

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

November 24, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and the Governor's Executive Order 107, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), this meeting was not open to the public, but was held by virtual means on Zoom.

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

ABSENT: Councilman John Capo.

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.

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.

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:

There were no citizens who wished to be heard and Mayor Coiro announced that we have not received any emailed questions pertaining to the public portion of the meeting through 7:30 p.m.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of November 10, 2020. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Councilman Bucher and Councilwoman Palazzo abstained from the voting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve Resolution No. 2020-24 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 4th Quarter 2020 taxes. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there has been an overpayment of 4th quarter 2020 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:

Block	Lot	Property Owner	Payable To:	Overpayment
29	33	111 William Pl. Richard & Elaine Urban	Corelogic Attn:Refund Dept. PO Box 9202 Coppell, TX 75019-9760	\$1,887.77

34	8	152 Boyle Ave. Robert Trusewicz	Corelogic Attn:Refund Dept. PO Box 9202 Coppell, TX 75019-9760	\$1,728.12
74.02	13	9 Patriots Trail Raymond Keeley	Corelogic Attn:Refund Dept. PO Box 9202 Coppell, TX 75019-9760	\$3,199.49
77	26	82 Sutton Ave. Franco Jr. & Kimberly Straface	Franco Jr. & Kimberly Straface 82 Sutton Ave. Totowa, NJ 07512	\$ 680.58
101	8.01	102 Bogert St. Barbara E. Ghattas	Corelogic Attn:Refund Dept. PO Box 9202 Coppell, TX 75019-9760	\$2,638.01
112	27	62 Washington Pl. Hector A. Olivera	Corelogic Attn:Refund Dept. PO Box 9202 Coppell, TX 75019-9760	\$2,068.63
138	1	15 Garretson Ave. Julissa L. Alvarado	Corelogic Attn:Refund Dept. PO Box 9202 Coppell, TX 75019-9760	\$1,904.15
145	7	50 Hillside Dr. Braulio & Mayra Barbosa	Corelogic Attn:Refund Dept. PO Box 9202 Coppell, TX 75019-9760	\$2,111.15
167	14	296 Winifred Dr. Ronald & Diane Dellanno	Corelogic Attn:Refund Dept. PO Box 9202 Coppell, TX 75019-9760	\$2,792.80

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 or taxing authority.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following resolution authorizing a tax refund for Benito Veltri, 38 Willard Avenue, Block 13, Lot 5 due to a 100% Exemption for a 100% permanent and total disability. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Benito Veltri, 38 Willard Avenue, Block 13, Lot 5 has applied for a 100% exemption for a 100% permanent and total disability due to a wartime service connected disability; and

WHEREAS, he meets all the requirements for the exemption; and

WHEREAS, the 100% disability became effective on April 18, 2006, and he applied for exemption on November 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, he paid the property taxes from November 9, 2020 to December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$918.61 and is now entitled to a refund of \$918.61.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Treasurer is authorized to refund \$918.61 to Benito Veltri and upon paying the refund due to the Taxpayer, this property will be exempted from future tax payments.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following resolution authorizing a tax refund for Marianne Novak, 78 Boyle Avenue, Block 22, Lot 1 due to a 100% Exemption for a 100% permanent and total disability. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Marianne Novak, 78 Boyle Avenue, Block 22, Lot 1 has applied for a 100% exemption for a 100% permanent and total disability due to a wartime service connected disability; and

WHEREAS, she meets all the requirements for the exemption and she took title to Block 22, Lot 1 on October 7, 2020 and is exempt from that date; and

WHEREAS, she paid the taxes from October 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$1,566.92 and is therefore entitled to a refund of \$1,566.92.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Treasurer is authorized to refund \$1,566.92 to Marianne Novak and upon paying the refund due to the Taxpayer, this property will be exempted from future tax payments.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following resolution authorizing a tax exemption for Community Options, Inc., 20 Maple Lane, Block 165, Lot 19 as a charitable organization. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Community Options, Inc., 20 Maple Lane, Block 165, Lot 19 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; and

WHEREAS, the exemption becomes effective on January 1, 2021 and will be exempted from paying real estate taxes for the entire year of 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Tax Collector is authorized to adjust off the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2021, and the property will be listed on the 2021 Tax List as "Exempt".

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Resolution Certifying That The Governing Body Has Complied With N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 Pertaining To The Annual Audit. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 124-2020

RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THAT THE GOVERNING BODY HAS COMPLIED WITH N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 PERTAINING TO THE ANNUAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2019 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations"; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations" as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the governing body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 – to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 – "A local Officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Bucher to adopt the following Resolution Of The Borough Of Totowa Authorizing The Payment Of Terminal Leave Benefits To Frank G. DeCeglie. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 125-2020

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA AUTHORIZING THE
PAYMENT OF TERMINAL LEAVE BENEFITS TO FRANK G. DE CEGLIE

WHEREAS, Frank G. DeCeglie began his employment with the Borough of Totowa as a Patrol Officer in the Police Department on July 1, 1992; and

WHEREAS, Frank G. DeCeglie retired from the Borough of Totowa Police Department as a Captain effective October 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the policy of the Borough of Totowa is that employees with twenty-five (25) years of service are entitled to a maximum of one hundred thirty (130) days of Terminal Leave to be paid upon retirement; and

WHEREAS, the Terminal Leave amount is calculated at the amount of sick day benefits, not to exceed one hundred thirty (130) days or eighty-seven (87) days for those employees under the Pitman/12 Hour Shift Schedule, at the daily rate of pay of the last twelve (12) months of service upon retirement; and

