

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2012, 7:00 P.M.
AGENDA MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Anesh called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Mayor Anesh read the sunshine statement and announced that same is being held pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1974 and all provisions of that Act have been met with adequate notice of this meeting having been provided to the Borough's two official newspapers and also published on the Borough's website.

The roll call was administered by Clerk Antonides as follows:

COUNCIL	Present	Absent	Late
Councilman Barletta	x		
Councilman Bengivenga	x		
Councilman Frank	x		
Councilman McConville	x		
Councilman White	x		
Council President Rusnak	x		
ALSO PRESENT			
Administrator Cullen	x		
Clerk Antonides	x		
Attorney Rizzo	x		

REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS: Municipal Clerk Antonides reviewed all the items on the agenda for this evening. Councilman Bengivenga questioned if Ordinance #1965 is a duplicate of one that we did already. Mr. Rizzo, Esq. responded by advising that it is not a duplicate. We did do one similar in April which authorized the auction of the property while the Ordinance #1965 on the agenda authorizes the sale of the property. Councilman Bengivenga advised that he would like to clarify tonight's bond ordinance by advising that \$125,000 is to be used for a Police SUV, \$15,000 is for a barn roof, \$15,000 is for a striping machine, \$30,000 is for a generator, and \$15,000 is for miscellaneous equipment. Councilman Barletta inquired about Resolution 12-159 asking if the containers will be stored on Spicer Avenue? Mr. Cullen said yes, there will be a few roll-off containers that will be stored there for about a six month time period. There were no further questions or comments by the Council.

PUBLIC HEARING: Release of Performance Bond Posted by 455 Highland Avenue, LLC for Public Improvements to Block 311, Lots 15.01 and 15.02 – Mayor Anesh asked if the engineer has authorized these bond releases this evening. Borough Clerk Antonides advised that attached to each resolution pertaining to these bond releases is a letter from the engineer recommending their release. Mayor Anesh asked if anyone representing Highland Avenue LLC was present. No one was present. Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public hearing. With no comments made from the public, Mayor Anesh closed the floor.

PUBLIC HEARING: Release of Performance Bond Posted by Cultech, Inc. for Public Improvements to Block 528.01, Lots 46.06 and 46.07 – Mayor Anesh asked if anyone is present representing Cultech. A representative of Cultech was present in the audience but had no comments to make. Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comment, and with no comments made closed the floor.

PUBLIC HEARING: Release of Performance Bond Posted by Wilkins Building, Inc. for Public Improvements to Block 97, Lot 16 – Mayor Anesh asked if anyone is present representing Wilkins Building, Inc. No one was present. Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comment and with no comments made, closed the floor.

PRESENTATION – ANNOUNCE WINNER OF THE PARADE THEME: Mayor Anesh called the Public Celebrations Committee forward; John Sorrentino, Chairman, Debbie Boyle, Gary Prendergast and Stephanie Bartfalvi. Ms. Boyle advised that the committee asked students in grades three through six to submit a theme for the Labor Day Parade. The Committee visited all of the elementary schools and spoke to the students advising them of the contest. Students were to create a unique theme for this year's parade. The winner would become Junior Marshal of the parade. There were 122 entries received. The top 15 entries were submitted to the Celebrations Committee anonymously with no names or grades indicated. The first runner up is Tori Euston, a third grade student from Franklin Elementary School whose theme was for the floats to be made of candy, with one float being a Disney character made of chocolate. Ms. Boyle then announced the winner as Alexx White who is in fourth grade at the Riley School. Her theme was "Throughout History from 1960 to 2012". Everyone extended a round of applause and photographs were taken.

