

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

September 12, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Council President Lou D'Angelo, Councilwoman Carolyn Fontanella, Councilwoman Debra Andriani, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman William Bucher, Councilman John Capo, Municipal Clerk Joseph Wassel and Municipal Attorney Robert Corrado.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor John Coiro called the meeting to order and asked the Municipal Clerk to call the roll.

Municipal Clerk Wassel recited the Prayer of the Meeting followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with the public participating.

Mayor Coiro asked everyone to remain standing and remarked that since our last Council Meeting our country has endured two major hurricanes – Harvey and Irma – and asked for a moment of silence for those who died.

Mayor Coiro asked the Municipal Clerk to read the statement of the meeting.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read the following statement: This meeting of the Mayor and Council held on this day is being held in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 of the State of New Jersey as amended. The agenda for this meeting has been prepared and distributed to the Mayor and Council and a copy has been on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to dispense with the regular order of business in order to enable the Mayor and Council to recognize Totowa resident Luke Mulroony for his many puzzle creations – Puzzled by Luke – and to accept his puzzle of the Totowa Emblem, then to present Sports Award Certificates to the 2017 Passaic Valley Baseball League Farm Division Champion Totowa Yankees players and coaches and the 2017 Passaic Valley Softball Association Champion Totowa Wildcats players and coaches. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro went to the front of the dais and commented that this is a very special evening where we will have three different recognition ceremonies and began by asking Luke Mulroony and his Mom Danielle and Dad Tim to join him. Luke thanked the Mayor and Council and then presented the Totowa Emblem puzzle to Mayor Coiro. Mayor Coiro then accepted the puzzle and thanked Luke before he read some excerpts from and presented a Certificate of Recognition to Luke along with some new puzzles. Pictures were taken.

Mayor Coiro said that he would begin with softball and the Champion Totowa Wildcats and mentioned that it is always nice when we can recognize our young athletes. Mayor Coiro called up the coaches first and presented each with a Sports Award Certificate and asked one of the coaches to give a synopsis of the season. Coach Sharon DiPasquale gave a synopsis of the season. Mayor Coiro continued by calling up each player and presenting them with a Sports Award Certificate. Pictures were taken.

Mayor Coiro continued with baseball and the Champion Totowa Yankees. Mayor Coiro called up the coaches first and presented each with a Sports Award Certificate and asked one of the coaches to give a synopsis of the season. Coach Mike Snell thanked the Mayor and Council and gave a synopsis of the season. Mayor Coiro continued by calling up each player and presenting them with a Sports Award Certificate. Pictures were taken.

Mayor Coiro announced that there would be a short recess.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to revert to the regular order of business. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro asked if any members of the Council, the Municipal Clerk or the Municipal Attorney wished to address the Council.

Councilwoman Andriani: Announced that the Mayor and Council along with the Library and Health Department will sponsor "Commit to be Fit" our Community Health and Wellness Fair on October 21st at the PAL from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Mike Mahometa, 269 Lincoln Avenue: Commented on the following: 1) Said it was a fantastic get together last Sunday at the picnic and that he got a particular kick about the guy in the dunk tank. Mayor Coiro: Responded that it was a very good affair and acknowledged that we had a few "good sport" volunteers for the dunk tank. 2) Asked about the status of the PAL park equipment. Mayor Coiro: Told him that we were approved for a grant and will now begin the process of having the new equipment installed. 3) Stated that a tree at the PAL is leaning near a shed in the back yard of the houses. Mayor Coiro: Asked DPW Superintendent Jim Niland to take a look at it.

PAL President Julie Alesandrelli: Thanked the Mayor and Council for those who attended PAL Soccer Opening Day and for all the support of the PAL programs. Invited the Mayor and Council to the Football Bonfire which is currently scheduled for Friday night at the PAL weather permitting.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Andriani, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of August 22, 2017. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Councilman D'Angelo and Councilwoman Fontanella abstained from the voting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve Resolution No. 2017-19 for the payment of bills. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following resolution authorizing the Treasurer to issue refunds to various property owners due to overpayment of 3rd Quarter 2017 taxes. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there has been an overpayment of taxes on the properties listed below;
and

WHEREAS, the taxpayer is entitled to a refund; and

WHEREAS, the chart sets forth the refund as follows:

3rd Qtr. 2017

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Property/Owner</u>	<u>Payable to:</u>	<u>OVERPAYMENT</u>
9	42.01	10 Huizenga Lane George C. Shamey (prior owner)	Ocwen Loan Servicing 1661 Worthington Road STE 100 West Palm Beach, FL 33409	\$2,461.98
40	20	179 Union Blvd 179 Union Blvd LLC	179 Union Blvd LLC 4 Mead Place Pompton Plains, N.J. 07444	\$3,091.55
112	48	147 Grant Ave. Castellanos (prior owner) Gutekunst (new owner)	Title On Demand of NJ 54 Woodport Road Sparta, NJ 07871 Attn: Carmen Brand	\$1,619.21
11	7.01	55 Shepherds Lane 143 Grand Street LLC	143 Grand Street LLC 1247 Grand Street Brooklyn, NY 11211	\$49,587.32

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the overpayment shall be refunded to the taxpayer, as stated above, and the Treasurer is authorized to issue separate checks for the refunds, which shall be paid to the stated property owner or taxing authority.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Settlement Of The 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 And 2016 Tax Appeals Entitled Totowa Plaza Route 46 V. Borough Of Totowa. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 103-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF THE 2012, 2013, 2014,
2015 AND 2016 TAX APPEALS ENTITLED TOTOWA PLAZA ROUTE 46
V. BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

WHEREAS, there have been appeals of the real property tax assessments for the stated tax years; and

WHEREAS, each Block and Lot listed therein was assessed at the amount stated therein; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Stipulations of Settlement, copies of which are incorporated herein as if set forth at length, has been reviewed and recommended by the Borough Tax Assessor and Borough Tax Expert; and

WHEREAS, the settlement of these matters on the attached list are in the best interest of the Borough of Totowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Totowa, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Borough's Tax Appeal Attorney, Raymond B. Reddin, Esq. is authorized to execute Stipulations of Settlement on behalf of the Borough of Totowa with respect to the tax appeals on the attached list which are currently pending in the Tax Court of New Jersey.
2. All municipal officials are hereby authorized to take whatever action may be necessary to implement the terms of this Resolution and authorizes the Special Tax Counsel to enter into the Stipulation of Settlement as provided by Taxpayer.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

After conferring with Police Chief Robert Coyle and upon the recommendation of the Committee, there was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to appoint Jack Pohlman as a Patrol Officer in the Borough of Totowa Police Department. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT

I, Mayor John Coiro, with the advice and consent of the Council do hereby appoint Jack Pohlman as a Patrol Officer in the Borough of Totowa Police Department, effective with the swearing in ceremony on September 26, 2017.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to confirm the appointment. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

A letter from the Totowa Fire Department Fund Drive Committee advising of their annual fund drive, with their door-to-door campaign being held on October 8 – 10, 2017, was received and filed.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

A letter was received from the St. James Knights of Columbus requesting permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot on Friday, September 15, 2017 for a trip to Yankee Stadium. There was a motion by Councilwoman Fontanella, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to grant permission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Councilman D'Angelo abstained from the voting.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilman Capo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to introduce on first reading and advertise for public hearing the following entitled ordinance. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-2017

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA
TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER 66 ENTITLED "PARKING UTILITY"**

There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella that the meeting be adjourned. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk