

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

YOUTH WEEK

May 22, 2018

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

ABSENT: None.

Mayor John Coiro called the meeting to order and asked Borough Clerk Joseph Wassel to call the roll of the Council.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following resolution authorizing the Youth Week Elected Officials to act in the place and stead of the Duly Elected Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 68-2018

YOUTH WEEK RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in the observance of Youth Week, students have been designated in the place and stead of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the said students shall conduct the business of the said Governing Body of the Borough of Totowa under the guidance of the duly elected Mayor and Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that any and all actions taken on behalf of said Governing Body are hereby and herewith ratified and confirmed as the official actions of the Mayor and Council as if the same were acting directly and in person.

Mayor Coiro on behalf of the Mayor and Council presented each Youth Week Elected Official with their own "name plate" and congratulated all participants on their election to their respective positions and their dedication to learning more about the Government process and the Borough of Totowa.

Youth Week Mayor Michael Handal called the meeting to order and asked Borough Clerk Brianna Fasoli to call the roll of the 2018 Youth Week Council.

PRESENT: Mayor Michael Handal, presiding, Councilman Andre Manzi, Councilwoman Ciera Dingle, Councilwoman Kaylee Drakakis, Councilman Demetrios Koularmanis, Councilman Jonathon Mallamace, Councilwoman Briana Franco, Municipal Clerk Brianna Fasoli and Municipal Attorney Thomas Gaita.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Handal asked everyone to stand for the Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Borough Clerk Fasoli recited the following Prayer of the Meeting: Dear Lord, the Mayor and Council pray, that courage and strength abundant be given that the actions of this Council be of benefit to all of the residents of the Borough of Totowa. Lord, we also pray, that you give courage and strength to the Youth Week Mayor, Council and Officials, so that we may fulfill our duties—under the guidance of this duly elected Mayor and Council—to the best of our abilities. And Lord, may you bless our families and friends, teachers and school officials, who have come out tonight, for all of their love and support.

Borough Clerk Fasoli led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with the public participating.

Mayor Handal asked Borough Clerk Fasoli to read the statement of the meeting.

Borough Clerk Fasoli 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 Borough Clerk.

Mayor Handal asked if any Members of the Council, the Borough Clerk or the Borough Attorney wished to address the Council.

Borough Attorney Thomas Gaita: Gave the following report.

Honorable Mayor and Council:

In March of 2015, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the Council on Affordable Housing's administrative process had become non-functioning and returned primary jurisdiction over affordable housing matters to the trial courts. The Supreme Court also established a traditional process for municipalities to file a declaratory judgment action with the Superior Court to obtain a judicial version of the substantive certification that they had received or applied for in accordance with the previous regulations. The Supreme Court afforded wide discretion to the 15 Mount Laurel Judges in addressing these Declaratory Judgment actions and enabled the Trial Judges specifically to grant municipalities a period of time within which to prepare a compliant Affordable Housing Fair Share Plan. In July of 2015, the Borough of Totowa applied for and received immunity. That immunity is effective through May 24, 2018.

I am very happy to announce that after two years of protracted litigation, we have reached a settlement with the Fair Share Housing Center. On Tuesday, May 24th, Totowa will finally have our Fair Share Hearing and we will present the settlement agreement to Judge Thomas Brogan. Our office has worked closely with our Municipal Planner, Engineer and Planning Board Attorney to make sure that Totowa has met every Court imposed deadline in this process and to further ensure that the Borough of Totowa will meet their constitutional obligations under its Affordable Housing mandate in accordance with the State of New Jersey Fair Housing Act.

I will provide you with an update at the conclusion of the Fairness Hearing.

Mayor Handal asked if any citizens wished to be heard.

CITIZENS HEARD:

There were no citizens who wished to be heard.

There was a motion by Councilman Manzi, seconded by Councilwoman Dingle to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of May 8, 2018. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE:

Borough Clerk Fasoli announced that we will now have a report from the Tax Assessor and then the Tax Collector.

Tax Assessor Frank Curcio: Gave the following report.

Honorable Mayor and Council:

2018 began with an increase in total ratables from 2017 of approximately 4.2 million dollars. This increase was due to added assessments. The Assessment/Sales ratio decreased from 107.41% to 106.18%.

The 2018 Tax Appeal deadline for Totowa was April 1st. The Passaic County Board of Taxation has received nearly 1,600 appeals to date, of which twenty-two (22) were filed by Totowa taxpayers. These appeals were heard on April 27th. The judgments for these appeals should be received by the end of May. Twenty-five (25) State Tax Court appeals were filed for 2018. Eighty-eight (88) Tax Court cases have been settled or withdrawn over the past year, leaving a pending total of ninety-seven (97) at the State level. The Borough Tax Counsel, Appraiser and I continue to negotiate settlements or prepare for trial.

