

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER – OCTOBER 26, 2017**

PRESENT: Mayor Kurpis, Council President Jensen, Council Members Acaster, Schulstad & Yates
Borough Administrator Giaimis, Borough Clerk Convertini, Borough Attorney Huntington

ABSENT: Council Members: Gray & Salazer

PRESIDING: Mayor Kurpis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm; Borough Clerk Convertini read the following statement:

PUBLIC NOTICE: "Notice of this meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the laws of 1975, has been given by posting a notice of the Work Session Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Saddle River on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and in the office of the Borough Clerk and by emailing notice thereof to the Herald News and The Record on March 1, 2017, also on the Borough website and Enotify."

NOTIFICATION OF FIRE EXITS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WORK SESSION AGENDA

MAYOR KURPIS:

December Work Session – The Work Session will take place on November 30, 2017.

Review of Board of Health Fee Revisions: Mayor Kurpis reviewed the fee revisions as presented by the Board of Health. He further stated that these amended fees are more in line with neighboring municipalities.

Re-purposing of the Marker House: Mayor Kurpis stated that the Bishop House Committee had a successful meeting and addressed the re-purposing of the Marker House as an art and cultural center. He further stated that artists could display their art, either for charity or small organizations and donate part of their proceeds back to the Borough. He stated that a philanthropic footprint is an integral part of the public relations strategy. Council President Jensen stated that he did not think that the Borough is legally allowed to make charitable donations and Borough Attorney Huntington confirmed that this is the case. Mayor Kurpis further stated that the CERT Team is also in need of space and there are several bedrooms on the second floor of the Marker House that could be utilized for this purpose. Since the inception of this idea, several residents have come forward to both volunteer and display art.

Council Member Schulstad asked about the grant restrictions associated with the Marker House and stated that it must be used for "passive recreation" purposes. Attorney Huntington will further research this aspect of the property. Council Member Schulstad further stated that he would like to know what the Bishop House renovations will entail and what the payoff will be prior to committing to the Marker House property.

Borough Newsletter: Mayor Kurpis stated that Municipal Clerk is in need of content for the Fall Newsletter. Council Member Schulstad stated that he would like to address the status of the revaluation. Additionally, he would like to solicit comments from residents regarding the impact deer have had on them in Saddle River. Mayor Kurpis stated that he feels that it is generally known that the deer have had a significant impact; devastation to the understory, public health risks and car accidents. Council Member Schulstad stated that real data from residents was not submitted in the non-lethal deer plan and asked if there will be additional filings to the State in the future.

Supporting Widening Bike/Pedestrian Paths on the George Washington Bridge: Mayor Kurpis stated that Saddle River is widely used by cycling clubs as well as local biking enthusiasts. This is an environmentally friendly initiative and widening the bike lanes will also provide greater safety for both bikers as well as pedestrians.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR:

Arrowhead Lane & Plymouth Lane Bridge Replacement Grant Contract Resolutions:

Administrator Giaimis stated that these two resolutions for bridge replacements are part of a grant contract and are time sensitive, stressing that both culverts have been deemed deficient in service. He briefly explained these NJDOT non-matching grants.

Valley Hospital Ambulance Contract 2017-2018: Administrator Giaimis stated that this contract has not changed and is executed annually. The Mayor and Council have received this contract for review and authorization to execute same will be adopted at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council on November 13, 2017.

Review of Ordinance Prohibiting the Feeding of Wildlife: Administrator Giaimis stated that Borough Attorney Huntington has been working on fine tuning this ordinance, based on an ordinance that has been adopted in the Borough of Oakland. It will be introduced at the regular meeting on November 13, 2017. The Ordinance Review Committee will review this ordinance at their meeting on November 3, 2017.

Wildlife Management Plan – Cull Permit: Administrator Giaimis stated that he reviewed various other municipality's plans and he modified them to Saddle River's needs. He worked with Chief McWilliams and addressed various aspects of the plan, which he discussed in detail. Council Member Schulstad stated that the Wildlife Management Committee had outlined bow hunting conditions that could be applicable in this plan. He further stated that, if a plan of this nature was to be acted upon, the residents would want strict and highly regulated criteria to be implemented and they would want to know where the discharge of weapons would be taking place and when. He further stated that he would like the plan to include that the Borough would have absolute discretion regarding the issuance of a discharge permit. Council Schulstad stated that shooting a weapon in a downward trajectory only, as well as the notification of neighbors be included in a plan.

Council Member Acaster stated that he does not like any reference to hunting; it should be referred to as a cull. He further stated that he feels that any plan of this nature is reckless and dangerous to the residents of Saddle River. He stated that a professional cull would be more appropriate and he outlined the issues in the proposed plan. A cull may not be effective unless neighboring towns participate to avoid migration; this must be done in a professional safe manner.

Mark Nagelhout, Park Ridge is in favor of lowering the speed limits in Saddle River as well. He further stated that electronic signs reminding drivers that it is deer rutting season is helpful.

Amy Atkinson, 19 Westerly Road stated that people drive through Saddle River too fast. Additionally, she addressed the deer management matter and stated that a non-lethal program is working in Staten Island, NY. She further stated that proposing a lethal hunt or cull is unsafe for the community, inhumane and not what residents voted for in the referendum. Ms. Goldfischer reiterated that the referendum was improperly worded and many residents voted "yes" to both questions.

Patty Nazzaro, 3 Westwind Court was in agreement with Ms. Goldfischer's assessment of the referendum, stating that she voted the same way. She further stated that she would be in favor of a one or two-time cull but not a hunting program.

Council Member Schulstad stated that the Borough would have to abide by State law, which refers to hunting to implement a cull. A small number of people, selectively chosen and vetted would be the preferable choice to implement a cull.

Mayor Kurpis stated that there is a bald eagle living in town and it is important that it is kept fed and protected.

Michael Licata, 22 East Allendale Road addressed the deer management plan and stated that neighboring municipalities must participate in order for a cull to be effective. He addressed a potential cull by professional hunters in detail at this time. He is not in favor of bow hunting.

Ms. Atkinson stated that Saddle River residents do not want hunting on their property. Mayor Kurpis reminded Ms. Atkinson that this is a public safety risk and if one life can be saved, it is a worthwhile effort.

Chris Barry, 150 Chestnut Ridge Road stated that he is a hunter and there are many opinions on the best way to hunt. He further stated that you could responsibly hunt deer or coyote with a bow. The state of New Jersey institute a cull when there is an excessive amount of wildlife, creating an imbalance. He further stated that there is a safe and effective way to conduct a cull with residents who are hunters.

Mayor Kurpis stated that these points all must be considered before any definitive decisions can be made.

Mr. Licata asked if the draft of the plan is a working document and Borough Administrator Giaimis stated that it is primary framework for a plan that will continue to be to be addressed.

Council Member Schulstad stated that this plan is quite different from the State's hunting criteria, which is not as strict. He further stated that limited time frames for conducting any kind of cull as well as transparency with the residents are very important components of any plan.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NJDOT FOR THE ARROWHEAD LANE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Resolution # 199-17 Offered by Council President Jensen
Seconded by Council Member Yates

Council Member Schulstad asked about the time frame regarding this resolution and Borough Giannis stated that their adoption must take place prior to the November 13, 2017 meeting.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NJDOT FOR THE PLYMOUTH LANE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Resolution # 200-17 Offered by Council President Jensen
Seconded by Council Member

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

SUPPORTING THE WIDENING OF BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PATHS ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE

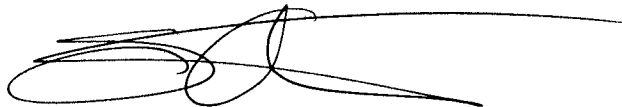
Resolution # 201-17 Offered by Council President Jensen
Seconded by Council Member Yates

Council Member Schulstad stated that he is not in favor of this resolution as both the States of New Jersey and New York are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy and should not be told how to spend their money. Mayor Kurpis stated that the funds have already been allocated and this resolution is in support of the plan.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Council President Jensen, Council Members Acaster & Yates
NAY: Council Member Schulstad

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,



Joy C. Convertini
Municipal Clerk