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COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023
7:00 PM
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The Council Meeting of the Butler Mayor and Council was opened by Mayor Martinez who indicated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act having been duly advertised and posted in Borough Hall and on the Borough website. This was followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all that have passed including Rich Dean.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Martinez, Councilman Calvi, Councilman Fox, Councilman Meier, Councilwoman Morley and Council President Verdonik.

Absent: Councilman Piccirillo

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator, James Lampmann; Robert Oostdyk, Borough Attorney; and Brandi Smith-Greco, Borough Clerk.

Motion to excuse the absence of Piccirillo made by Calvi, Second by Meier and all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 19, 2023 Moved: Fox
All in favor

Second: Verdonik

October 3, 2023 Moved: Fox
Voted Aye: Calvi, Fox, Meier, Morley
Voted Nay: None
Absent: Piccirillo
Abstain: Verdonik

Second: Morley

MEETING OF PUBLIC AND INVITATION FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Martinez performed the ceremonial swearing in of Officer Lauren Parak.

Mayor Martinez then honored the Butler All Conference Athletes and Butler Running Club members and presented them with certificates.

Mayor Martinez opened the meeting to the public.

Frank Blatterman from 46 Maple Lake Road approached and inquired how many lanes the temporary bridge on Rt. 23 would be. Mr. Lampmann explained we wrote a letter supporting the newly proposed 4 lane temporary bridge and anticipates that being the design. He then asked if we would place a sign on Maple Lake Road that reads "Entering Butler" because after receiving a package for 46 Maple Lake Road, Kinnelon, the UPS driver told him they do not know where Butler ends and Kinnelon starts. He thinks this would relieve a lot of the confusion.

Tom Figura from 47 Roosevelt Ave approached and stated his concerns over the recent spike in taxes again. He wanted to know if during the reassessment over the next 2 years if it is going to continue going up? Council President Verdonik said the valuation went up but it doesn't necessarily mean you're going to pay more. He also explained that only approximately 22% comes to the Borough with the majority going to the Board of Ed and the County. Mr. Lampmann also explained that the increase does not generate any additional revenue for the Borough when the values go up. He did explain that the recently passed BOE referendum may increase the taxes. Mr. Figura said he believes the values are too high. Mr. Lampmann reminded him of his right to appeal.

Szymon Jedryczka from 72 Spring St. approached and also expressed his displeasure in the taxes going up every year. He said every year his home value goes up 40-60k. Wants to know when it's going to stop? Councilman Calvi stated we are all in the same boat.

Seeing no one else come forward, a motion was made to close this public portion of the meeting.

Moved: Fox
All in favor

Second: Verdonik

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Council President Verdonik reported that there will be a transfer resolution later on the agenda and in Finance we are trending well, there are no items that they are concerned with.

Councilman Fox reported in the Road Dept., street sweeping has been completed and will be reduced to an "as needed" schedule. All winter equipment is ready for snow.

Councilwoman Morley reported on all satisfactory and conditional inspections. Blood pressure clinic was attended by 9 people.

Councilman Calvi stated we had 19 MV accidents with 14 considered reportable and 6 injuries. Three DUI arrests. 183 summonses were issued from 277 stops. 8,275 random license plates checks were processed. There were 7 arrests for a variety of criminal offenses. He welcomed newly sworn-in officer Lauren Parak. He also reported that the BPD attended the County College of Morris Law Enforcement Career Fair and also assisted Aaron Decker School with a safety drill. 16 firearm applications were processed.

Councilman Meier reported tree trimming on Macopin Rd. and associated side streets. Crews installed holiday decorations including a new LED train display. All truck rubber, rubber gloves and sleeves were switched out per OSHA requirements. BP&L received delivery of 40' and 45' poles. Crews performed a service upgrade at Richard Butler School. Poles were set in multiple locations in preparation for Planet Networks installation of the new fiber system throughout our territory. Poles were also installed along Route 23 for the NJ Guardrail Improvement Project.

He has no report for the museum but reminded everyone the museum is open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

Borough Clerk, Brandi Smith-Greco reported on the following:

- Tax Collectors Report – November 2023 - \$ 6,430,001.86
- Power & Light/Water & Sewer Dept. – November 2023 – \$ 1,642,491.42

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND PAYROLLS

R 2023-125 Authorization for Payment of Bills and Vouchers

Moved: Verdonik Second: Fox

Voted Aye: Calvi, Fox, Meier, Morley, Verdonik

Voted Nay: None

Absent: Piccirillo

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS

None

ORDINANCE(S) FOR ADOPTION – PUBLIC HEARING

2023-13 Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Various Provisions of Chapter 21 (Fire Department") of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Butler.

Introduced: November 6, 2023

Advertised: November 15, 2023

Brandi Greco opened this ordinance for public comment.

Seeing no one come forward, Councilman Fox made a motion to close public portion and move 2023-13. Second by Calvi.

Moved: Fox Second: Calvi

Voted Aye: Calvi, Fox, Meier, Morley, Verdonik

Voted Nay: None

Absent: Piccirillo

2023-14 Ordinance of the Borough of Butler Providing for the Appropriation of \$32,000 for the Acquisition of a Meals on Wheels Utility Vehicle from the General Capital – Capital Improvement Fund.

Introduced: November 6, 2023

Advertised: November 15, 2023

Brandi Greco opened this ordinance for public comment.

Seeing no one come forward, Councilman Fox made a motion to close public portion and move 2023-14. Second by Verdonik.

Moved: Fox Second: Verdonik

Voted Aye: Calvi, Fox, Meier, Morley, Verdonik

Voted Nay: None

Absent: Piccirillo

ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION

None

RESOLUTION(S): 1. *Note all resolutions marked with an * are included in the Consent Agenda Resolution and will be passed by one motion.

A. **2023-126** Resolution Authorizing Passage of a Special Consent Agenda.

Moved: Fox Second: Verdonik

All in favor

* **2023-127** Resolution Authorizing Refunds, Overpayments or Cancellations in the Electric Dept.

* **2023-128** Resolution Authorizing Refunds, Overpayments or Cancellations in the Water Dept.

* **2023-129** Resolution Authorizing Refunds, Overpayments or Cancellations in the Tax Office

* **2023-133** Resolution Appointing Borough Towers for 2024

B. **2023-130** 2024 Salary Resolution

Moved: Verdonik Second: Fox

Voted Aye: Calvi, Fox, Meier, Morley, Verdonik

Voted Nay: None

Absent: Piccirillo

C. **2023-131** Transfer Resolution

Moved: Verdonik Second: Fox

Voted Aye: Calvi, Fox, Meier, Morley, Verdonik

Voted Nay: None

Absent: Piccirillo

D. **2023-132** Cancel Appropriation Resolution

Moved: Fox Second: Meier

Voted Aye: Calvi, Fox, Meier, Morley, Verdonik

Voted Nay: None

Absent: Piccirillo

E. **2023-134** Resolution Authorizing Purchase of a Meals on Wheels Vehicle

Moved: Fox Second: Morley

Voted Aye: Calvi, Fox, Meier, Morley, Verdonik

Voted Nay: None

Absent: Piccirillo

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Brandi Greco asked if everyone reviewed the Fire Official Interlocal agreement with Bloomingdale and whether we would be extending it. Council agreed so we will pass a Resolution at the next meeting.
- Brandi Greco reported that International Towing responded to the Chiefs letter and asked to be listed as an "alternate" tower this year as he is facing staffing issues. Council agreed.

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INVITATION FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Martinez opened the meeting to the public for discussion.

Seeing no one else come forward, a motion was made to close this public portion.

Moved: Fox
All in favor

Second: Calvi

CLOSED SESSION

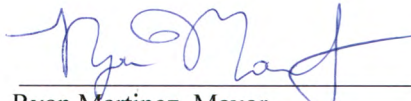
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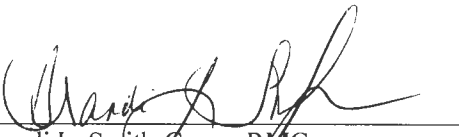
MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Moved: Fox
All in favor

Second: Morley

Adjournment: 7:40pm



Ryan Martinez, Mayor

Brandi L. Smith-Greco, RMC
Adopted: February 6, 2024