

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

March 8, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Council President Phil Puglise, Councilman Lou D'Angelo, Councilwoman Carolyn Fontanella, Councilwoman Debra Andriani, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman William Bucher, 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 offer a moment of silence for former First Lady Nancy Reagan who passed away recently.

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 Puglise, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to dispense with the regular order of business in order to have a swearing in ceremony to administer the Oath of Allegiance and Office to Meagan Akins appointed as Probationary Patrol Officer of the Borough of Totowa Police Department. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor John Coiro asked Meagan Akins to approach the dais to take the Oath of Allegiance and Office. Mayor Coiro also asked Council President Phil Puglise, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and Police Chief Robert Coyle to join him.

Mayor Coiro stated that this is always a special night and an honor for us when we appoint a new police officer. He went on to say that this is also a historic day for the Borough of Totowa as we are appointing our first female officer and this also coincides with international woman's day. Mayor Coiro said that we are very proud to have her join our police department.

Mayor John Coiro administered the Oath of Allegiance and Office to Meagan Akins with her mother Monica, holding the Bible and her father Ed by her side.

Mayor Coiro remarked that when he spoke with Meagan about joining the Totowa Police Department due to the pending retirement of Lieutenant Ray Keeley, she was very enthusiastic and went on to say that as you can see all of your fellow officers are here to support you.

Councilman Puglise welcomed Meagan to the department, said this is his last year on the Council and he will go down in history for nominating our first female officer, congratulated Meagan and wished her well.

A badge symbolic to the rank of Patrol Officer was presented to Patrol Officer Meagan Akins by Police Chief Robert W. Coyle.

Police Chief Coyle thanked the Mayor and Council, the Borough Clerk, Borough Attorney and the administration for moving forward with this appointment. Chief Coyle then proceeded to provide a little background information on Meagan.

Patrol Officer Akins thanked her family and friends, Chief Coyle, Mayor Coiro and the Council and the Haledon Police Department. Went on to say that she is very gracious and it is a humbling experience and thanked Totowa for this career opportunity.

Congratulations were extended to Patrol Officer Akins by the rest of the Council, the Borough Clerk and Borough Attorney. Mayor Coiro called for a recess, so all in attendance could also offer their congratulations to the new Patrol Officer.

There was a motion by Councilman Puglise, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo 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 Picarelli: Stated that many of us attended the Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration read a long last Wednesday, March 2nd at the library and thanked Library Director Anne Krautheim.

Councilwoman Andriani: Announced that there will be one final sign up on March 10th at the library for the Easter Bunny Breakfast to be held on March 19th in the Washington Park School Cafeteria.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Mike Mahometa, 269 Lincoln Avenue: Asked that someone go to Five Star Catering and take a look at the American Flags that are hanging there because they are all tattered and torn and doesn't know if we have jurisdiction, but please ask that they be replaced. Mayor Coiro: Suggested that John Waryas go.

There was a motion by Councilman Puglise, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of February 23, 2016. 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. 2016-06 for the payment of bills. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

There was a motion by Councilman Puglise, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to approve a grade increase for Patrol Officer Nicholas Varcadipane from Grade 2 to Grade 1, effective March 14, 2016. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Puglise to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Historical Fill Investigation Services For The CDBG-DR Program. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2016

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HISTORICAL FILL INVESTIGATION
SERVICES FOR THE CDBG-DR PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa has received a grant from Passaic County as a sub-grantee of the State of New Jersey from funding provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Hurricane Irene Disaster Recovery Program and a grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program to implement the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”) Program; and

WHEREAS, more specifically, the Borough of Totowa will use the funds to acquire up to five (5) homes which were damaged by Hurricane Irene and will be demolished and converted to open space for community-wide use in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 117-2015 dated September 22, 2015, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa awarded a contract to Sadat Associates, Inc., 1545 Lambertson Road, Trenton, New Jersey 08611 to provide Environmental Preliminary Assessments of the various properties in a manner consistent with all regulations; and

WHEREAS, Sadat Associates, Inc. has prepared an Environmental Preliminary Assessment for each of the following properties:

1. 61 Norwood Terrace, Totowa, New Jersey 07512
2. 43 Norwood Terrace, Totowa, New Jersey 07512
3. 31 Norwood Terrace, Totowa, New Jersey 07512

