

## **BOROUGH OF TOTOWA**

### **MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**July 26, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Councilman John Waryas, Councilman Jim Niland, Councilman Lou D'Angelo, Councilwoman Carolyn Fontanella, Municipal Clerk Joseph Wassel and Municipal Attorney Robert Corrado.

**ABSENT:** Council President Phil Puglise.

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 the Clerk to read the statement of the meeting.

The Municipal Clerk 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 Waryas, seconded by Councilman Niland to dispense with the regular order of business in order to have a swearing in ceremony for newly appointed Councilwoman Debra A. Andriani to take the Oath of Allegiance & Office. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro asked Debra A. Andriani to approach the dais to take the Oath of Allegiance & Office. Mayor Coiro also asked that her husband Frank and sons accompany her as well.

Mayor Coiro asked Honorable Passaic County Clerk Kristin M. Corrado to administer the Oath of Allegiance & Office to newly appointed Councilwoman Debra A. Andriani. Councilwoman Andriani took the Oath with her husband Frank holding the Bible and her sons by her side.

Mayor Coiro presented a badge symbolic to the Office of Council to Councilwoman Debra A. Andriani.

Mayor Coiro after presenting the badge remarked that when Councilwoman Arlene Festa decided to step down that it was very easy to select Debbie to fill the vacancy of Council. Mayor Coiro went on to say that with Debbie's personality, her work on the Board of Education, her work in town and her run for Freeholder made her an excellent choice for Council. Mayor Coiro disclosed that even outgoing Councilwoman Festa—once she found out who would replace her—said that we couldn't have chosen anyone better than Debbie, and we all feel the same way and look forward to working with you.

Councilwoman Andriani thanked Republican Chairman Peter Murphy, the Mayor and Council, everyone in town for their love and support, Arlene Festa for her help and then thanked her family for all of their love and support.

Congratulations were extended to Councilwoman Debra A. Andriani.

There was a motion by Councilman Waryas, seconded by Councilman Niland 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 Municipal Clerk Wassel to call the roll of the Council.

**PRESENT:** Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Councilman John Waryas, Councilman Jim Niland, Councilman Lou D'Angelo, Councilwoman Carolyn Fontanella and Councilwoman Debbie Andriani.

**ABSENT:** Council President Phil Puglise.

Mayor Coiro announced the following new Council Committees for the remainder of 2011.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

WARYAS            D'ANGELO            FONTANELLA

PUBLIC SAFETY

NILAND            PUGLISE            WARYAS

PUBLIC WORKS

PUGLISE            NILAND            ANDRIANI

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY

D'ANGELO            FONTANELLA            PUGLISE

LIAISON & INSPECTION

ANDRIANI            WARYAS            D'ANGELO

LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES

FONTANELLA            ANDRIANI            NILAND

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

There were no reports.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Mary Ann Santaniello, 4 Craig Court: Said last year she had asked about having an annual free garage sale, she sent a letter and never heard back. Now she is asking to be allowed to have two garage sales per year. Mayor Coiro: Asked Councilwoman Fontanella whose Committee this falls under to check the ordinance and report back in two weeks with a recommendation. Mary Ann Santaniello: Asked how she would find out. Mayor Coiro: Told her she could either come back to the next meeting or we would contact her after the meeting.

Pete Ianzano, 19 Knox Terrace: Said that he along with his neighbors the Cassetta's and Ferrante's have had a problem with flooding for the last five years every time it rains hard. Stated that it has been happening since the trees were planted in a berm along the parking lot at the town pool. Also said that there are three catch basins that are never cleaned and when the new filters were installed at the pool, he saw some DPW guys who said that they would dig a ditch to the catch basins once they finished installing the filters. Said the water enters by the Ferrante's and runs down. Mayor Coiro: Asked DPW Superintendent Doug Wright who was in attendance. Superintendent Wright: Responded that the problem is the berm, but that there is a lot of debris that gets dumped in the backs of the yards by the property owners and suggests that we extend the berm past his property line. Mayor Coiro: Inquired if we could do it or had to bring someone in to do it. Superintendent Wright: Answered that we could do it, but we would have to get fill.

There was a motion by Councilman Niland, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of July 12, 2011. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Councilman Waryas and Councilwoman Andriani abstained from the voting.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman Waryas, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve Resolution No. 2011-16 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 Waryas, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following resolution authorizing the Treasurer to issue a refund in the amount of \$195.58 to the Do-Good Student Support Group and the Tax Collector to credit any future taxes due to an exemption from real estate taxes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.6. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION

Property Owner:  
RE: Do-Good Student Support Group  
195 Union Boulevard, Totowa, NJ  
Block: 41, Lot: 1.02

WHEREAS, "Do-Good Student Support Group" has applied for exemption from real estate taxes in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.6; and

WHEREAS, the property owner meets all requirements for the exemption. The exemption became effective on June 17, 2011, therefore the owner is exempted from paying property taxes from that date; and

WHEREAS, the taxes due for 2011 should be prorated from June 17, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the property tax paid thus far for the year 2011 is \$2,528.70; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayer is entitled to 14 days refunded at \$13.97 per day, which totals the sum of \$195.58.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of the Borough of Totowa is authorized to refund \$195.58 to the owner "Do-Good Student Support Group" and the Tax Collector is authorized to credit any future taxes billed for 2011 and 2012, as to this property, so long as "Do-Good Student Support Group" owns the property.

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

There was a motion by Councilman Niland, seconded by Councilman Waryas to approve a grade increase for Patrolman Jamie Titus from Grade 3 (\$86,285) to Grade 2 (\$96,744), effective July 30, 2011. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Niland, seconded by Councilman Waryas to approve payment of the annual garage rent to Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 in the amount of \$7,000 and Riverview Park Fire Company, Inc. in the amount of \$5,500 for 2011. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Niland, seconded by Councilman Waryas to approve payment of the annual contribution in the amount of \$15,000 to the Borough Of Totowa First Aid Squad, Inc. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

A letter from Freeholder Director Terry Duffy inviting the Mayor and Council to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 9-11 Memorial Ceremony on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Passaic County Public Safety Academy was received and filed.

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

There was no report.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

A letter was received from American Legion Memorial Post No. 227 requesting permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot on Saturday, August 6, 2011 from 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. for a trip to Atlantic City. There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to grant permission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

A letter was received from the DEBORAH Hospital Foundation requesting permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot on Sunday, October 23, 2011 for a trip to Atlantic City. There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to grant permission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was no report.

#### COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Fontanella, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to approve Raffle License Application Nos. 1588 & 1589 for Pet Adoption Thru Caring Hands for a Tricky Tray and Off-Premise 50/50, respectively, to be held on October 4, 2011 at The Bethwood. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro thanked everyone for coming and once again welcomed Councilwoman Andriani and said that we look forward to working with you. Councilwoman Andriani replied that she looks forward to working with the Mayor and Council too.

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

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Joseph Wassel, RMC  
Municipal Clerk