

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

* MEETING CALLED TO ORDER * OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW * SALUTE TO THE FLAG The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Mayor Nancy Martin. Adequate notice was provided as is required by the Open Public Meetings Law with advertisement in the Home News Tribune and posting in the Municipal Building. All who were in attendance Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

* CALLING OF THE ROLL

Slavicek

Asciolla (Clmn. Asciolla left after Closed Session and then returned before adjournment.)

Bruno

Estrada

Karczewski

Perez

* RESOLUTION 2015 – 55 CLOSED SESSION – LITIGATION, PBA,
ANIMAL SHELTER

MOTION – Clwmn. Bruno SECOND – Clmn. Slavicek

ROLL CALL: 6 - 0

Borough Attorney David Clark gave an update on what is happening with the shelter. There is an RFP that is prepared to go out once Council approves it. There are also two potential parties that are interested in buying it for animal shelter use. Nicole Dawson, the interim Shelter Director, has a plan and the committee will present as she is unable to attend. Nothing will be voted on this evening.

* PUBLIC PORTION

The following got up to speak about the condition of the shelter or their experience with it: Lia Strucick,*, Amber Yehle, Nicole Nunes, Francine Morales, Catherine Soto, Barbara Carpenter., Kevin Boven, Michelle May, Morgan Pettito.

*read a letter that she asked be part of the record.

Sewell Peckham, 4 John Street said that alarms should be put in the Community Shelter now that it is all open. The Clerk stated that she will bring this to the attention of the Kaplan's. The community should be involved. The meeting should be held at Holy Trinity. He feels the shelter shouldn't be shut down or sold. He doesn't think the six, seven people (the Council) should make the decision. Clmn. Peres replied that they are exploring options and he would like to think that they are representing all the residents. He would like to see the residents come out to meetings so that they know how they feel. Sewell said the people in this town don't know what is going on. People don't know the shelter is closed on. We are paying a Director and it's never open. A newsletter should be sent so they know what's going on. employees get two paychecks. On 12/19/11, Brandon got checks 1264 and 1265 and on 12/28/11 he got checks 1276 and 1277. He got retro pay and an adjustment check. Clmn.Perez stated that he will research this. Sewell stated that this shelter should be put to a

referendum. Sewell Peckham asked how does an employee in this town get two pay checks, Brandon Metz is receiving two pay checks. On December 14, 2011 he received two checks - #1264 and 1265 and on 12/128/11 checks #1276 and #1277 were received by him; Retro pay - \$500.00. Retro pay - \$500.00. He mentioned several other checks.

Sewell Peckham, last year the shelter made money, why would we want to close it down. I don't care if it just pays for itself but don't let those animals suffer. A newsletter should be sent out and have the meeting at Holy Trinity and let the residents should be allowed to decide. Have a separate referendum. Right now the shelter is making nothing. I don't care if it just breaks even. I am here fighting for the taxpayers. Clmn. Perez said that the shelter was being run at a cost and we don't want it to run it that way so it will cost a little more. Sewell said that we can get with the right person running it, 500 volunteers a week and donations. He said he volunteered at the shelter at least ten times and did not get one call because they were afraid he would see what was going on there. Let's make a thousand dollars, let's make ten dollars but let's just run it.

Maria Karczewski, 4 York Drive, said if the newsletter is put out by the Mayor, how we know it's true. Clmn. Slavicek said he had an idea to revamp the newsletter and make it mandatory for everyone to put something in it. How are we suppose to believe what we read when no Councilmember has no input. In the future if there is any other newsletters, you (the Council) should have input on the newsletter.

Joe Opinski, 18 Avenue A asked if there is a quota for meetings and perhaps Clmn. Ascioffa should resign. He doesn't come, he comes late, he leaves early, he sleeps. He should resign. He doesn't want to be here, let him resign. Clwmn. Bruno asked the Borough Attorney to look into this as to how many meetings he can be absent out. Discussion followed. Joe asked who decides on this long term abatement. Clmn. Karczewski said they are on a Pilot program. Clmn. Perez explained how the abatement works. He commented on the Police Dept. and how there should be no outside interference.

Sewell Peckham said that Brandon got paid \$5,000.00 for reading water meters and we paid a laborer 25 cents and hour, don't hire a water meter reader hire a laborer and pay him 25 cents an hour. This money could go to the Fire Dept.