WHEREAS, the Assessments identified potential areas of concern and included a recommendation that a Historical Fill Investigation be performed at this site; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Green Acres regulations, the Borough of Totowa must address the area of concern to the Department's satisfaction before Green Acres can disburse funding; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa has solicited proposals from firms licensed to perform Historical Fill Investigations in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the lowest proposal was submitted by T.Slack Environmental Services, Inc. ("TSES"), 180 Market Street, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033 for the lump sum cost of \$1,050.00 for 61 Norwood Terrace, \$1,650.00 for 43 Norwood Terrace and \$650.00 for 31 Norwood Terrace for a total cost of \$3,350.00, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, these professional services may be awarded 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 T.Slack Environmental Services, Inc. for Historical Fill Investigation Services for the CDBG-DR Program at the aforementioned properties in the amount of \$3,350.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize T.Slack Environmental Services, Inc. to perform the professional services as set forth in their proposal.

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.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Fontanella, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following Resolution authorizing the application to the Passaic County Community Development Block Grant Program for Phase VI of the Sanitary Sewer Main Rehabilitation Project. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2016

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa wishes to apply for funding from the Passaic County Community Development Block Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa authorizes the application for and use of requested funds in the amount of \$166,935.00 from the Passaic County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Phase VI of the Borough's Sanitary Sewer Main Rehabilitation Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if awarded, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa shall implement the activities in a manner to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Fontanella, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following Resolution In Support Of The Federal Fair Housing Law And New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2016

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW AND
NEW JERSEY LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa supports Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Borough of Totowa to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, nationality, familial status, marital or domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, mental or physical disability, perceived disability, AIDS/HIV status and Lawful Income or Source of Lawful Rent Payment (Section 8); and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa further objects to discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability as prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby support Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination as follows:

1. Within available resources, the Borough of Totowa will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against under one of the aforementioned categories, to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as appropriate.
2. The Borough of Totowa shall publicize this resolution and through this publicity shall cause owners of real estate, developers, and builders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Law, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, and any local laws or ordinances.
3. The Borough of Totowa will at a minimum include, but not be limited to: (1) the printing and publicizing of this resolution, a fair housing public notice and other applicable fair housing information through local media, community contacts and placement on the Municipal website and in other social media; (2) distribution of posters, flyers, and any other means which will bring to the attention of those affected, the knowledge of their respective responsibilities and rights concerning equal opportunity in housing.

A letter was received from American Legion Post No. 227 requesting permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot on Saturday, April 30, 2016 for a trip to Atlantic City. 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.

A letter was received from the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission along with a check in the amount of \$1,633.73 for the Municipal Rebate Incentive Program. There was a motion by Councilwoman Fontanella, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to accept the funds. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Andriani, seconded by Councilman Bucher to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Municipal Planner To Conduct A Re-Examination Of The Master Plan. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 45-2016

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL PLANNER TO CONDUCT A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to retain the services of a professional planner to undertake a thorough review of its Master Plan in accordance with the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law; and

WHEREAS, the review will require the professional planner to undertake an analysis of current conditions and submit a written recommendation for possible amendments to the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan Re-examination Report will focus on zoning amendments to comply with the Borough of Totowa's constitutional mandate to provide affordable housing within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa also desire the professional planner to assist the Borough of Totowa Planning Department with the review of the Master Plan in order to update and revise the existing Plan as necessary; and

WHEREAS, Maser Consulting P.A., 53 Frontage Road, Suite 120, Clinton, New Jersey 08809, has submitted a proposal dated March 7, 2016 to provide the required planning services for a fee not to exceed the sum of Ten Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,500.00), 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 on March 8, 2016 did examine the proposal submitted by Maser Consulting P.A.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, these professional services 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 Maser Consulting P.A. for professional planning services to re-examine and update the Master Plan for the Borough of Totowa at a cost not to exceed the amount of Ten Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,500.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize Maser Consulting P.A. to perform the professional services as set forth in their proposal.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT

I, Mayor John Coiro do hereby appoint Nancy Ricca as a Board of Recreation Commissioner for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2017.

The above appointment is a Mayor's appointment and does not require Council consent or confirmation.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Bingo License Application No. 1890 for the Totowa PAL for the remainder of 2016. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Raffle License Application No. 1891 for the Totowa PAL for their Pull-Tabs Raffle for the remainder of 2016. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Raffle License Application No. 1916 for the Do Good Student Supports Group for a Casino Night to be held on April 1, 2016 at the Totowa Elks. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Raffle License Application No. 1917 for the Academy of St. Francis of Assisi for a Calendar Raffle to be held during April, May & June 2016. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

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

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk