

Minutes Special Meeting of Mayor and Council – September 2, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Council Chambers, 100 Central Avenue

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilman:

Furgione - Present

Gribbin - Present

Pullia - Present

Rodio – Present

Torrissi - Present

Wuillermin - Present

Mayor DiDonato - Present

PRESENT ALSO

Brian Howell, Town Solicitor

Jerry Barberio, PWM/Business Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of this meeting has been posted and given to official newspapers. Please familiarize yourselves with the fire exits to the right and rear of the Council Chambers. Please do not proceed beyond the front benches without invitation from the Mayor to do so. Also, each person who wishes to address Council will be allotted 5 minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARD FOR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

#R103C-2015 Executive Session

#R103C-2015

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Hammonton that, in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act," an Executive Session is authorized on this below adopted date, for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon:

1. Attorney/Client Privilege

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of any matters discussed in Executive Session shall be released to the public as soon as reasonably possible after Mayor and Council conclude that the basis for exclusion of the public ceases to exist.

Motion by Councilman Gribbin, seconded by Councilman Rodio, resolution 103C is adopted.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilman:

Furgione - Yes

Gribbin - Yes

Pullia - Yes

Rodio – Yes

Torrissi - Yes

Wuillermin - Yes

Mayor DiDonato – Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

DISCUSSION-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Mayor's Statement

Mayor DiDonato read a statement into the Record concerning Tax Abatement Program, Abandoned Residential and Commercial Property Program and Investment in the Arts.

Mayor DiDonato then opened discussion to the public.

#R103B-2015

RESOLUTION #R103B-2015

A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Town of Hammonton recognizes that the Atlantic County economy has and will continue to be negatively impacted by the closure of several Atlantic City casinos; and

WHEREAS, the governing body believes that, in order to sustain Hammonton's positive revitalization efforts, a coordinated economic development plan shall be necessary; and

WHEREAS, some of the residential, commercial and industrial properties in Hammonton have experienced a physical deterioration as a result of the inability of their owners to properly maintain same; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey permits implementation of a residential rehabilitation and commercial rehabilitation and new construction incentive programs in the form of a tax abatement program; and

WHEREAS, much of the Town's downtown revitalization can be attributed to the exponential growth of its arts community; and

WHEREAS, the governing body desires to capitalize and expand upon those successes and, as permitted by New Jersey Law (*N.J.S.A. 40:48-1(30)*), fund a local arts entity with a broad geographic reach to advertise to the Delaware Valley and the entire State of New Jersey Hammonton's advantages including its open space, its geographic proximity to Philadelphia, Atlantic City and New York City and all points in between, its favorable tax structure, its thriving downtown and its traditional focus on family and education including its public and parochial schools and its affiliation with Stockton University, all of which have served as economic drivers.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ON THIS 2nd DAY OF September, 2015 resolved that:

Mayor and Council authorize the adoption of the following Ordinances by title on first reading, of the following:

Mayor and Council authorize approval of a Resolution authorizing funding via a professional services contract in the amount of \$65,000.00 of a broad-based advertising program through the vehicle of a non-profit 501-C3 arts entity (The Eagle Theater) focused on attracting visitors to Hammonton and in turn stimulating economic growth and attracting new residents and businesses to build upon the successes of the last decade and N.J.S. 40:48-1(30).

Motion by Councilman Torrissi, seconded by Councilman Wuillermin, the public portion is closed and resolution 103B is adopted.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilman:

Furgione - Yes
Gribbin - Yes
Pullia - No
Rodio – Yes
Torrissi - Yes
Wuillermin - Yes
Mayor DiDonato – Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

Ordinance #018-2015 Introduce Tax Abatement Program

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM

To be prepared by Solicitor

Motion by Councilman Pullia, seconded by Councilman Gribbin, the ordinance is taken up for and passed first reading and given legal publication.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilman:
Furgione - Yes
Gribbin - Yes
Pullia - Yes
Rodio – Yes
Torrissi - Yes
Wuillermin - Yes
Mayor DiDonato – Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

Ordinance #019-2015 Re-Introduce Amendment to Property Maintenance Code-Abandoned Properties

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF ABANDONED
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PROGRAM

To be prepared by Solicitor

Motion by Councilman Furgione, seconded by Councilman Gribbin, the ordinance is taken up for and passed first reading and given legal publication.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilman:
Furgione - Yes
Gribbin - Yes
Pullia - Yes
Rodio – Yes
Torrissi - Yes
Wuillermin - Yes
Mayor DiDonato – Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

#R103A-2015 Airport Grant Application Execution

Resolution 103A-2015
GRANT APPLICATION EXECUTION

WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration has offered the Town of Hammonton a Grant from the Airport Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hammonton must have an authorized representative execute the required paper work for the grant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON THAT:

Mayor DiDonato is hereby authorized to sign and execute any required documents, agreements, and amendments thereto with the Federal Aviation Administration regarding AIP Grant Number 3-34-0017-022-2015.

Motion by Councilman Torrissi, seconded by Councilman Rodio, resolution 103A is adopted.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilman:

Furgione - Yes

Gribbin - Yes

Pullia - Yes

Rodio – Yes

Torrissi - Yes

Wuillermin - Yes

Mayor DiDonato – Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

#R103D-2015 Our Town Grant/Fringe Festival

Motion by Councilman Torrissi, seconded by Councilman Wuillermin, resolution 103D is adopted.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilman:

Furgione - Yes

Gribbin - Yes

Pullia - Yes

Rodio – Yes

Torrissi - Yes

Wuillermin - Yes

Mayor DiDonato – Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARD

James Donio

Mr. Donio spoke about Grants the Eagle Theatre has received in the past.

Cassie Iacovelli

Mrs. Iacovelli spoke about her experiences with Mainstreet Hammonton.

Howard Kyle

Mr. Kyle, Atlantic County Executive Chief of Staff and Director of Action Now Partnership, spoke about local control of economic development.

Angela Donio

Mrs. Donio spoke about the Town of Hammonton being a shining star.

Ann Marie from Art Pride Foundation

Ann Marie spoke about ancillary expenditures of the arts and theatre crowd.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion by Councilperson Furgione, seconded by Councilperson Rodio, the meeting is adjourned.
Motion carried.

April Boyer Maimone, Clerk