WHEREAS, Frank G. DeCeglie has accumulated eighty-seven (87) unused sick days and has completed more than twenty-five (25) years of service as an employee of the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, Frank G. DeCeglie does hereby waive any other claim and/or claims for any salary, benefits and/or other compensation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that Frank G. DeCeglie is granted eighty-seven (87) days of accumulated sick leave (Terminal Leave) for a total amount of eighty thousand six hundred sixty-two and 50/100 Dollars (\$80,662.50). Said monies are given in full and final consideration of any and all claims that Frank G. DeCeglie may have against the Borough of Totowa.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Bucher to approve fireman's applications, the purchase of fireman's equipment and authorize a fireman's physicals for Rey A. Gonzalez and Hector A. Olivera for Lincoln Fire Company. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

A letter was received from the New Jersey Department of Transportation advising that Totowa has been selected to receive funding from their FY 2021 Municipal Aid Program for Stewart Terrace, Knollwood Road, Artillery Park Road, Knox Terrace and Colonial Court in the amount of \$340,600. There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilwoman Palazzo to accept the grant funds. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Andriani, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Job Modification Nos. 1 And 2 For The Purchase And Installation Of Touchless Solutions At Various Municipal Buildings Due To The Covid-19 Pandemic. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 126-2020

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JOB MODIFICATION NOS. 1 AND 2 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TOUCHLESS SOLUTIONS AT VARIOUS MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 19 ("Covid-19"), a contagious and at times fatal, respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order No. 103 dated March 9, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy declared a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency in the State of New Jersey in response to the Covid-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order No. 107 dated March 21, 2020, Governor Murphy further ordered that all residents of the State of New Jersey were to remain at home and closed all non-essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Executive Order No. 107, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa directed the Borough of Totowa to close all municipal buildings to the public; and

WHEREAS, thereafter the Borough of Totowa undertook a hazard assessment and implemented infection control strategies and safe work practices; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of re-opening the municipal buildings to the public, the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Totowa has recommended that touchless faucets, flushometers, soap dispensers, hand dryers, hand sanitizers and accessories be installed within the various municipal buildings as a measure to protect our workers from exposure to, and infection with Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Contract No. 17/18-52 has been awarded to Magic Touch Construction, 59 West Front Street, Keyport, New Jersey 07735 for the purchase and installation of the touchless equipment; and

WHEREAS, Magic Touch Construction, 59 West Front Street, Keyport, New Jersey 07735 had submitted a proposal dated September 11, 2020 for the purchase and installation of touchless faucets, flushometers, soap dispensers, hand dryers, hand sanitizers and accessories in the amount of \$163,269.34, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 106-2020 dated September 22, 2020, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa had authorized the purchase and installation of touchless solutions for the various Municipal Buildings for the general health, safety and well-being of both the employees and residents of the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, Magic Touch Construction has now advised that certain modifications to the scope of work are necessary in order to complete the job; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa will receive a credit in the amount \$2,381.52 for uninstalled flush valves for Job Modification No. 1; and

WHEREAS, Magic Touch Construction has also proposed that they will replace 4 wall hung water fountains with new hands free bottle filler stations at the Borough of Totowa Municipal Building and Library for an additional cost of \$18,245.36 for Job Modification No. 2; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire that the job modifications be undertaken as soon as possible so that the touchless solutions are in place at the time the Borough of Totowa Municipal Buildings re-open to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize Job Modifications Nos. 1 and 2 for the purchase and installation of the touchless solutions for the various Borough of Totowa Municipal Buildings.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Palazzo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt the following Proclamation In Honor And Recognition Of North Jersey Federal Credit Union CEO Lourdes Cortez Upon Her Retirement. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
NORTH JERSEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION CEO
LOURDES CORTEZ UPON HER RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, in 2005 Lourdes Cortez began her service as CEO of North Jersey Federal Credit Union, with branches in Totowa, Newark and Elmwood Park; and

WHEREAS, Lourdes Cortez became the first Latina CEO of a major credit union in New Jersey and has been instrumental in increasing assets from \$161 million to \$233 million in the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, diversity and inclusion have been key principles during Lourdes' leadership at NJFCU and the credit union's website was one of the first of its kind to have both English and Spanish versions; and

WHEREAS, as CEO, Lourdes Cortez developed the credit union's community involvement with the creation of the North Jersey Federal Credit Union Foundation supporting many national and local charities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her service, Lourdes Cortez was awarded the Dora Maxwell Award for community involvement in 2007 and in 2010, Governor John Corzine presented Lourdes with The Professional Service Business Person of the Year Award for commitment to the preservation of the environment and growth of New Jersey and Hispanic community; and

WHEREAS, due to her diligence, hard work and knowledge during her years as CEO, Lourdes Cortez served on the Board of Directors for the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce, the Board for Executive Women of New Jersey and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of William Paterson College, Wayne, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 Lourdes Cortez was nominated as CEO of the Year by The National Association of Federally Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU) honoring her for excellence and achievement in the industry; and

WHEREAS, Lourdes has built cooperative relationships with residents, government organizations, community groups, local non-profits, and her colleagues know her as a steady, dependable leader and friend, who takes pride in her work and in this community, and who is always ready to lend a helping hand when needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for Mrs. Lourdes Cortez' dedication and commitment to the North Jersey Federal Credit Union, and congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement from the North Jersey Federal Credit Union, and wish her the best, and continued success in her retirement and future endeavors.

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

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk