

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

April 25, 2017

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Debra Andriani.

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 D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to dispense with the regular order of business in order to hold a public hearing on the 2017 Municipal Budget and Ordinance No. 04-2017 as advertised. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Municipal Clerk Wassel announced that the 2017 Municipal Budget and Ordinance No. 04-2017 have been advertised for public hearing for Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read the Municipal Budget Notice.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to adopt the following Resolution To Waive The Reading In Full Of The 2017 Municipal Budget. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 63-2017

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE READING IN FULL OF THE
2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 permits that the Budget as advertised may be read by its title providing that at least one week prior to the date of the hearing and at the hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget:

- a) shall be made available for public inspection; and
- b) shall be made available to each person upon request; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa has complied with the aforesaid requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council that the Borough of Totowa is hereby permitted to waive the reading in full, of the Municipal Budget for the year ending December 31, 2017.

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

Mayor Coiro asked if any citizens wished to be heard on the 2017 Municipal Budget.

CITIZENS HEARD:

There were no citizens who wished to be heard.

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

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to adopt Resolution No. 64-2017 To Adopt The 2017 Municipal Budget. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read the legal notice and the title of Ordinance No. 04-2017.

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

Mayor Coiro asked if any citizens wished to be heard on Ordinance No. 04-2017.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Debra D'Agostino, 70 Vreeland Avenue: Said that she was here to object to the ordinance for some of the following reasons: the public notice was advertised on April 14th, but no agendas were posted, the ordinance was not posted, the Planning Board met on April 13th the day before the notice was in the paper, Nordan Murphy's report was dated April 6th which doesn't meet the Planning Board time frame criteria to get onto their agenda, Borough Clerk Wassel was not available from his office to answer any questions, the Minutes should be available from the last meeting for the residents to know what happened and the ordinance is only referred to as Block and Lot and never mentions the property address or name. Stated that other towns notice all residents within 200 feet of affected property. Commented that traffic has always been a big problem in town, but this project will increase the traffic. Asked who put the traffic monitors up on Minnisink Road and Vreeland Avenue. Mayor Coiro: Responded, I assume the State of New Jersey. Debra D'Agostino: Said her property floods already and DPW Superintendent Jim Niland – without DEP approval – installed check valves and another catch basin. Remarked that she has submitted numerous OPRA requests regarding bidding for engineering and the expenses paid and only bits and pieces have been received. Said Construction Code Official Allan Burghardt gets numerous OPRA's. Said the Planning Board Minutes from February 19, 2015 are not posted. Disclosed that there are no DEP approvals for the businesses/properties on Vreeland

Avenue or the catch basin with the nice rock swale that was installed in front of Detective Sergeant Carmen Veneziano's house and drains the lowest northwest corner of the NJDC property. Said you Mayor back in the 1990's intervened with NJDC on behalf of the Winifred Drive residents. Mentioned that during Irene her house flooded and nobody came to rescue them. Said Two Brothers Construction is on the tributary, yet they bring in dirt and Eastern Outdoors is in violation with no C.O. and no retail allowed. Stated that her name is given out by Borough employees to the neighbors. Said that landscapers are still dumping and Borough Clerk Wassel doesn't register landscapers per the ordinance. Asked how can we trust you to develop this property properly and correct her flooding. Mayor Coiro: Informed her that he was not Mayor until 1999 so he doesn't know about the intervention for the Winifred Drive residents or the catch basin. Responded to the Block and Lot issue, that the Redevelopment Plan has been on the website since February 2016 and this describes the property with an address and that is what is being amended so anyone could access it. A conversation ensued about the website. Annalyce D'Agostino: Also questioned why the ordinance was only referred to as Block and Lot and asked how anyone would know about the ordinance without it being put on the website or a public forum, not in the newspaper. Said she doesn't know how you can act on this tonight. Mayor Coiro: Replied that as you are aware this is only an amendment to the Redevelopment Plan. Explained that professional services are exempt from the bidding threshold and the State will also be reimbursing us for our engineering costs. Debra D'Agostino: Asked Borough Attorney Corrado to respond to the OPRA from June 2016. Borough Attorney Corrado: Asserted that we have allowed you to go on for 45 minutes about various things, but that you need to restrict your comments during this portion to the ordinance. Debra D'Agostino: Asked when the Master Plan Reexamination Report was put on the website. Mayor Coiro: Answered shortly after its adoption. Asked Jong – from our Special Counsel's office – to offer some insight on what this amendment is doing to the Redevelopment Plan. Jong Sook Nee: Explained that this is not approving a site plan, we are only changing some definitions regarding medical offices and support facilities, assisted living residence and the General Development Plan (GDP). It also changes maximum building coverage and maximum building height. Debra D'Agostino: Said I only heard it's more developable. Mayor Coiro: Re-explained that the amendments are only technical modifications. Annalyce D'Agostino: Asked how hard would it have been to include the address or property name. Jong Sook Nee: Remarked that "commonly known as" is a legal term for zoning/redevelopment. Mayor Coiro: Told them your point is taken and going forward 169 Minnisink Road will be included.

