

**CITY OF ESTELL MANOR
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2011**

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Official Newspaper and was posted on the City Bulletin Board and website. Council President Teasenfitz called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.; however due to a lack of quorum, the meeting did not begin on time. Councilwoman Wiker arrived at approximately 7:33 PM.

Roll call: Present: Barbetto, Teasenfitz, and Wiker

Absent at roll call: Haeser and Mayor Venezia

The City's labor Attorney was present in place of Solicitor Scerni.

Council President Teasenfitz called for the flag salute and moment of silence. Mayor Venezia and Councilman Haeser arrived at 7:36 PM.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chuck Fralinger and Michael Fralinger, Jr. were present to give the Engineer's report; they updated Council on the status of various City projects. This evening's report was very brief and a hard copy is on file in the office of the Clerk for public review.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Motions were made by the Mayor and Councilman Teasenfitz to approve the following department reports: Zoning Officer (Nov. & Dec. 2010); DPW (Dec. 2010); Clerk/cash receipts (Nov. 2010). A voice vote was taken and all were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Teasenfitz motioned and the Mayor seconded for the approval of both open and closed session meeting minutes of December 1, 2010 and December 15, 2010. The recorded vote reflects a majority approval with Haeser and Wiker abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Venezia motioned and Councilman Teasenfitz seconded to approve the application of Robin E. Theis to the NJ State Firemen's Association. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor.

The Clerk proceeded to explain the next item of business: Participation in the JIF 2011 Optional Safety Budget. *The Mayor motioned and Councilman Haeser seconded for to authorize participation in the program. A roll call vote was taken and all were in favor.*

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RESOLUTIONS:

07-2011 Annual Schedule of Meetings

*Motions: Venezia / Wiker
Recorded vote: all in favor*

16-2011 To Appoint a Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

Discussion: The Mayor proposed to appoint Councilman Barbetto as the JIF Fund Commissioner, with Clerk typist Fern Brown as the alternate. Mr. Barbetto stated that the JIF only meets one day a month so why not leave the Clerk in that position; he further commented that the Clerk has been doing it all along and has the necessary experience. Some debate ensued with the Mayor stating that it was his appointment and final call. He stated he felt it was too much ‘downtime’ for the Clerk.

Mayor Venezia motioned to appoint Mr. Barbetto and Ms. Brown; motion failed for lack of a second and the matter was tabled.

17-2011 Safety & Health Committee Appointments - *TABLED*

18-2011 To Authorize the Contact Persons to Access the Employment Practices Liability Helpline / ACMJIF - *TABLED*

20-2011 Establishing Guidelines for Public Participation

Discussion: Council reviewed the proposed guidelines and Ms. Garcia gave some advice based on case law with regards to restricting public input. Councilman Teasenfitz expressed that he did not feel the 3-minute time limit for public comment was enough. It was decided to leave the time limit at five minutes per speaker.

*Motions: Venezia / Teasenfitz
Recorded vote: all in favor*

23-2011 To Award Contract for 2011 Janitorial Services

*Motions: Venezia / Teasenfitz
Roll call vote: all in favor*

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- 25-2011** Schedule of 2011 Holidays / Municipal Closings
- A brief discussion took place over possible changes to the City Holidays but it was decided to stay with past practice.
Motions: Venezia / Wiker
Recorded vote: all in favor
- 26-2010** A Resolution of the City of Estell Manor to Sell Property Known as Block 60.36, Lots 263 & 264. Located on Tenth Street, in the City of Estell Manor, County of Atlantic for a Minimum Bid of \$1,200.00
- Motions: Venezia / Barbetto*
Roll call: all in favor
- 27-2011** 2011 Campground License Renewals
- Motions: Venezia / Wiker*
Recorded vote: all in favor
- 28-2011** A Resolution to Appoint a Deputy Tax Collector
- A brief discussion took place over rate of pay and hours for the position of Deputy Tax Collector. Council also discussed ways in which to educate the public about the new, part-time only, hours for the tax office.
- The Mayor nominated Mrs. Linda Kent for the position of Deputy Tax Collector.*
Motions were made by the Mayor and Councilwoman Wiker.
Roll call: all in favor

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Creed Pogue commented on the public participation guidelines, the reason for this evening closed session and on snow removal operations.

City employee, Fern Brown suggested that a post card be mailed to residents, mortgage companies and banks regarding the new tax office hours. She described to Council the volume of calls received by the Clerk's office regarding tax questions. A brief discussion ensued about the City telephone system and automated capabilities.

Mrs. Diane Pogue also commented on the telephone system and said that people who really want an answer will simply call back to the Clerk's office.

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Mayor Venezia and Councilman Teasenfitz moved to go into closed session. Ms. Garcia announced that official action may be taken following the closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 29-2011 A Resolution Providing for a Closed Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, Regarding Contract Negotiations / Procuring the Professional Services of Verita, LLC

Following the closed session, Ms. Garcia summarized for the public as follows: City Council went into closed session to discuss negotiations for the services of Verita, LLC. There was some discussion over the proposed rate and the possibility of negotiating a lower rate. Verita's services are being sought in order to investigate certain grievances that were filed against a member of the governing body. The services of an outside firm are needed in this case due to ethical limitations and conflicts that present themselves when a member of the governing body is involved. The contract rate is authorized not to exceed \$200.00 per hour.

Motions were made by Haeser and Wiker to authorize the hiring of Verita, LLC. A roll call vote was taken and all were in favor but for the Mayor who abstained.

With no further business to conduct, this meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Hodsdon, RMC

Accepted:

Mayor Joseph Venezia