

MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014
7:00 P.M.

* MEETING CALLED TO ORDER * STATEMENT REGARDING OPEN
PUBLIC MEETING LAW * SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. This meeting is called to order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting stating the starting time, date and location was advertised in the Home News, posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Building and will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting. All in attendance Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Clmn. Janeczek moved and he submitted a letter of resignation which was read

* CALLING OF THE ROLL:

Asciolla
Bruno
Estrada
Janeczek - absent
Slavicek
Vidal

A MOTION was made by Clwmn. Estrada and SECONDED by Clmn. Asciolla nominating Christine Reid to fill this position. ROLL CALL: 2 - 3

A MOTION was made by Clmn. Slavicek and SECONDED by Clwmn. Vidal nominating Peter Karczewski to fill this position. ROLL CALL: 3 - 2

Peter Karczewski will be the new Councilman and the Oath of Office was administered to him.

* CALLING OF THE ROLL: - All Present

Asciolla
Bruno
Estrada
Karczewski
Slavicek
Vidal

* PUBLIC PORTION

Tom Zwolinski, 10 Avenue A, had questions regarding the raises the Police Officers and one employee received. One employee went from \$83,000 to \$101,000 per year. He received a 7% per increase and he knows no one who receives raises like this. Herb Massa tried to explain it. Mr. Zwolinski said he needs to know the facts. He said that our Police

Officers are underpaid and the Mayor stated everyone agrees with that. He is concerned about the payout as he is due to retire soon. (Joseph Opinski from the audience stated that the Mayor's son is next in line for the job). The Borough Administrator said he will look into it and get back to him.

Steve Wronko, NJ, is here too address the neglect of the shelter. He has pictures of the inside and outside. The outside looks like a dumping ground and is against the code. He asked for the resignation of the Director, Assistant Director and the head ACO. He read several e-mails from Yvette Bruno, he asks if she was instigating and the Borough Attorney said she did not have to respond. Clmn. Slavicek said that maybe there is a problem at the shelter. He thought everything was status quo. He commented on the proposed ordinance for prohibiting of picture taking. He said it is against the First Amendment He demands that the posters be taken down at the shelter regarding picture taking. He said that the Mayor said she didn't want pictures taken of children yet she took pictures of his daughter. He stated that your employees from the town circulated that he is a felon and that is not true; this is libel. He told the Mayor that she should step down too; she is a fascist and a communist.

Collene Wronko, 148 Main Street, Spotswood said she was going to address this to Mr. Chris since he seems to be the only one logical here. Currently she has eight cases of people that adopted animals from the shelter in the last two – three cases of ringworm. This is a zoonotic disease that can go from cat to dogs to humans. She OPRA'd the zoonotic disease log to find out what it is and which is required by law. The OPRA request she received that she received from Mr. Clark was that we have nothing responsive on this. So there is nothing, no protocols on handle anything that is zoonotic. I found out that two cats were adopted two weeks ago one has distemper and one is diagnosed with it. This is an ongoing problem.

Gerry Gowen, NJ is aware of the conditions at the shelter and you people are unbelievable, you are letting this go on. Something has to be done. The conditions that exist, the stuff that has been posted on the internet is enough to make you puke and I guess you people have no feelings. It is nothing but a profit pit and that is the only thing Helmetta really seems to care about and it disgusting and is allowed to go on. If he lived in Helmetta, he would move the hell out.

The public portion was closed.

* CONSENT AGENDA – RESOLUTION # 2014 – 145

Report of Municipal Clerk, Tax Collector

RESOLUTIONS:

142 – Hiring of Class II Officer Sean Signorello

143 – Hiring of Class II Officer Kyle Worster

144 – Payment of Bills as per bill list

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clmn. Slavicek

ROLL CALL: 5 – 0 - 1

Clwmn. Bruno read a statement stating that she was going to resign from Council and the shelter committee because she felt she did not have a voice for the people or the animals and couldn't get things accomplished but she is not a quitter. She retracted her resignation with the Mayor and Council President. She will fight for the town and for the animals which she loves. She asked that everyone bear with her while she reviews everyone's complaints be it complaints and suggestions be it via e-mail or social media; employees and volunteers. She takes her position very seriously and is listening to all. She has spent countless to get the shelter to operating standards to which it should be run. She has approved ten volunteers since the end of June and a new ACO has been hired that supports the process and change. She has contacted a volunteer in a neighboring town that is willing to help out with the website which will be linked to facebook This will include pictures of every adoptable animal and stray cat and dog taken to our shelter. Lost pet information will also be included. She is working with an employee to get rescue groups to come in. She asked for everyone's support. She is not a fan of euthanasia, she feels everyone should have a fighting chance to find a forever home whether it be adoption foster or rescue. She is a big animal lover and wants to advocate for all the animals to get them adopted. If you have any concerns you can e-mail her. The Mayor stated that Yvette has come forward and spent many hours at the shelter and a lot of people are bashing her over and over. (People from the audience said they weren't) The Mayor commented she has seen the negativity and Yvette has been there every day and has gone above and beyond (From the audience Mr. Wronko said, she called me nuts and someone responded maybe you are. A loud discussion was starting amongst the two and the Mayor banged the gavel and asked if he wanted to be escorted from the room)

*** RECITING OF ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING:**

7 – has been withdrawn

*** NEW BUSINESS**

The Mayor stated that the PBA Contract is coming up for review and asked if he circulated it amongst the Public Safety Committee. He said he did and they are doing a salary analysis.

The Clerk stated she received a phone call from Miss Lillian from South County Day Care Center and Officer Gannon went and met with the children and they were very excited and impressed with him and they even made him a little card.

*** CLOSED SESSION – LITIGATION/PERSONNEL/NEGOTIATION**

MOTION – Clwmn. Vidal SECOND – Clmn. Slavicek

All were in favor.

A MOTION was made by Clmn. Slavicek and SECONDED by Clwmn. Bruno to go into Open Session. All were in favor.

*** ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. A MOTION was made by Clmn. Slavicek and SECONDED by Clmn. Karczewski. All were in favor.