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

Municipal Clerk Wassel read Ordinance No. 04-2017 by title:

ORDINANCE NO. 04-2017

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA, COUNTY OF PASSAIC,
NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PROPERTY
COMMONLY KNOWN AS BLOCK 154, LOT 19 ON THE TAX MAP OF THE
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA (BLOCK 154, LOT 19 AND BLOCK 154.01, LOT 1
ON THE TAX ASSESSMENT RECORDS)**

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to adopt Ordinance No. 04-2017 on second and final reading. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

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.

Councilman D'Angelo: 1) Thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and neighboring towns for their efforts fighting the recent house fire on Boyle Avenue; 2) Then last night there were some downed live wires by Festa Funeral Home and again thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and PSE&G for their quick actions.

Councilwoman Fontanella: 1) Reiterated what Councilman D'Angelo said on the two incidents, the second of which affected her family personally; 2) Said the PAL held their Opening Day for Baseball and Softball this past Saturday and while the weather hasn't been so good, thanked DPW Superintendent Niland and the DPW for their efforts getting the fields ready.

Councilman Picarelli: Announced that the Shade Tree Commission will hold their annual Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 29th at 11:00 a.m. at the Municipal Complex.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Mike Mahometa, 269 Lincoln Avenue: Acknowledged that both the Fire Department and Police Department did a fantastic job with the fire on Boyle Avenue and downed wires.

Debra D'Agostino, 70 Vreeland Avenue: Repeated the following concerns that she has: Regarding the flooding and how DPW Superintendent Niland – without an engineer – installed 3 check valves, with no pitch or DEP approval, but left the 4th check valve open to their house. Said he also came in with a bulldozer and removed the berm and they now have soot and dirt that fills the check valves, has left them with a mess and now have to worry about mosquitoes. Stated that she hasn't received OPRA responses from either Construction Code Official Burghardt or Fire Marshall Allen Del Vecchio. Spoke about how the businesses on Vreeland Avenue are operating without C.O.'s. Said she went to a Planning Board Meeting on February 25, 2016 regarding 40 Vreeland Avenue and was shut down by Chairman Rich Hennion. Remarked that Planning Board Attorney Rich Briigliadoro told her that any violations must go before Code Official Burghardt, but then said that other applications can't be heard by the Board because of prior violations. Asserted that we can't trust you and now you are going to redevelop NJDC and we are going to flood more. Said that Inspector John Waryas told her that he would call the DEP, but then got no call back. Stated that she felt that DPW Superintendent Niland did make an effort to check on the valves after the installation. Said that people living next to a river don't have to worry as much about flooding as they do living next to a drainage ditch. Stated that they are going to walk out of here tonight and you are just going to ignore us, but said we want that drainage behind our house fixed. Annalyce D'Agostino, 70 Vreeland Avenue: Also voiced her concerns about the flooding and how they can't trust the Mayor and Council to have their backs.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of April 11, 2017. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve Resolution No. 2017-10 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 approve payment of the 2nd Quarter 2017 Budget Allotment to the Borough of Totowa Public Library in the amount of \$178,154. 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 endorsing the submission of the Recycling Tonnage Grant Application and Recycling Tax Identification Statement to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 65-2017

WHEREAS, the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, the recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2016 Recycling Tonnage Grant will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa hereby endorses the submission of the Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Joseph Wassel, Certified Recycling Professional, 537 Totowa Road at Cherba Place, Totowa, NJ, 07512, to ensure that the application is properly filed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the monies received from the Recycling Tonnage Grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to accept the proposals for the Placement of an ATM in the Municipal Complex. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee, there was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following resolution to award a contract for the Placement of an ATM in the Municipal Complex. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-2017

RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR THE PLACEMENT OF AN ATM IN THE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

WHEREAS, the Chief of the Borough of Totowa Police Department as well as the Municipal Court Administrator have recommended that an ATM machine be installed in the Borough of Totowa Municipal Complex; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa recognize that it would be in the best interests of the Borough of Totowa and public to offer ATM services at the Municipal Complex; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa solicited quotes for ATM placement and services at the Borough of Totowa Municipal Complex; and

WHEREAS, Access America ATM Solutions LLC, 34 Highlands Drive, Kinnelon, New Jersey 07405 has submitted a proposal dated March 31, 2017 to provide, fund and maintain an ATM at the Municipal Complex, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, there will be a \$2.25 surcharge per transaction to be charged to the ATM user and the Borough of Totowa will receive the sum of \$1.00 per transaction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Access America ATM Solutions LLC for ATM placement and services for the Borough of Totowa Municipal Complex for a period of one year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

A letter from John Nickel, St. Joseph's Director of Paramedics M.I.C.U. praising the efforts of Patrol Officers Brian Britting and Meagan Akins and Sergeant James Eisele during a cardiac arrest on April 15, 2017 outside Marshall's Department Store was received and filed with a copy to be placed in their respective personnel jackets.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Capo to approve Change Order No. 2 for a net decrease of \$415.00 and Payment Estimate No. 2 (Final) in the amount of \$15,617.54 to Marini Brothers Construction Co., Inc. for the 2015 Road Program. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

A letter was received from the St. James Seniors requesting permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. There was a motion by Councilwoman Fontanella, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to grant permission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Capo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Annual Visual Pool Inspection And The Bonding And Grounding Test For The Totowa Municipal Swimming Pool. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 67-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ANNUAL VISUAL ELECTRICAL
INSPECTION AND THE BONDING AND GROUNDING TEST FOR THE
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L.1998, c. 137 which was enacted on February 9, 1999, the State of New Jersey requires an Electrical Certificate of Compliance and Bonding and Grounding Certificate to be issued for community swimming pools; and

WHEREAS, the Electrical Certificate of Compliance requires that a visual inspection be performed annually and the Bonding and Grounding Certificate is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issuance; and

WHEREAS, the Certificate of Compliance verifies that all wiring located in or about the pool pump and associated electrical equipment complies with the National Electrical Code; and

WHEREAS, the Bonding and Grounding Certificate confirms the existence of a bonding system that connects all the metal non-electrical parts of the swimming pool, including any fence within 5 feet of the water line; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent for the Borough of Totowa Department of Public Works ("DPW") has advised the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the visual inspection and bonding test of the Totowa Municipal Swimming Pool should be performed prior to the opening of the 2017 Pool Season; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa DPW Superintendent has solicited quotes from licensed electrical contractors to provide the required inspection services; and

WHEREAS, Top Line Electric, Inc., P.O. Box 5606, Hillsborough, New Jersey 07884, License No. 13196, has submitted a proposal dated April 12, 2017 to perform the visual inspection in the amount of \$495.00 and the bonding and grounding test in the amount of \$595.00 for a combined fee of \$1,090.00, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Top Line Electrical, Inc. is a full service electrical contracting company specializing in electrical maintenance of community swimming pools; and

WHEREAS, the DPW Superintendent has reviewed the proposal and advised that Top Line Electrical, Inc. has the necessary experience to perform the inspection services; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to authorize the visual electrical inspection and bonding and grounding test of the Totowa Municipal Swimming Pool to ensure the safety and well-being of the Pool members and employees; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, the authorization of this service will not exceed the public bidding threshold and may be authorized without public bidding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby accept the proposal submitted by Top Line Electric, Inc. to perform the mandated annual visual electrical inspection and bonding and grounding test of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Swimming Pool in the amount of \$1,090.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize Top Line Electric, Inc. to provide the materials and perform the services set forth in their proposal.