Two-Hundred forty-one (241) deeds were processed in 2017 which is a slight decrease over the year prior. Of these two-hundred forty-one (241), only one-hundred eighty-two (182) involved an exchange of money. So far for 2018, one-hundred ten (110) deed transactions have been recorded but only fifty (50) are considered valid for sales analysis.

As always, should you have any questions or comments, please stop by the office.

Tax Collector Anthony DiTaranto: Gave the following report.

Honorable Mayor and Council:

In Totowa, there are 3,820 line items in total. Seventy-four (74) are for vacant land and 3,433 are for residential properties. There are 233 commercial properties, 77 industrial properties and two farms. In addition, there are 100 exempt properties, nine railroad properties, two schools, 65 public properties, six charitable properties, nine cemeteries and 18 miscellaneous items.

Taxes collected in the year 2018 thus far equal \$23,832,784.39 and we have collected 2017 past due taxes in the amount of \$417,847.54. The amount distributed to the County/Open Space and Added Assessment taxes are \$7,836,137.31. Totowa Schools received \$6,901,274.15 and Passaic Valley High School received \$4,022,612.00. Our collection percentage rate for 2017 was reported at 97.72%.

Regarding tax deductions given in the Borough of Totowa for 2018, they are as follows: 105 senior citizens, 11 disabled persons, 218 veterans and 65 widow of veterans.

Tax appeals have resulted in \$304,366.19 being refunded to taxpayers thus far in the year 2018. Reporting on our tax liens, there are five outside liens and one municipal lien.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Drakakis, seconded by Councilman Manzi to approve Resolution No. 2018-12 for the payment of bills. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Drakakis, seconded by Councilman Manzi to adopt the following Resolution For The Cancellation Of Unexpended Improvement Authorizations. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 69-2018

Resolution For The Cancellation Of Unexpended Improvement Authorizations

WHEREAS, certain General Capital Fund Improvement Authorization balances remain dedicated to projects now completed; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be credited to general capital surplus and deferred charges unfunded may be canceled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Totowa, that the following unexpended Improvement Authorizations in the General Capital Fund be canceled:

Ordinance No.	Description	General Capital Surplus	Deferred Charges Unfunded	Total Cancelled
08-2004	Replacement of Sidewalks, Curbs and Driveway Aprons - Union Boulevard	\$ 35,970	\$ 136,664	\$ 172,634
03-2010	Replacement of Sidewalks, Curbs and Driveway II Aprons - Union Boulevard Phase	50,874	236,282	287,156
15-2015	Various Capital Improvements and Acquisitions	3,904		3,904
11-2016	Various Capital Improvements and Acquisitions	31,000	-	31,000
		<u>\$ 121,748</u>	<u>\$ 372,946</u>	<u>\$ 494,694</u>

There was a motion by Councilwoman Drakakis, seconded by Councilman Manzi to approve payment to the various Marching Bands for the 2018 Memorial Day Parade. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

Borough Clerk Fasoli announced that we will have a report from the Police Chief and then the Fire Chief.

Police Chief Victor Rivera: Gave the following report.

Honorable Mayor and Council:

Our department will participate in the countywide Aggressive Driving Enforcement Program during the Memorial Day holiday weekend while working with the Passaic County Traffic Officers and the New Jersey Division Of Highway Traffic Safety.

The speed monitor trailer is being placed in certain areas where we have received speeding complaints. It has been given a tune-up after winter storage – this by our Department of Public Work staff.

We will place an order with the Beyer Ford Fleet Dealership in East Hanover to purchase two new 2018 Ford Interceptor Police Sedans. These sedans are an All-Wheel Drive Model with the special "Police Package". We received a very good price through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council.

We are currently involved in the statewide "Click It or Ticket" Program during the month of May, between May 21st and June 3rd. This is in an effort to increase the use of seatbelts and cut down on crash injuries.

We want to see everyone have a safe, happy and healthy summer.

Fire Chief Aiden Guarneri: Gave the following report.

Honorable Mayor and Council,

Tonight I report that after a very busy start to 2018, the Totowa Fire Department has responded to 160 alarms so far this year. There have been many calls ranging from frozen pipes, car fires, brush fires, a very stubborn excavator fire to a minor kitchen fire.

Last fall, we held an open house to attract new members and I'm happy to report that it resulted in bringing five new members to the department. They will be starting fire school in July. Also, Volunteer Fire Company #1 has a hard working committee dedicated to research the details of acquiring a new ladder truck. This new truck will replace the old 75 foot ladder truck that has served the town for the past 22 years.

