

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

APRIL 16, 2013

SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Municipal Building on April 16, 2013.

ROLL CALL

At 6:30 P.M., the following Council Members and Professional Staff were present: Mayor Bivona, Council President Lota, Councilperson Kahwaty, Councilperson Kelly, Councilperson Lambrix, Councilperson Pedone, Borough Administrator Hart and Borough Attorney Smith. Councilperson Ramsey was absent this evening.

PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Councilperson Kahwaty made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Seconded by Councilperson Kelly, all ayes.

Robert Heinemann introduced himself and stated that he would be reporting for the Wyckoff/Franklin Lakes PATCH website.

No one else from the public came forward and Councilperson Kahwaty made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Lambrix, all ayes.

DISCUSSION

Public Safety Trust Fund

Mayor Bivona stated the Public Safety Trust document has been delayed due to the budget process, however, the Council could now concentrate on whether or not they would want to go forward with this plan. The fund would finance a long term major endeavor that would raise money for essential capital projects related to public safety. This is a multi-year project which will require commitments from donors as well as the governing body. The level of donations will be the guiding force in terms of what can be done. If the Council is agreeable, Mayor Bivona anticipates creating an action plan including the solicitation of funds which would feature the Saturday night of Oktoberfest as the highlight. Mayor Bivona stressed the importance of getting organized early in order to get letters out which would begin the fund raising process. Mayor Bivona said that if everyone is supportive, the Borough would be expected to contribute to the fundraising. He added that fund raising is necessary in order to rebuild the physical infrastructure and purchase equipment while keeping taxes at 2% and debt levels low.

Mr. Hart said that this philosophy begins with the Mayor and Council but the Fire Department, Ambulance Corps and Emergency Management is an integral part of the success of a program like this. Everyone involved must be part of the cooperative effort because there is a lot of work to be done.

Councilperson Pedone commented that this is an excellent plan which has his full support and he thanked the Mayor for his efforts. Councilperson Kahwaty agreed and was pleased to see that Mayor Bivona had already identified potential donors who would work with the Borough. Mayor Bivona said he is hoping to develop a plan illustrating how this money would be used and he thinks it is possible to raise \$2 million from individuals and even more from corporations during a four year period. The Borough would have to contribute also and Councilperson Kahwaty questioned whether a professional firm should be brought in for assistance. Mayor Bivona indicated that this is certainly a possibility, however, it would mean that the professionals would take a percentage. Council President Lota recalled that the Recreation Center hired someone to

help with fundraising about five years ago and wasn't successful. She advised against going down that road again.

Councilperson Kelly said that he was uncomfortable including money for sanitary sewers under the category of public safety. Mayor Bivona explained that sanitary sewers relate to the installation and connection of sewers at the municipal complex. Most of the money raised would be for the purchase of fire apparatus and ambulances as well as the installation of hydrants and water lines for fire suppression purposes in the areas of the Borough that do not have this infrastructure. He is asking for help to fund volunteer services such as the Fire Department and the Ambulance Corps. He noted that this type of fundraising cannot be done for the basics like the running of Borough Hall

Councilperson Kelly asked how Mayor Bivona arrived at the initial estimate for fundraising. Mr. Hart explained that the initial estimate for the Public Safety Complex which includes OEM Headquarters, firehouse extension and police headquarters was approximately \$4.8 million. Mayor Bivona felt that this estimate is too high and he stated that the complex was designed without any input from the Council. The Council must be careful not to interfere with the efforts of the Ambulance Corps or the Fire Department in their individual fund raising drives which are different and distinct.

Mr. Smith said that this fund will be set up per ordinance and the specific uses of the money must be controlled and described in the ordinance. He noted that it would be legal for some large donors to ask that their donations be directed for specific items. If the money is restricted in this way, it could encourage people to donate. Councilperson Lambrix spoke about naming opportunities and Mayor Bivona and other Councilmembers said they have no objections to this. Mr. Hart said that parameters would have to be established for this naming opportunity. Mr. Smith added that donors could be made aware of the opportunity available to deposit money for naming rights or for specific uses of the funds they are donating.

Mayor Bivona reiterated that this project is threefold and includes the expansion of the Firehouse; the creation of an OEM Headquarters to accommodate a functional room to serve the public during times of emergency as well as to house proper communication equipment; and a new Police Headquarters to replace the existing facility which is in disrepair and does not meet code requirements. Co-locating the Police Headquarters with other public safety buildings enables the Borough to meet the needs of the residents in one central location.

Mayor Bivona stated that he envisions the Borough's Oktoberfest to become an annual event for fundraising to support public safety. He would like to realize a \$5 million commitment over four years which he broke down as follows: \$2 million from individual large donors; \$500,000 from large corporations; and \$500,000 from Oktoberfest. There would be an additional \$2 million in bonds to be raised over time which would amount to a \$125,000 cost over 30 years. Mayor Bivona commented that they will have a greater ability to fund raise if people see that the Borough is also contributing. Mr. Hart added that fund raising campaigns are usually more successful if money is being raised for a new building rather than a renovation. He added that he has met with some individual donors who are very receptive to this project. Mayor Bivona said that he received soft commitments and is confident that they can reach half of their goal from large donors.

Councilperson Lambrix asked about the Borough's commitment of \$2 million for the project in the event that fund raising is highly successful and goes as high as \$5 million. Mayor Bivona felt strongly that the Borough should be contributing and some things might need to be scaled back if that were the case. Mr. Hart pointed out that the cost relative to the installation of hydrants and water lines alone could go as high as \$4 million.

Mayor Bivona stated that Franklin Lakes has one of the lowest tax rates in Bergen County and they intend to keep growth at 2%. Councilperson Lambrix reiterated that he would like some flexibility to adjust the \$2 million contribution by the Borough if fundraising is wildly successful.

Mayor Bivona said a consensus for the plan by the Council would demonstrate agreement with the suggestions contained in the document. The project would formally launch with a press release and pictures and plans made for the Oktoberfest. Councilperson Lambrix said that he could agree to the idea that the Borough is a contributor to this project and their contribution may change depending on fundraising. He would be interested in obtaining a draft of the document to review the needs section and will send a note to the Mayor concerning his thoughts. Councilperson Kelly stated that their image could be strengthened if the architects could design an expandable building and there seems to be sufficient land to accommodate a large building.

Mayor Bivona said that this will be an ongoing project and most of the work relative to the success of this project is dependent on Councilmembers. He asked for a consensus and Councilmembers agreed that the project should proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilperson Kahwaty to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. Councilperson Lambrix seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Kahwaty, Kelly, Lambrix, Lota and Pedone

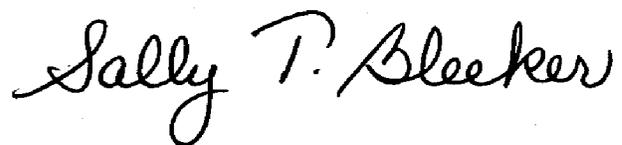
Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Ramsey

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally T. Bleeker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sally T. Bleeker, Borough Clerk