

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MAY 20, 2015
7:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Nancy Martin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided as is required by the Open Public Meetings Act. All present Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

A moment of silence was held for the men and women serving in our military.

CALING OF THE ROLL:

Slavicek

Asciolla - absent

Bruno

Estrada

Karczewski

Perez

RESOLUTION # 2015 – 84 2015 Budget

Borough Auditor Gerard Stankiewicz said the budget has been reviewed and cleared by the State so was the public hearing is held we can then proceed with the amendment.

Public Hearing – The hearing was opened to the Public; there being no one who wished to be heard, the meeting was closed to the Public.

Amending of Budget – One line item has to be amended and it must be advertised and a public hearing must be held. The advertisement will be June 9 with the hearing on June 17. There must be four affirmative votes for the adoption. The Mayor had recommended that since we are not receiving the DOT grant this year we use the money from the Capital Improvement Fund that we amend it in this budget and further reduce the taxes. We can include this verbally and then the Auditor's office can amend it. It is \$24,000.00. Clmn. Perez recommended that we keep \$5,000.00 if needed and then use \$20,000.00 for reductions. The Auditor will rework the figures and send An amended resolution.

Clmn. Perez made a MOTION to accept the amendment, SECONDED by Clmn. Slavicek. ROLL CALL: 5 - 0

PUBLIC PORTION

Joseph Opinski, Avenue A, asked about the status of the litigations of the Police Dept. Jacqueline Baker, Attorney, said that the Council cannot advise of the status as it is still in litigation. He commented on the absence of Clmn. Asciolla. He stated no one came to his house and asked his opinion of having a Police Chief. He felt we do need a Police Chief here.

Terry Eisenbrey, 30 North Shore Blvd. said that the Mayor should not tke all the blame for what has happened but all should take accountability. She is upset too that when she asks a question on facebook she is blocked.

RESOLUTION # 2015 CONSENT AGENDA

The following routine items and resolutions will be adopted in unison as a Consent Agenda:

Reports of Municipal Clerk, Tax Collector, Utility Revenue Collector

RESOLUTIONS:

2015 – 85 Amending Numbers of Previous Resolution

2015 – 86 Supporting the Transparent Tax Act of 2015

2015 – 87 Request the Governor and State Legislature to create a statewide task force on volunteer and recruitment for long and short term strategies

2015 – 88 Animal Control Officers for the Borough of Helmetta

2015 – 89 Payment of bills as per list

MOTION – Clmn. Slavicek SECOND – Clmn. Bruno

ROLL CALL: 5 - 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

March 8, 2015

MOTION – Clmn. Karczewski SECOND – Clmn. Slavicek

ROLL CALL: 5 - 0

April 22, 2015 - pulled

May 5, 2015

MOTION – Clmn. Slavicek SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski

ROLL CALL: 4 – 0 - 1

REPORT OF MAYOR, BOROUGH ATTORNEY, COMMITTEES

Clmn. Karczewski said that bids were accepted for High Street improvements, Mario's Concrete was lowest bidder and the Engineer is reviewing it.

The Mayor said that hopefully the Grand Opening of the Park will be the weekend of or Before the Fishing Derby.

ORDINANCE # 2015 – 3

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13 of the Code of the Borough of Helmetta, entitled "Police Department"

The Mayor stated that although she is a member of the Public Safety Committee she was not a part of the process. She would like to see the hiring of a Lieutenant before a Chief. She is returning the Ordinance unsigned and read a statement.

A MOTION was made by Clwmn. Bruno and SECONDED by Clmn. Karczewski to override the Mayor. ROLL CALL: 4 – 0 – 1.

The Mayor felt that a study should be done. The Mayor was questioned about walking

around town and doing a poll. Clmn. Karczewski stated the need and importance of Community Policing.

A statement was read by Clwmn. Bruno in support of a Chief of Police and appointment of Chief Lockman

MOTION to adopt – Clmn. Karczewski SECOND – Clwmn. Bruno
ROLL CALL: 4 – 0 – 1

RESOLUTION # 2015 – 90 Appointment of Chief of Police Chad Lockman

MOTION to adopt – Clmn. Bruno SECOND – Clwmn. Slavicek
ROLL CALL: 4 – 0 – 1

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to Chief Chad Lockman and to Police Officer Sean Signorello.

An invitation was extended by Clwmn. Bruno to all for refreshments.

ORDINANCE #2015 – 4 (First Reading)

An Ordinance of the Borough of Helmetta amending Chapter 31 entitled “Dogs and Cats”

MOTION – Clmn. Bruno SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski
ROLL CALL: 5 - 0

ORDINANCE #2015 – 5 (First Reading)

Ordinance vacating old road bed of John Street and accepting land for new road bed of John Street and authorizing other land transfers for Helme Mill redevelopment

MOTION – Clmn. Slavicek SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski
ROLL CALL: 5 - 0

ORDINANCE #2015 – 6 (First Reading)

Ordinance granting permanent easement and temporary construction easement to County for improvements to portion of Main Street

MOTION – Clmn. Karczewski SECOND – Clmn. Estrada
ROLL CALL: 5 - 0

ORDINANCE # 2015 – 7 (First Reading)

Ordinance authorizing various capital improvements and acquisitions and for the Borough of Helmetta, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, appropriating \$57,000

After discussion, this ordinance was tabled until the adoption of the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Clwmn. Bruno made a MOTION to appoint a committee to be formed for the Mill Project with Clmn. Karczewski and Slavicek serving on it this was SECONDED by Clmn. Perez. ROLL CALL: 5 – 0.

Clwmn. Bruno made a MOTION that if the Mayor has questions with whatever committee it pertains to that she has a Councilperson with her.

The Mayor stated that Matthew Crane will be the administrator with the HRAS website.

Clwmn. Bruno said he could work in coordination with Beth.

Clwmn. Bruno said she cannot get an answer to the speed limit sign on Lake Avenue. The Administrator will look into this.

The Mayor said that she had a letter from Kaplan's about the fire protection/ system.

CLOSED SESSION – RESOLUTION # 92 Contract Negotiations/Litigation

MOTION - Clmn. Slavicek SECOND - Clwmn. Bruno

ROLL CALL: 5 – 0

The meeting was opened to the Public

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.