In the coming weeks, we will be preparing for Fire Protection during the fireworks display to be held on Totowa Day.

The department thanks the Mayor and Council for their continued support.

There was a motion by Councilman Manzi, seconded by Councilman Mallamace to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Purchase And Delivery Of Two Vehicles For The Borough Of Totowa Police Department. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 70-2018

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF TWO VEHICLES FOR THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Police Chief has requested that two new police vehicles be purchased and added to the Borough of Totowa fleet; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa have determined that there is a need for three new police vehicles in order to maintain and keep the fleet updated; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to authorize the purchase of these vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Contract No. 15-A has been awarded to Beyer Ford, 170 Ridgedale Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey 07962 for the purchase of two 2018 Ford Police Interceptor Sedans and all related equipment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, the purchase of the police vehicles may be authorized without public bidding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the purchase of two 2018 Ford Police Interceptor Sedans from Beyer Ford in the amount of \$24,911.00 per for a total cost of \$49,822.00

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

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

Borough Clerk Fasoli announced that we will now have a report from the Superintendent of Public Works.

Superintendent of Public Works Anthony Mallamace: Gave the following report.

Honorable Mayor and Council:

This time of year the Department of Public Works is very busy getting all the parks and fields in the Borough of Totowa cleaned up from the winter months. We are preparing and maintaining all of the athletic fields on a daily basis for the Borough's Spring sports programs. With our sports programs extending their seasons, our fields need a lot more attention and care.

We received a grant for \$75,000 from Passaic County Open Space Fund for new park equipment, which is earmarked for the park at Kennedy Field. The equipment has been ordered and will be installed shortly.

In addition to mulching and planting 325 flowers, the American Legion Post 227 donated 250 pennants which have the American flag on them, saying "Welcome to Totowa" which we installed on our decorative street lights along Union Boulevard.

We have awarded a contract to Allstate Pool Company through the bid process to water blast the entire painted surface inside the pool, repair any cracks or damaged concrete and to recoat the entire pool's surface with a diamond bright coating which should last for years.

We've have begun our road paving program which includes Craig Court, Knollwood Road, Heritage Court, Greene Avenue and Carroll Place. In addition to these roads, we also installed new curbs and repaved Hobart Place and Gordon Avenue with a grant received from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Next month, we will begin our fire hydrant flushing program which consists of exercising and flushing approximately 515 fire hydrants through the borough.

Upon the recommendation of DPW Superintendent Jim Niland, there was a motion by Councilman Koularmanis, seconded by Councilwoman Franco to approve a grade increase for DPW Laborer Domenick Coiro from Grade 3 to Grade 2. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

Borough Clerk Fasoli announced that we will now have a report from the Municipal Engineer.

Municipal Engineer Marco Bennett: Gave the following report.

Honorable Mayor and Council:

Hobart Place Improvements

This project received a \$140,000 Municipal Aid Grant from the NJDOT. The project consisted of the installation of and replacement of concrete vertical curbs, installation of ADA compliant curb ramps, and the milling and re-paving of the road from Barnert Avenue to Crosby Avenue this work was completed in June, 2017.

Riverview Drive Pump Station Improvements

We were recently authorized to design various improvements to the Riverview Drive Pump Station. The proposed improvements will include the replacement of the commutators (grinders), slide gates, gate valves, grating above the wet well, and various other improvements. We are currently in the process of completing the design.

Hobart Place and Gordon Avenue Improvements

This project received a \$145,000 Municipal Aid Grant from the NJDOT. This project is for the continuation of improvements to Hobart Place and Gordon Avenue. The project consists of the installation of replacement concrete vertical curb, installation of ADA compliant curb ramps, and the milling and paving of the roads from Crosby Avenue to Union Boulevard. The contractor has completed the installation of ADA compliant curb ramps, and the milling and re-paving of the road project, with the exception of final pavement striping and final minor restorations and completion of minor corrective work. Our office is in the process of scheduling a final inspection to identify any required corrective work on the portion of Hobart Place and Gordon Avenue from Crosby Avenue to Union Boulevard.

Furler Street Improvements

This project received a \$235,000 Municipal Aid Grant from the NJDOT. The project consists of the milling and paving of Furler Street for a portion of its length, in addition up grading of the existing water main, in the portion to be re-paved, will be performed also. We are currently proceeding with the design of the project and have completed the preparation of the required base maps, road re-paving and are into the water main replacement design of the project.