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Capo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Consulting Arborist Services. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 68-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONSULTING ARBORIST SERVICES

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 05-2004 adopted March 9, 2004, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa established a Shade Tree Commission for the Borough of Totowa, to preserve and enhance the Borough's physical and aesthetic appearance and develop standards governing the planting of all trees, brush, vines, shrubs and ground cover upon Borough-owned land; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Shade Tree Commission has recommended that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa retain the services of a licensed and certified arborist to assist the Borough of Totowa and perform a risk assessment of all trees located within the Borough of Totowa parks and municipal right-of- ways; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Shade Tree Commission solicited proposals from licensed and certified arborists to provide the necessary consulting services; and

WHEREAS, Malcom McBurney Consulting Arborist, 47 Pine Street, Ramsey, New Jersey 07446, has submitted a proposal to provide the consulting services for the sum of \$7,700.00, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did on April 25, 2017 examine the proposal submitted by Malcom McBurney Consulting Arborist; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, these professional consulting services may be authorized without public bidding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize Malcom McBurney Consulting Arborist to provide the consulting arborist services for the Borough of Totowa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Capo to adopt the following Proclamation To Celebrate Arbor Day. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

PROCLAMATION TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and is celebrated in New Jersey on the last Friday in April; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our Borough increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that Friday, April 28, 2017 be known as Arbor Day in the Borough of Totowa and that all citizens are urged to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that all citizens are urged to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Capo to adopt the following Resolution In Support Of A4666/S3080 And A4667/S3081 And Urging The Legislature To Reduce Local Affordable Housing Burdens And Provide Defined Rules And Relief In Providing Thereof. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 69-2017

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A4666/S3080 AND A4667/S3081 AND URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO REDUCE LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING BURDENS AND PROVIDE DEFINED RULES AND RELIEF IN PROVIDING THEREOF

WHEREAS, the New Jersey's municipalities support the provision of affordable housing in a reasonable, rational and achievable way, consistent with economic realities and sound planning; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Affordable Housing (COAH) has not adopted regulations to establish the methodology for determining municipal affordable housing obligations since 1999; and

WHEREAS, COAH's inability to adopt regulations resulted in hundreds of municipalities being forced to seek declaratory judgments in the courts in order to comply with the State imposed municipal affordable housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, since 1999 both COAH and the State Legislature have restricted or abolished municipal compliance tools while failing to create new tools and means of compliance to facilitate the construction of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Administration need to partner with municipalities to facilitate municipal compliance by enabling new tools which generate funding, provide flexibility, promote transparency, provide incentives for municipalities and further the provision of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities have collected affordable housing trust funds while at the same time tax credits and other financial incentives for construction or rehabilitation have been significantly reduced, impeding the ability of local governments and their partners to advance affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of municipalities statewide must address significant state and court imposed housing obligations as a result of the State's inability to enact a reasonable statewide policy; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state and the legislature to assist municipalities and enact a rational housing policy with achievable obligations, sufficient compliance tools and appropriate financial resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the State Legislature is urged to pass A4666/S3080, enacting a short-term moratorium on all affordable housing litigation; and A4667/S3081 establishing the "Affordable Housing Obligation Study Commission" to assist in finding solutions to the affordable housing crisis foisted upon municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we must reach a solution to affordable housing in New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified Copies of this resolution be distributed to Hon. Chris Christie, Governor; Hon. Kim Guadagno, Lieutenant Governor; Hon. Steve Sweeney, President, New Jersey Senate; Hon. Vince Prieto, Speaker, New Jersey General Assembly; Hon. Kevin O'Toole, Senator, 40th District; Hon. David Russo, Assemblyman, 40th District; Hon. Kevin Rooney, Assemblyman, 40th District; the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee; the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee; and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was no report.

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