Joe Opinski stated that shelter was never opened, you had to come certain hours. He said that you have all these volunteers you can take the pets to difference place.

Duane Gliese, 55 Railroad Avenue asked if the meetings can be put back on the board.

Wendy Vidal, 8 Locust Drive said that if an individual misses three meetings they are out. In her opinion he should be out. He was only here for roll call and she doesn't count that as being at a meeting

* RESOLUTION – 2015 – Consent Agenda – There is an amendment to the shelter – Resolution # 54 and membership in the Helmetta Fire Dept.

Report of Municipal Clerk, Tax Collector, Utility Revenue Collector

RESOLUTIONS #50 Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to refund

Overpayment for third quarter 2014 taxes for Block 21 Lot 7.1 C1101

#51 Payment of bills as per the bill list

#52 Increase in salary of Police Director (certification of funds)

#53 Authorization for Mayor to sign lease for Police Car (certification of funds)

#54 Acceptance of resignation of Brandon Metz

Approval of membership to the Helmetta Fire Dept. – Thomas Walsh, Steve Magno,
Junior Member Emily Hoven

MOTION – Clmn. Slavicek SECOND – Clwmn. Bruno

ROLL CALL: 5 - 0

* APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 22, 2014 - Motion to adopt – Clwmn. Bruno SECOND Clmn. Slavicek 4 - 0 - 1

October 29, 2014 - Motion to adopt – Clwmn. Slavicek SECOND Clmn Bruno 4 - 0 - 1

November 23, 2014 - Motion to adopt – Clmn. Slavicek SECOND Clwmn Bruno 4 - 0 - 1

November 26, 2014 - Motion to adopt – Clmn. Slavicek SECOND Clmn Bruno 4 - 0 - 1

December 22, 2014 - Motion to adopt – Clmn. Slavicek SECOND Clmn Bruno 4 - 0 - 1

January 2, 2015 - Motion to adopt – Clmn. Slavicek SECOND Clmn Perez 5 - 0

* Ordinance # 2015 – 1 (Second reading, by title only – Public Hearing)

An Ordinance of the Borough of Helmetta granting a long term tax abatement to Camelot at Helmetta Urban Renewal, LLC for a residential project on property identified on the Tax map as Block 19, Lot 1.02 (Parcel 4) and a portion of Block 17, Lot 1 (Parcel 3) in the Helme Mill Redevelopment Area and authorizing the Mayor to sign a financial agreement with Camelot at Helmetta Urban Renewal, LLC.

Joe Opinski asked about this ordinance is done and asked if they would go for more tax cuts.

Borough Attorney David Clark explained why this is being done and this is required by law. There being no one else who wished to speak, the Public Portion was close.

A MOTION to open the meeting to the Public by Clmn. Perez and SECONDED by Clwmn. Estrada. ROLL CALL: 5 - 0.

* Report of Mayor and Borough Attorney * Report of Committees

The Public Safety Committee met with the Police Director, Fire Department and OEM. Contract negotiations are being worked on with the PBA and Polcie. Communications are important. There are budget concerns. OEM Coordinator Bill Kloos is creating an e-mail. Discussion was held on getting everyone ID cards for safety. 911, the Nixle system was discussed. The hope to hold quarterly meetings.

Clmn. Karczewski said that he and Darren Doran met with representatives from the phone company an upgrade is needed for all the phones in the building and the Fire Department. The phones would be leased.

A Finance Committee meeting was held. Some of the accounting procedures need to be improved primarily with purchase acquisitions. Areas to be looked into is water meters aren't being billed properly because they aren't being read. Purchasing Agent is not signing the bills. Pay time off procedures were not consistently followed. Pre approved bills were not always enforced. The bill list in the past included pay roll and various

distributions to the departments. The books and records for 2014 are not closed out. The Mayor asked if each person could enter their own requisitions. He is trying to set up a meeting with the CFO

* Ordinance # 2015 – 2 (First Reading, by title only)

An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation limits and to establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) in the Borough of Helmetta, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey

MOTION – Clmn. Perez SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski

ROLL CALL: 5 – 0

Discussion ensued about meeting attendance. Clmn. Ascioffa returned to the meeting and Clwmm. Bruno asked if he wanted to vacate his seat. He replied no.

* Adjournment - There being no further business, a MOTION was made by Clmn. Slavicek and SECONDED by Clwmm. Estrada. All were in favor