There was a motion by Councilman Mallamace, seconded by Councilwoman Dingle to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Repair Of The Comminutor At The William Place Pump Station. On roll call vote, Councilman Manzi, Councilwoman Dingle and Councilman Mallamace all voted in the affirmative, while Councilwoman Drakakis, Councilman Koularmanis and Councilwoman Franco all voted in the negative, creating a tie vote. Borough Clerk Fasoli explained that in the Borough form of government, in the event there is a tie vote, the Mayor votes to break the tie. Borough Clerk Fasoli asked Mayor Handal to vote. Mayor Handal voted in the affirmative and the motion passed four votes to three.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-2018

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REPAIR OF THE COMMUNOTOR AT THE WILLIAM PLACE PUMP STATION

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Sewer Department Superintendent has advised the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the comminutor at the William Place Pump Station is not working satisfactorily and must be repaired as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Pump Station services the residents of the Borough of Totowa by collecting sanitary sewerage waste from individual users throughout the municipality where it is processed and conveyed to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners located in Newark, New Jersey for proper treatment and disposal; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Sewer Department Superintendent has recommended that the Borough of Totowa repair include the complete overhaul of the existing Pump Station gear reducers and comminutor; and

WHEREAS, Precision Electric Motor Works, Inc., 18 Sebago Road. Clifton, New Jersey 07013 has submitted a proposal for the repair of the William Place Pump Station comminutor in the amount of \$8,950.00, a copy of which is on file on the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to authorize the repair of the gear reducers and comminutor at the William Place Pump Station.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby accept the proposal submitted by Precision Electric Motor Works, Inc., for the repair of the William Place Pump Station comminutor in the amount of \$8,950.00.

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

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Dingle, seconded by Councilman Koularmanis to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Purchase And Delivery Of One Multifunction Color Copying Machine For The Borough Of Totowa Building Department. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-2018

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY
OF ONE MULTIFUNCTION COLOR COPYING MACHINE FOR THE BOROUGH OF
TOTOWA BUILDING DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Zoning Officer has requested that a new multifunction color copying machine be purchased for use by the Borough of Totowa Building Department; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa have determined that there is a need for this equipment to be used by Building Department personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to authorize the purchase of the multifunction color copying machine; and

WHEREAS, State of New Jersey Contract No. 1A40467 has been awarded to Atlantic Tomorrow, 134 West 26th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, New York 10001 for the purchase of one Savin MP C3004 color copying machine and all related equipment in the amount of \$4,897.00; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, the purchase of this equipment may be authorized without public bidding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the purchase and delivery of one Savin MP C3004 color copying machine from Atlantic Tomorrow in the amount of \$4,987.00.

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

There was a motion by Councilwoman Dingle, seconded by Councilman Koularmanis to approve Payment Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$44,688.00 to All State Technology, Inc. for the Municipal Pool Rehabilitation. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE & ORDINANCES:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 11-2018

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$2,118,000 FOR VARIOUS ACQUISITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA AND TO APPROPRIATE \$1,897,334 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, \$86,000 FROM CAPITAL SURPLUS, \$94,644 FROM A RESERVE FOR FIRE TRUCK, \$18,000 FROM A RESERVE FOR SEWER CONNECTION CHARGES AND \$22,022 FROM A RESERVE FOR CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

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

ORDINANCE NO. 12-2018

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NOS. 08-2012, 06-2013, 10-2013, 05-2014, 09-2015, 12-2016 AND 07-2017 APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$80,000 FOR SEWER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA AND TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL \$80,000 FROM A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

There was a motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilwoman Drakakis to adopt the Capital Budget Amendment. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 13-2018

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL SALARIES AND WAGES OF THE OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND THE APPOINTEES OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

There was a motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilwoman Drakakis to approve the Application For Social Affair Permit from the State Of New Jersey Division Of Alcoholic Beverage Control for the Borough of Totowa Board of Recreation to be held on June 9, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. On roll call vote, all members of the Youth Week Council present voted in the affirmative.

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

Mayor Coiro, on behalf of the Mayor and Council thanked all for attending the Youth Week Council Meeting and once again congratulated the Youth Week participants on winning their respective elections and complimented them on a job well done. Explained that every year we like to give the students a taste for what goes on daily and at meetings and informed the parents that these were actual votes, including spending \$2 million dollars and all were official actions that will go into the Minutes. Said he hoped that the students learned something about Municipal Government and gained some insight into how our town is run. Remarked that maybe some of you will look into government in the future. Acknowledged the hard work that was put into making their posters and told them to please take their posters home, along with their commemorative name plate. Also advised the parents that Youth Week continues on Thursday, May 24th when we will take all the Youth Week Elected Officials on a tour of the town.

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk