

MINUTES
Regular Virtual Council Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2021
7:30pm

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Bromberg called the Virtual meeting to order at 7:37pm.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Council President Bromberg asked all in attendance to join him in a Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

Council President Bromberg read the Sunshine Statement into the record, as follows:

"In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the Municipal Office."

ROLL CALL

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg were present.

Also present: Township Attorney Silvana Raso, Business Administrator/CFO Gennaro Rotella, Township Engineer Chris Statile and Township Clerk Karen Campanelli.

Council Comments

Councilman Ben-Yishay commented that the DPW did a fantastic job plowing during the recent snow storms.

Councilman Donovan also praised the DPW adding how quickly and efficiently the roads are cleared compared to other Towns.

Councilwoman Sieg also commented that the DPW did an amazing job adding that they can always count on them.

Councilman Criscuolo echoed the comments of his colleagues regarding the DPW. Councilman Criscuolo noted that it was a job well done and that they've come to expect this from them and they always live up to their reputation.

Council President Bromberg also echoed the comments and that the DPW did a great job keeping up with both storms.

Business Administrator's Report

Mr. Rotella reported that the architect for the new Public Safety Complex and Chris Statile have been working together on the site work plan for the new building. He added that Silvana and Chris Statile's office are working on the subdivision of the property into four (4) different parcels; the affordable housing, the Townhomes, the Group Home and the Police Department. Mr. Rotella explained that the subdivision will roll into Developers Agreements for the property which will then allow the developers to submit grant applications for funding.

Mr. Rotella next reported on the entrance/exit to the Golf Course which is in one location. He has asked Chris to take a look at putting in an Exit Only at the far end on the parking lot. Mr. Rotella explained that the one entrance and exit together is very dangerous particularly when exiting. He also has the Police Department looking at this issue from a line-of-sight perspective.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Statile reported that he is working on the Central Avenue design. He is also working with Rich on the selection of roads for the 2021 Road Program. Mr. Statile commented that he is working on the Site Plan for the new Police Complex and has given the architect the contact information for all the utility companies.

He next suggested using the County's GIS platform or Geographic Information System which would allow the Township to add their sewer information, storm drains, road program, etc. to the GIS platform. Mr. Statile explained that Rich would be able to use an iPad and have access to information as he drives to an area. Mr. Statile is working with Gennaro and the County to obtain the license so the Township can start adding their information to the platform.

1st Hearing of the Public

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay; second by Councilman Donovan to open the meeting to the public.

David Rice—539 Bernita Drive—commented that they are making a big endeavor with the new Police Department building; however, no one knows about it. Mr. Rice suggested sending out an email keeping the public up-to-date; as we do with road closures and pet licenses.

Council President Bromberg responded that they are still in the very beginning stages; but they will certainly keep this in mind for the future as they progress. Council President Bromberg did stress that the Township needs this facility and they will be moving forward with the project.

Ms. Raso clarified that the public is notified by virtue of the inclusion of these matters on the agenda. She explained that to the extent that there is more information divulged to the public that the Township feels is necessary it is certainly the Township's prerogative to do so. Ms. Raso further explained that notice of any legal or administrative action that requires public notice has been given and will continue to be. Ms. Raso concluded that the public has a right to comment by virtue of what is listed on the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. Rice recalled that in 2011 this land was planned for other uses including affordable housing, playgrounds, soccer fields etc. He added that the Town has been sitting on the land for 10 years and not collecting any taxes. Mr. Rice does not doubt that the Police Department is bad; however, he feels they don't need 50 jails in Bergen County. He stated that most people don't know anything about this issue, there's no advertisement and no information. Mr. Rotella responded that the property was purchased in 2010 and the plans referenced were conceptual and did not move forward. Therefore, there were no definite plans for the property at that time. Mr. Rotella added that there is development planned for the property that will generate taxes.

Council President Bromberg added that during the years there have been a lot of different machinations going on elsewhere that effects what they ultimately decide to do regarding this project. He further added that it's taken this much time to coordinate the different projects which includes the affordable housing piece and therefore it's not just the Police Department project that was involved.

Mr. Rice suggested getting residents feedback before they put a shovel in the ground; rather than 5 or 6 people making all the decisions. Mr. Rotella responded that there will be a Bond Ordinance authorizing the expenditure of the funds which has not yet come to fruition. He added that the ordinance that has been put forth was for the preliminary expenses for the architectural and engineers drawings.

There being no further questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilwoman Sieg to close the meeting to the public.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay; second by Councilman Donovan to approve Resolutions #2021-72 through Resolution #2021-77 as a Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution #2021-72

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES JANUARY 25, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the January 25, 2021 Regular meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

Resolution #2021-73

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2021 the Township received proposals for a Professional Service Contract Position through a “Fair and Open Process” as defined by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20 for awarding 2021 contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to award a Professional Services Contract for the position of Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, one proposal received from the Law Offices of Geoffrey D. Mueller with offices located at 366 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood, New Jersey 07675 has been reviewed and determined to be in the best interest of the Township of River Vale to award a contract the Law Offices of Geoffrey D. Mueller.

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Geoffrey D. Mueller is hereby appointed as the Municipal Prosecutor effective February 8, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council that a copy of this Resolution by forwarded to the Municipal Court Administrator.

Resolution #2021-74

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES APPOINTMENT

GRANT WRITING AND CONSULTING SERVICES

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2021 the Township received a proposal from Triad Associates to provide the Township with Grant Writing and Consulting Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to award a Contract for the provision of Grant Writing and Consulting Services; and

WHEREAS, the proposal received from Triad Associates, 1301 W. Forest Grove Road, Vineland, New Jersey 08360 has been reviewed and determined to be in the best interest of the Township of River Vale to award a contract to Triad Associates.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Triad Associates is hereby appointed to provide Grant Writing and Consulting Services effective February 8, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2021.

Resolution #2021-75

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING JOINT PLANNING BOARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES APPOINTMENTS

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021 the Joint Planning Board held their Annual Reorganization meeting; and

WHEREAS, at this meeting the Joint Planning Board by Resolution appointed both their Board Attorney and Engineer as follows:

- **Marc Leibman, Esq., Kaufman, Semeraro & Leibman, LLP—Joint Planning Board Attorney**
- **Christopher P. Statile, Statile Associates PA—Joint Planning Board Engineer**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of River Vale confirms the Joint Planning Board appointments for a term of one (1) year ending on December 31, 2021.

Resolution #2021-76

RESOLUTION

(TRANSFERS)

WHEREAS, there exists a need to make transfers in the 2020 Budget Appropriations Reserves, and there exists balances from which to make said transfers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Chief Financial Officer hereby be authorized to make the following transfers to the 2020 Budget Appropriations Reserves.

Inside CAP:

From:

General Admin SW	\$ 5,000.00
Police SW	\$ 12,000.00
<u>DPW SW</u>	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
Total	\$22,000.00

Inside CAP:

To:

Engineering OE	\$ 5,000.00
Police OE	\$ 12,000.00
<u>Garage SW</u>	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
Total	\$22,000.00

Resolution #2021-77

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF THE ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Michael Candemo, Esq. with offices located at 218 Berkeley Road, River Edge, New Jersey is hereby appointed as the Alternate Municipal Prosecutor effective February 8, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council that a copy of this Resolution by forwarded to the Municipal Court Administrator.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg voted yes.

Ordinances for 1st Reading

Ordinance #374-2021

Motion to Introduce: Councilman Criscuolo

Seconded: Councilwoman Sieg

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 181 OF THE CODE ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Chapter 181 is amended as follows:

§ 181-1. Adoption of standards by reference.

That a certain document, three copies of which are on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk of the Township of River Vale, being marked and designated as the International Property Maintenance Code, ~~2006- most current~~ Edition, as published by the International Code Council, be and is hereby adopted as the Property Maintenance Code of the Township of River Vale, in the State of New Jersey, for regulating and governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures; by providing the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; and the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use, and the demolition of such existing structures as provided in the chapter; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of such property maintenance on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk of the Township of River Vale are referred to adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this chapter, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, if any, prescribed Section 2 of this ordinance.

This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg voted yes.

Ordinance for 2nd Reading & Public Hearing

Ordinance #373-2021

Motion to Adopt: Councilman Donovan

Seconded: Councilman Ben-Yishay

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to open the public hearing on Ordinance #373-2021.

Mr. Rice questions if this was an increase in security systems.

Council President Bromberg clarified that it was the fee for alarm registrations.

Mr. Rice noted that this is a 50% increase. Council President Bromberg added that this fee and has not gone up in as many 25 years.

There being no further comments or questions; motion by Councilman Criscuolo seconded by Councilman Donovan to close the public hearing on Ordinance #373-2021.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 45 OF THE CODE ENTITLED "ALARM SYSTEMS" SECTION 8 "FEES"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Chapter 45 section 8 is amended as follows:

§ 45-8. Fees.

B. There shall be a required annual renewal of the alarm user permit, at a fee of

~~\$10~~ **\$15** per annum; said renewal procedure to be administered by the Chief of Police.

This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg voted yes.

2nd Hearing of the Public

Motion by Councilwoman Sieg; second by Councilman Criscuolo to open the meeting to the public.

David Rice—539 Bernita Drive—Mr. Rice had a questions about his tax bill; the County Open Space and Municipal Open Space are the same amount. He also questioned what the Municipal Open Space tax is used for.

Mr. Rotella explained that they are two separate funds. The County tax is sent directly to County which is used towards parks and recreation. He continued that similarly the Municipal Open Space has its own trust fund and is utilized for municipal park improvements. Mr. Rotella stated that the amount has not changed on municipal side unless the County portion went up.

Councilwoman Sieg commented that there have been a couple of articles in the Pascack Press about the new Police Department building. She recalled that the article was about five (5) or six (6) months ago and did include a sketch of the building. Councilwoman Sieg assured Mr. Rice that they are very transparent and he should feel confident that nothing will be done without proper hearings and notifications.

Councilman Donovan clarified that the article was after one of their meetings when the Architect made a presentation. He also assured Mr. Rice that anytime there needs to be true public discussion on this issue there will be more than just the announcement in the classified section. Councilman Donovan explained that the reality is there are five (5) of them that ultimately make decisions for the whole Town and that's because they were elected to do so. He added that when they do discuss these big items there will absolutely be additional notification and possibly move the hearing to a bigger location other than the Town hall as we have done in the past.

Councilman Criscuolo added that their email addresses are on the website and anytime you have any questions feel free to contact us.

There being no further questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilwoman Sieg to close the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Sieg; second by Councilman Donovan to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm.

ATTEST:

Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk

Council President Mark Bromberg

