

REGULAR MEETING

DATE: January 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Milford Borough Common Council was held on January 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Henry Schepens, Mayor at 7:00PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mayor Schepens.

SUNSHINE PROCLAMATION was read by Mayor Schepens.

As required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 11, 2024 in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Express Times newspapers.

Notices were also posted on the bulletin boards both inside and outside the Municipal Building and at the Milford Public Library.

ROLL CALL

Present: James Gallos, Noralie LaFevre, Ronald Rehl
Helen Livingston, Douglas Sloyer, Elisa Yager
Absent: Henry Schepens, Mayor
The record reflects the presence of: Todd Bolig, Attorney

NEW BUSINESS

Review Ordinance Regarding the Use of Membrane Structures

Attorney Bolig reviewed the Use of Membrane Structures draft ordinance with Council. After a brief discussion the ordinance will not be introduced as written. Council has several questions that need to be addressed before introduction.

Ron Rehl made a motion to table the ordinance.+

Seconded by: Noralie LaFevre-

ROLL CALL: AYES: J. Gallos, N. LaFevre, H. Livingston, D. Sloyer, R. Rehl, E. Yager

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

LEGAL AFFAIRS REPORT – TODD BOLIG, ESQ.

- Attorney Bolig reviewed two bills with members of Council. The first bill, Financial Account Shared Service. Attorney Bolig stated the regional municipal court bill – pilot program would like to expand the regional program Therefore; our court may be part of the consolidation into the regional courts.
- Second Bill, Affordable Housing Bill # A-4/S-50 which will abolish COAH. Its duties and functions would be split between the Department of Community Affairs and the Administrative Office Courts. The DCA will be tasked with calculating regional need and municipal present and prospective obligation by the methodology outlined in the legislation. Attorney Bolig stated more information will be forthcoming.
- Attorney Bolig will be working with Rob Martucci to finalize the checklist on the floodplain ordinance and the right-of-way use agreement regarding the construction, installation, operation, repair and maintenance of underground fiber optics in the Borough’s right-of way.

Attorney Bolig advised members of Council that Ordinance No. 794-2024 – Capital Appropriation for emergency temporary repairs to creek banks for \$50,000 will only cover the Borough owned parking lot located next to the Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately, the Borough will not be able to fund the repair of the creek at the Milford-Holland Rescue Squad. The rescue squad is the sole owner of the building and property.

PUBLIC WORKS – COUNCILMAN REHL

- Councilman Rehl reported that Rick Aller will be attending the next Council meeting.
- Councilman Rehl stated that the Road Department continued with routine maintenance throughout the Borough.
- Council Members had a brief discussion regarding JCP&L coming into the Borough for tree maintenance.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – COUNCILMAN SLOYER

- Councilman Sloyer stated for the month of December 2023 the Milford Fire Company responded to 11 calls for service. The Milford Fire Company used approximately 1,000 gallons of water for firefighting and training.
- Councilman Sloyer reported the Milford Fire Company completed apparatus checks and visited the county training center flashover simulator.

LIAISON – COUNCILWOMAN YAGER

- Councilwoman Yager attended the January 3rd Delaware Valley Board of Education meeting and Ellen Gordon will be President and Frank Simini will be Vice President.
- Councilman Yager reported that the Delaware Valley Board of Education is in a lawsuit from the adopted policy 57-56 that a parent filed against transgender transition.

ZONING/JOINT LAND USE BOARD – COUNCILWOMAN LIVINGSTON

Councilwoman Livingston reported she attended the Planning Board Reorganization meeting and Carol Bernotas will remain as Chair of the Planning Board and Jeffrey Livingston will be Vice President.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NUMBER 974-2024

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$50,000.00 CURRENTLY LOCATED WITHIN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE BOROUGH OF MILFORD FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY REPAIRS

WHEREAS, there are currently funds, raised by the Current Budget and previous budgets, within the Capital Improvement Fund of Milford Borough and,

WHEREAS, it is deemed appropriate to make use of \$50,000.00 for the allowable capital improvement for Emergency Temporary Repairs to the creek banks located on Bridge Street (Block 19, Lot 21).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Milford, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1 The sum of \$50,000.00 presently located in the Capital Improvement Fund is hereby appropriated for Emergency Temporary Repairs to Creek Banks.

Section 2 In connection with the amount authorized in Section 1 hereof, the Council makes the following determinations.

- a. The purpose described in Section 1 hereof is not a Current Expense and is an improvement which the Borough may lawfully make as a general capital improvement.
- b. The period of usefulness of the purpose described in Section 1 hereof is not in the limitation of the Local Bond Law and the reasonable life thereof is at least five (5) years.

Section 3 All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

Section 4 This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

FIRST READING - ROLL CALL VOTE

| Council Member | Motion | Adopt | Second | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------|--------|-------|--------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Douglas Sloyer | | | | x | | | |
| Noralie LaFevre | | x | | x | | | |
| James Gallos | | | | x | | | |
| Helen Livingston | | | | x | | | |
| Elisa Yager | x | | | x | | | |
| Ronald Rehl | | | x | x | | | |

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Rehl made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting.

Seconded by Elisa Yager.

ROLL CALL: AYES: J. Gallos, N. LaFevre, H. Livingston, D. Sloyer, R. Rehl, E. Yager

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

There were no comments from the public in attendance.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Ron Rehl

Seconded by Elisa Yager.

ROLL CALL: AYES: J. Gallos, N. LaFevre, H. Livingston, R. Rehl, D. Sloyer, E. Yager

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

Motion carried

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL – December 18, 2023

Comments: none

Motion to accept: Noralie LaFevre

Seconded: Elisa Yager

All in Favor - AYES: All NAYS : None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

Regular Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2023 are approved.

REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL – January 2, 2024

Comments: none

Motion to accept: Elisa Yager

Seconded: Doug Sloyer
All in Favor - AYES: All NAYS : None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None
Reorganization Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2024 are approved.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL – January 2, 2024

Comments: none
Motion to accept: Noralie LaFevre
Seconded: Elisa Yager
All in Favor - AYES: All NAYS : None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None
Regular Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2024 are approved.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST

Correspondence was reviewed as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schepens advised there being no further business to discuss, the minutes of this meeting will be available as soon as possible.

Motion to adjourn was made by: Noralie LaFevre

Seconded by: Ron Rehl

All in Favor - AYES: All NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

WATER CAPITAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS

| | | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 01/05/24 | Check #1201 | Martucci Eng. | EPA Water Improvement | \$ 1,080.00 |
| 01/05/24 | Check #1202 | Martucci Eng. | EPA Water Improvement | \$10,537.50 |

CURRENT CAPITAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS

| | | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 01/05/24 | Check #1601 | Martucci Eng. | Ballfield & Tennis Courts | \$ 4,080.00 |
|----------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|

MILFORD BOROUGH WATER DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT DISBURSEMENTS

MILFORD BOROUGH SEWER UTILITY ACCOUNT DISBURSEMENTS

MILFORD BOROUGH CURRENT ACCOUNT DISBURSEMENTS

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Dysart, RMC
Municipal Clerk