PRESENTATION- POWER POINT PRESENTATION FOR K-9: Mayor Anesh called Sgt. Delair forward. Sgt. Delair advised that he would like to give a presentation this evening to propose a K-9 Unit for the South Plainfield Police Department. Sgt. Delair said that he will be presenting both the advantages and disadvantages to having a K-9 Unit and began depicting the advantages as follows:

- The dogs become the department's best employee.
- They love to work
- Their reward is play throughout work.
- They become the Borough's Good Will Ambassador
- They investigate for cost effectiveness; burglaries, evidence recovery, locating missing people, 93% success rate.
- Increase In: seizures, warrants, arrests, man hour savings.
- They patrol in a well marked K-9 vehicle
- They are a crime deterrent: drug traffic reduced, reduced crime, reduce man hours, suspect gives up quickly, training is free, and a better quality of life with safer neighborhoods

Sgt. Delair then went on to discuss some of the downsides to having a K-9 Unit:

- The handler's heart must be in it.
- The handler must have above average record keeping skills, be able to bond with the dog(s), and a natural ability to communicate with them.
- There are scheduling challenges.
- There would be a loss of two officers in the unit for up to six months for training of the dogs.
- The Borough would be responsible for the vet bills, however, there is pet insurance available and many items for a K-9 dog are free.
- There is always a concern pertaining to liability which is why it is so important to have the proper supervision, department training, a good handler, and assurance that all Attorney General guidelines are followed.
- There is a Fair Labor Standard provision which assures that the handler receive a minimum of one hour overtime per day for the at home maintenance of the K-9 dog(s).
- It is estimated that the cost to the Borough per year per dog to be about \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Councilman White asked when the training would begin. Sgt. Delair advised that the next available training class would be September 2012. Councilman Barletta noted that schools were mentioned during the presentation and asked how the dogs would benefit the schools. Sgt. Delair said that they can be used for class trip safety, school sweeps, etc. Councilman Frank said that over the last ten years crime in our community has escalated and asked why that is. Sgt. Delair said that budgest are tighter, there is less man power, and the town has grown. Lt. Noonan advised that the Uniform Crime Stats vary from year to year and fluctuates for a variety of reasons. Council President Rusnak asked what the average life expencyancy for a K-9 dog is. Sgt. Delair advised that it depends on the dog, but the average work life in the field is

about five years. The dogs then remain with their handler after the dog retires. Mayor Anesh asked if we have any handlers in mind. Sgt. Delair said yes, that they have a short list of potential handlers. Chief Parker said it is important to note that in the early 1980's South Plainfield had four K-9 dogs in the department and as a young boy it left a lasting impression on him. Chief Parker said the K-9 dogs are a real asset to the community. Council President Rusnak stated that last Fall, the Council asked the Police Department to do research on having a K-9 unit and feels this program based on the research to be a homerun for the community.

At this time, the public was invited to comment. The public asked various questions about having a K-9 Unit while Sgt. Delair responded to their questions.

Councilman Barletta asked if the dogs would help off-set any costs. Chief Parker responded by saying that some stats show an increase in seizures which increase forfeiture funds, however, it is a slippery slope. It is more important to have the dogs as a crime deterrent than as a way to save money. There is grant funding that we can apply for which would help off-set some costs. Council President Rusnak advised that shared service programs may be available, especially with the schools. Councilman Bengivenga said he is proud to have Chief Parker come up with this program and would be so glad to see it come to fruition. Councilman Bengivenga said he received a phone call from a resident on Evergreen Lane who said he would like to donate to this program and he happens to be in the audience this evening. Councilman Bengivenga introduced Mr. Arnaldo Gerrara who turned a donation check in the amount of \$1,000 over to the Borough. Everyone extended a round of applause and photographs were taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comments. With no comments from the public, Mayor Anesh closed the floor.

RESOLUTION-EXECUTIVE SESSION #12-166: authorize the entering into Executive Session in accordance with the open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231 for the following item:

- Litigation – Liquid Assets Liquor License Suspension
- Contract – Negotiation Pertaining to Maser Consulting, PA
- Contract – Negotiation Pertaining to AFSCME

Councilman Bengivenga made a motion to approve this Resolution, seconded by Councilman Barletta and unanimously carried by an all in favor.

ADJOURN AGENDA MEETING: With no further comments, Mayor Anesh asked for a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting. Council President Rusnak made a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Councilman White, and unanimously carried by an all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk