

March 2, 2009

Mayor Cooperhouse called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Mayor Cooperhouse read the Presiding Officer's Statement. Present were Council President Murphy, Council Members Burden, Dodge, Keegan, and Menapace. Also present were Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman and Borough Attorney Martin Barger. Councilman McGuire was absent.

RESOLUTION #2009-31 (Executive Session)

Mayor Cooperhouse read Resolution #2009-31 to enter into executive session.

Reconvene Public Meeting

Mayor Cooperhouse reconvened the regular meeting at 8:00 PM. Mayor Cooperhouse read the Presiding Officer's Statement. Present were Council President Murphy, Council Members Burden, Dodge, Keegan, and Menapace. Also present were Borough Administrator Thomas Seaman and Borough Attorney Martin Barger. Councilman McGuire was absent.

Salute to Flag

Mayor Cooperhouse led the Salute to the Flag.

RESOLUTION # 2009-32 (Appropriation Reserve Transfer No. 3)

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace to approve Resolution #2009-32 authorizing Appropriation Reserve Transfer No. 3. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION #2009-33 (Authorize Refund of Tax Overpayment)

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace to approve Resolution #2009-33 authorizing a refund of tax overpayment to James and Laura Fanizzi. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION #2009-34 (Refund Business License Surety Bond to Roberts Group, LLC)

A motion was made by Councilman Dodge, seconded by Councilman Burden to approve Resolution #2009-34 refunding a business license surety bond to the Roberts Group, LLC. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION #2009-35 (Emergency Temporary Budget Appropriation #1)

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace to approve Resolution #2009-35 authorizing Emergency Temporary Budget Appropriation #1. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION #2009-36 (Authorization for NJDOT to Install Flashing School Speed Limit Sign) and Authorize Mayor and Clerk to Sign Agreement Between the NJDOT and the Borough of Shrewsbury to Install Flashing School Signs

Tabled. After discussion by the Mayor and Council it was decided that they would prefer to have the Borough Attorney review the agreement before the Council authorized the installation of the flashing school speed limit sign. A motion was made by Councilman Menapace, seconded by Councilman

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Burden to table Resolution #2009-36 and the authorizing of the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement between the NJDOT and the Borough of Shrewsbury to install the flashing school signs. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Seaman spoke about the letter from COAH in reference to the certification of completion of the Borough's Affordable Housing Trust Fund Monitoring Agreement. Mr. Seaman reported that he had received an email from COAH indicating that everything was okay.

Mr. Seaman spoke about the Shared Commodities Service Package he had received from the County and that he would be preparing several resolutions for Attorney Barger to review concerning sharing services and commodities with the County which hopefully would be ready for the next council meeting. The Mayor inquired if Mr. Seaman knew what the consumption numbers for utilities were. Mr. Seaman informed the Mayor that he had just received that data and needed to review the information and hoped to present it in spreadsheet format by the next Council meeting.

Reports of Council

Councilman Burden stated he had attended the all day Core Training Program sponsored by the New Jersey Community Forest Group which was held in Paramus on Saturday, February 28th, along with Miles Svihart. Mr. Burden informed the Council that by having an elected official and appointed official in attendance at this program fulfilled a requirement that qualified the Borough for additional grant money down the line.

Councilman Burden stated that he was moving along with the Traffic Ad-Hoc Committee and that a notice for people that might be interested would be included in the next newsletter. Mr. Burden informed the Council that the deadline for submittals to the newsletter is March 10th.

Councilman Burden spoke on behalf of the Environmental Commission when he requested Council approval for Shredding Day to be held at the Borough Hall on June 6th from 9:00 to 1:00 PM. Mr. Burden explained this program utilizes County trucks and provides shredding capabilities to the Borough and additionally reimburses the Borough for the amount of material collected. Councilman Burden stated that Councilman Menapace and Robert Wentway, the DPW manager, have both supported the program. Mr. Burden informed the Council that it would be held at the Municipal Complex and that the Environmental Commission would work to coordinate this event with the Recreation Commission to avoid interfering with each others functions that day.

Mr. Seaman asked if the Borough could use this opportunity to shred paperwork that is in need of shredding. Mr. Burden responded yes and he further advised Mr. Seaman that the school was planning to shred a substantial amount of paper as well. *The consensus of Council was that all members present were in favor of this request.*

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Mr. Burden reported that the Personnel Committee had tentatively scheduled a meeting for March 18th in the afternoon. He stated that if anyone had items they would like addressed to please get that information to him.

Councilman Dodge had no report.

Councilman Keegan had no report.

Councilman Menapace reported that the Department of Public Works in concert with the Environmental Commission is looking at an initiative to review the borough's curb side recycling program as well as improvements to the recycling process at the Department of Public Works. Mr. Menapace stated that they received good recommendations from the Environmental Commission and that there would be follow up meetings to evaluate what is workable. He advised the Council that they would be providing copies of the County Recycling Newsletter at the Department of Public Works for residents who would like to access them. Councilman Menapace pointed out that items such as batteries and paint are covered very explicitly in the County newsletter.

Mr. Menapace stated he had contacted the Borough Engineer in reference to Seashore Estates the development on the Avenue of The Common where they are currently in the process of bringing in clean fill dirt. He informed the Council that the soil is being tested and that they have found compaction rates are good and that the ongoing process has been positive.

Councilman Menapace reported that the Borough had applied for \$570,000 in stimulus money from the recently signed stimulus bill for improvements to Patterson Avenue because it is a street that qualifies for improvements. Mr. Menapace stated that in view of the possible development that would impact Patterson Avenue the engineer advised him that everything could be done but the finish coat of asphalt. Other changes would include curbing to make Patterson Avenue more of a neighborhood rather than a speedway. He stated that after the potential development is completed in that area the street would be finished.

Councilman Murphy reported that the Finance Committee was in the process of meeting with all Department Heads to firm up information for the budget process. Mr. Murphy inquired as to the availability of Council members to attend a meeting on Saturday, April 4, so the Finance Committee could review the preliminary budget with them. He announced that this meeting would be open to the public to observe, listen and comment. Mr. Murphy stated that it would be a workshop environment with no action taken at the meeting. The Council agreed to set the date for the Open Public Workshop Meeting on the budget for Saturday, April 4th to be held at 9:00 AM.

Councilman Murphy stated that he would like information about the budget workshop posted on the fire house marquee as well as the Borough website.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor stated that he had received correspondence from the League about the Sustainability Program for the State and Municipalities and he questioned Councilman Burden

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if this was something that should be handled by the Environmental Commission along with the Borough Administrator. Mr. Burden responded that he agreed that would be the right way to handle it.

Mayor Cooperhouse reported he received a letter from the Shrewsbury Parent Teachers Group asking permission to bring back the Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Municipal property. The Mayor asked the Council if there were any objections to this request. Councilman Burden only raised concern about the condition of the lights for the tree and suggested that possibly we could look into the DPW budget to see how this could be addressed.

The Mayor stated for the public's knowledge that hopefully within the next two weeks there would be a meeting taking place with Little Silver to discuss the possibility of shared services with them.

Mayor Cooperhouse discussed the article in the Asbury Park Press that was printed on February 28th in reference to the proposed School Merger Study being evaluated for feasibility by the Monmouth County Superintendent of Schools, Carole Knopp Morris. He stated that several members of Council received phone calls from concerned residents in regard to this article. The Mayor stated that he had called the County Superintendents office but was not able to reach anyone as the office appeared to be closed along with the current school closings due to the weather. Mr. Cooperhouse reported that he left several messages in regard to this article, one being with Mr. Brent McConnell, the Superintendent of Shrewsbury Elementary School and hopefully he would hear back from him tomorrow.

The Mayor reviewed the information covered in the Regionalization Summary Report dated January 2004. He questioned how the proposed change would affect the enrollment to the different school districts. He stated that no one was aware of this particular study but that he and the Council would be working very closely with the Board of Education on this. The Mayor stated that everyone was welcome to contact any of the local legislators whether they were in favor or opposed to this proposal. Mayor Cooperhouse advised the public that when he had more information he would bring it to the next council meeting but this is all the information he had at this time.

Mr. Barger reported that this is all part of a plan by the Governor and Commissioner Davy to have every district in the State K through 12. Mr. Barger stated that he too was surprised that Shrewsbury was accrued with Monmouth Regional rather than Red Bank Regional. He pointed out that the rest of the consolidations referenced in the study have been discussed at one point or another. Attorney Barger reported that Commissioner Davy has until March of 2010 to comment as to what she wants to do on the recommendations. He continued that if they decide to go forward with it, the proposal goes to the towns to be voted on by the residents of that municipality. Mr. Barger informed the public that if they want to stop this proposal they would just need to vote no to stop it. He stated that it is not something the State can just mandate unless they change the legislation which currently requires a vote. Mr. Barger advised the public that each municipality would have to vote on their position on the regionalization as it stands now.

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Correspondence There was no correspondence to report.

Open Meeting to the Public

A motion was made by Councilman Burden, seconded by Councilman Dodge to open the meeting to the Public. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Karol Anne Konefal, 24 Blades Run Drive questioned whether as parents they should take their concerns to the Board of Education in reference to the proposed School Merger Study. She stated her concerns that when it came time to vote on this people would just assume it wouldn't pass and she suggested as a town there should be an effort to make sure people get out and vote if it gets that far. She acknowledged the lack of participation by voters when it comes to the school budget and expressed concern that people would just assume this would be taken care of. Mrs. Konefal noted she had researched the K through 8 models for education and found it is considered the best learning model and she explained some of the reasoning for that. Mrs. Konefal stated that she had moved here for the school system and additionally she was concerned how this would affect property values. She suggested maybe a form letter could be generated so people who wouldn't ordinarily take the time to write a letter could just sign a form letter to express their position.

Mayor Cooperhouse responded that they were still in the process of gathering information and that the Mayor and Council would be reaching out to the Board of Education as well as Mr. Peter Meyers on this issue. He assured Mrs. Konefal that members of Council would be following up on this issue.

Mrs. Konefal expressed concern over her children being bused to a different school system. More discussion occurred covering Mrs. Konefal's concerns and how this process would unfold given the current legislation in place. Mr. Barger stated that currently you can vote against a specific regionalization. Mr. Barger pointed out that Governor Corzine has control over the Department of Education as well as both bodies of the Legislature. He stated that it wouldn't be that difficult to get legislation passed to change the fact this could be stopped by how a town votes or that it could be changed to a vote by the total towns effected instead of the specific town's vote.

Close Meeting to the Public

Seeing no one to speak, a motion was made by Councilman Burden, seconded by Councilman Dodge to close the meeting to the Public. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Menapace to authorize payment of all bills submitted by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion was approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

**BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY
MUNICIPAL CENTER
MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM was made by Councilman Cooperhouse, seconded by Councilman Burden and approved by Roll Call Vote with all members present voting yes.

Attest: _____
Kathleen P. Krueger, RMC – Deputy Municipal Clerk

Approve: _____
Terel Cooperhouse, Mayor