he was elected, he looked into fair and equal access to services and there is a law that says if you take government money you must give fair and equal access to those services. When it was researched they thought they could win on this and found out that the amount you pay does not matter on fairness to access. We do look into a lot of things behind the scenes to try to find solutions.

Mayor Masciocchi thanked everyone for coming out and congratulated all the candidates in Hainesport that ran for public office and won. He said it is not an easy thing to do. Hainesport should be proud of all the candidates that ran in our town. He especially commended Lee Schneider for her campaign for Freeholder. She did an excellent job in a dignified manner. Mayor Masciocchi congratulated Mr. MacLachlan and Mrs. Gilmore on their victory. For our Democratic rivals, they did a great job and had some great ideas. Those of you that have come to the meetings since this particular committee has been in existence, it is been our intent and our hope to implement good ideas from whatever source because we are all here to try to benefit the town. There is no executive session tonight.

13. **BILL LIST**

Motion: Committeeman Costa. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.

14. **ADJOURNMENT @ 7:28 P. M.**

Motion: Committeewoman Schneider. Second: Committeewoman Gilmore. All yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula L. Kosko, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator

OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA