

April 24, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Joshua Hertzberg who issued the formal statement in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.

Roll call was taken and present were: Mayor Hertzberg, Deputy Mayor Quinn, Councilwoman Whilesmith, Councilman Gibbs, Councilman Murphy, Township Attorney Thomas Ryan, Township Manager William Close, Chief Financial Officer Sam Rome and Township Clerk Kate Chambers.

Salute to the Flag:

Councilman Murphy led the assembly in a salute to the flag.

Proclamations:

Mayor Hertzberg called up Katherine Grecco to accept the Fair Housing Proclamation and read the proclamation into the record. Ms. Grecco thanked the Mayor and Council.

Chief Spidaletto stated that April was National 9-1-1 Education Month, and that it was the month that all dispatchers were recognized for their hard work. He stated that the Sparta dispatch call center was the busiest dispatch center in the county taking in 8,483 9-1-1 calls last year providing service to the surrounding towns. Chief Spidaletto recognized Christina Brossman, a full time dispatcher, for her life saving action regarding a two year old child who had been unconscious and not breathing. He stated that her clear directions to the distraught mother of the child effectively calmed the situation until the first responders arrived. Chief Spidaletto further stated that she had relied on her training and professional experience which resulted in the best circumstances for the family of this child.

Lieutenant Lamon presented Ms. Brossman with a certificate of appreciation for this life saving contribution.

Chief Spidaletto also recognized all the dispatchers that were present and thanked them for all they do.

Mayor Hertzberg read the National 9-1-1 Tele-Communicator Week proclamation into the record and thanked the dispatchers for all their hard work. He stated that he had received a letter commending the dispatchers and would share this letter with the Chief.

Mr. Close congratulated Christina for her outstanding work. He thanked all of the dispatchers for their professionalism, hard work and service to the community.

Mayor Hertzberg called for a brief recess.

Minutes:

On motion by Deputy Mayor Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Whilesmith and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 10, 2018 were approved as presented.

Open to the Public:

Robert Fuchs, Krogh's Restaurant, 23 White Deer Plaza addressed Council and stated that he had missed the opportunity for public comment regarding the parking lot issue in Lake Mohawk Country Club. He stated that he didn't understand why the variance had been denied. He stated that if the Lake Mohawk Country Club closed the parking lot to the public that parking for the businesses would be negatively impacted. Mr. Fuchs inquired as to whether Council had any authority over this issue.

Mayor Hertzberg stated that Council had not been involved with that issue. He stated that it had been the Planning & Zoning Boards which were separate from Council. He further stated that if there was a role that Council would play in the future that they'd be happy to meet with him and discuss that with the business owners. Mayor Hertzberg further stated that he was the Chair for

the Economic Development Committee along with Councilman Murphy and that their role had been to help businesses be more successful. He further stated that the parking issue had not come to them. Mayor Hertzberg suggested that Mr. Fuchs meet with Mr. Close to further discuss this issue.

Susan Hannon, Brady 218 S. Brookside Drive addressed Council and stated that she was the President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence Sussex County Chapter. She asked Council to endorse a resolution opposing a congressional bill sent to the senate named the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. She stated that the members of the Brady Campaign Sussex County Chapter were concerned that if it becomes a federal law that it would become a serious public safety issue for Sparta. Mayor Hertzberg stated that Council would look further into this matter.

Michael Vrabel, 16 Boulder Ridge addressed Council and stated that it was a dangerous bill and that it would be a step backwards. He stated that passing a resolution would help because it would be read on the Congressional floor during a debate and would be very effective. He stated that Congressman Gottheimer had several resolutions including Byram's and that it had been a representation of the people a manifestation of democracy. Mr. Vrabel urged everyone on Council to read the bill.

Evangeline Binder, 11 Golfview Terrace addressed Council and stated she had been the founder of the Brady Campaign. She stated that she had supported safe gun laws and that she had started as a young mother and supports legislation that makes our towns, state and country safer. She further stated that she was opposed to the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act and that she was at the meeting because Council carried more weight and represented the residents of this town. She asked Council respectfully to please consider taking the position of opposition and to pass a resolution against the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.

Susan Williams, 29 Christy Lane addressed Council with several students stating that she wanted them to learn how to have a voice. She stated that when the students wanted to participate in walks in solidarity that the school threatened them with detention. She further stated that these students were our future leaders.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Close gave an update on the Department of Public Works streets and sidewalk sweeping. He stated that that the sidewalks and roadways in the areas of Main Street (Celia Drive to Mohawk Ave. School), and Sparta Avenue (Post Office to Route 517) had been completed. He further stated that all sidewalks were blown free of grit into the roadway and the roadways cleared with the Township's street sweeper along with cleaning the gutters of storm drains free from grit and debris. Mr. Close commended the department of public works for their efforts in keeping the downtown business area inviting to all who walk and travel through downtown.

On-Line Surplus Auction Results

Mr. Close informed council that there had been an on-line auction of April 17th for a township owned 1985 fire truck. He stated that they had received 8 bids with a final bid of \$3,433.00, less the 5.5% bid administration fee leaving a balance of \$3,244.19 had been a good result. He commended Jim Zepp and his staff in achieving a successful auction.

Township Bids

Mr. Close advised council of the following bid updates:

CN-18-03 Concrete Curb Removal and Replacement on Township Roads.

Mr. Close stated that the Township had held a bid opening for this project. He stated that the results had been given to the Township's QPA to review and certify conformance with the specifications. He further stated that it would then be reviewed by the Township Attorney to ensure legal compliance and that a resolution would be placed on the upcoming agenda for action.

CN-18-04 Ductile Iron and HDPE Pipe, Mechanical Fittings, Fire Hydrants, Water Service Repair Hardware and Related Accessories

Mr. Close stated that a bid opening was scheduled for April 26, 2018 at 1:00 a.m. to accept bid proposals for this annual service. He stated that the specifications for the bid could be reviewed and obtained at the Township Clerk's office during regular business hours and that information was available on the Township website.

Annual Sparta Township Water Utility Fire Hydrant Flushing Program

Mr. Close informed Council that the Water Utility had been conducting hydrant flushing in Town and that it had started the week of April 16th and would continue for approximately five weeks (weather permitting) in the Lake Mohawk, Highlands and Sunset Lake water systems. He stated that there were over 900 hydrants in these sections of the system and that flushing would occur between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He further stated that it should not disrupt service but that sporadic water discoloration may occur and to watch laundry water while the program is in effect. Mr. Close stated that notification to the residents had been placed in both the New Jersey Herald, Sparta Independent, the Township' website, Facebook page, Police Facebook page, Visual Message Boards and the Honewell alert system had been utilized for those directly affected by the flushing.

Township Free Shredding Event

Mr. Close wanted to remind the residents and local business that the Township's Free Shredding Event was scheduled for April, 28, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Sparta Public Works Complex, 15 Prices Lane. He stated that there would be a five box or paper bags per visit but there would be no limit on the number of visits per person/business during the event. He further stated that only confidential and sensitive documents would be accepted. He stated that no magazines, newspapers or books would be accepted. He stated that information had been handed out at the Sparta Chamber Breakfast, sent via text and e-mail through the Honewell system, Township's website, Sparta Township and Police Facebook pages, and posted throughout the Township.

Sussex County Project Notice

Mr. Close informed council that the County of Sussex had updated the Township with regard to the progress of the repairs to the headwall of Bridge Q-18 on County Route 669 (Limecrest Road), and that construction had started on April 9, 2018. He further stated that daily closures/delays may continue at the bridge location between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and that detours with signs had been posted accordingly by the County. Mr. Close stated that updated information had been posted on the Township website and Facebook pages as well.

Township Fields Updated

Mr. Close informed council that all municipal fields had been opened for recreational use on April 14th. He stated that the Sparta Little League had had their Opening Day over the past weekend and that they had an excellent attendance with the nice weather. He further stated that the annual girls softball tournament had been held as well. Mr. Close stated that both events had appeared to be successful starts to their season and that he wished them success throughout the remainder of their respective seasons.

Senior Trip

Mr. Close reminded the senior residents about the upcoming trip to Pittsburgh from May 8th thru the 10th. He stated that for more information to contact the Recreation Department at 973-729-2383.

Approval of Manager's Report:

On motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quinn and unanimously carried, the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Councilman Murphy stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Close and the staff for the curb repair by the entrance to the post office complex.

Mr. Close stated that he wanted to commend Mr. Zepp and Mike McCarrick of his staff. He stated that they repair 200 catch basins annually and that was a significant amount in comparison to other towns. He stated that they are difficult projects and to do that amount is a testament to the ability of the staff.

Mayor Hertzberg stated that he wanted to address the speakers who had come out tonight. He thanked them and appreciated that they used their 1st amendment rights to fight for what they believed in. He stated that he felt that there were a lot of problems with some of the laws and that they could be better thought out and better researched. He stated that there was always middle ground and that there was not enough working together. He further thanked the high school students who had attended the meeting and commended them.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that she also wanted to acknowledge the students and thanked them for attending the council meeting. She stated that it was a serious topic and that they would be reviewing more information from different agencies. She stated that Council would come to a decision that would be adequate and that would be addressing this issue. She also told the students that they were always welcome to come to a Council meeting. She stated that they do have a youth township council once a year in May or June.

Councilwoman Whilesmith stated that they would read the resolution and the bill and if that was a step in the right direction each one of them would make that decision. She stated that it was one small component of all things that Council had been doing because keeping Sparta safe was the number one priority and their number one responsibility.

Mayor Hertzberg stated that Council had always been proactive in safety in Sparta through different avenues.

Councilman Murphy commended the students for participating in student government. He stated that they should go online to view the minutes to see where different members of council stand on the gun issue.

Hearing of Ordinance

18-04 Bond Ordinance Appropriating \$1,200,000, and Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,050,000 Bonds Or Notes Of The Township, For Various Improvements Or Purposes Authorized To Be Undertaken By The Township Of Sparta, In The County Of Sussex, New Jersey

The second and final hearing of the ordinance entitled: BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,200,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,050,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY was given and held open for public discussion.

No one wished to be heard and this portion was closed.

On motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quinn and unanimously carried, the following resolution was duly adopted by roll call vote:

Councilman Gibbs – AYE
Deputy Mayor Quinn – AYE
Mayor Hertzberg - AYE

Councilman Murphy – AYE
Councilwoman Whilesmith – AYE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled: BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,200,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,050,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN

BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY is hereby adopted on second and final reading and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish said notice and the ordinance will take effect in accordance with the law.

Open to the Public – Resolutions:

No one wished to be heard and this portion was closed.

Resolutions:

On motion by Councilwoman Whilesmith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quinn and unanimously carried, Resolutions 6-1, through 6-7 were duly adopted.

6-1 Refund - Homestead Rebate Credit

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Tax Collector refunds the following tax overpayment – Homestead Rebate Credit on Exempt Property:

BLOCK	LOT	NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT
16005	66	Mohrhoff, Chester	726 West Mt. Rd	\$320.40

6-2 Tax Overpayment Refund

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Tax Collector refunds the following tax overpayments:

BLOCK	LOT	NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT
31004	11	Corelogic Tax Service	31 Castlewood Trl	\$5,180.14
11001	17	Germano, Michael	29 Brandy Ridge Rd	\$14,569.10
3010	42	Au, Ernest	2 Green Apple Ct	\$5,162.55
21002	5	Gerndt, Frank	10 Cottonwood Trl	\$3,469.49

6-3 Water Utility Overpayment Refund

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Tax Collector refunds the following water utility overpayments:

ACCOUNT#	NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT
551	PNC Bank/Klink	4 Maxie Lane	\$367.15
96069	Poust	7 Butternut Way	\$53.00
91209	Poust	55 Hunters Lane	\$55.00

6-4 Resolution Authorizing Bid for a Telecommunication Lease

WHEREAS, the Sparta Township Council has determined that it shall seek a lease for the use of the Millcreek Road water tank, located at 11 Millcreek Road, owned by the Township for the location of a communication system, including installation of antennae's and related equipment, as permitted by the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq., and the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, et. Seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey as follows:

The Township Manager is authorized to seek bids for the use of the Township-owned water tank for the location of a communication system, including installation of antennae's and related equipment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Council reserve the right to reject any and all bids. All bids must be submitted in strict compliance with the terms and conditions of

the bid package prepared for the Township, as well as the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq., and the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, et. seq.

6-5 Resolution Approving the Lease Agreement for the Operation of a Summer Day Camp at Camp Sacajawea

WHEREAS, the Township of Sparta is currently leasing Camp Sacajawea located in the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey for the operation of a day camp beginning on June 25, 2018 up to and including August 24, 2018, Mondays through Fridays, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Sparta Township Council desires to approve the lease agreement between Sparta Township and Camp Sacajawea LLC in the amount of \$18,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Manager are authorized to execute the lease agreement on behalf of the Township of Sparta.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

6-6 Resolution to Cancel Reserve for Cash Bonds to Current Fund

WHEREAS the Township of Sparta has account Reserve for Cash Bonds on the Other Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, there is a balance of \$77,399.09 in the Reserve for Cash Bonds and there are no records to identify the origin of these funds; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Sparta to formally cancel said balances so that they may be removed from the accounts ledger.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following Other Trust Fund account be canceled to Current Fund Balance.

Description	Amount Cancelled
Reserve for Cash Bonds	\$77,399.09

6-7 Professional Services Resolution-Engineer

WHEREAS, Sparta Township currently is under contract with Keller & Kirkpatrick, Inc. for engineering services pertaining to construction inspections on infrastructure improvements for the development known as "North Village" in an amount not to exceed \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted Resolution No. 18-44 on February 13, 2018 approving the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council wishes to increase that amount to include an additional \$50,000 and funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the increase in funding is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of the within Resolution to Keller & Kirkpatrick, Inc. upon adoption of this Resolution.

A Notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law shall be published in the New Jersey Herald to the extent required by law.

A copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase in this resolution is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this resolution.

Council Liaison Reports:

Councilwoman Whilesmith reminded Council about the Senior Appreciation Dinner that is on May 2nd. Mayor Hertzberg stated that he was going to be away but to please express his appreciation to all of them.

Deputy Mayor Quinn gave an update on the Stigma Free Campaign. She stated that she had met with the Police Chief and Mr. Close about attending a Mental Health First Aid class. She stated that the purpose of the class was to help people who were in crisis and defuse situations prior to help arriving. She stated that she and Lt. Lamon had completed that class and were formulating ideas on how to help. She further stated that she would be bringing that back for recommendation from the Council.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that she had been attending the Health Department advocacy meetings along with the Township Manager and Steve Levinson. She stated that she also planned to attend a health quorum scheduled for May.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that a new chiropractor's office had opened in Town on Main Street and Jeanine Cerra would also be opening a new business on the corner of Sparta Avenue and Woodport Road. Deputy Mayor Quinn stated also that the Planning Board had discussions regarding the North Village project.

Mayor Hertzberg stated that the Economic Development Committee had met to discuss various topics. He stated that the Committee was planning to schedule another big business forum and then update the business community on issues that would be important to them. He stated that they would also be discussing signage issues.

Councilman Murphy stated that creative assets inventory had been discussed at the EDC meeting. He stated that it was part of Sustainable New Jersey in which the Township is silver certified. Councilman Murphy stated that a goal would be to reach gold certification.

Councilman Murphy stated the New Jersey Economic Development Committee had been discussed and their relationship with projects going forward in the State. He stated that one of the members was keeping the committee informed with what the State was doing.

Councilman Murphy also stated that discussions had centered on charging stations being built at town hall. Mr. Close stated that the State had limited funds available a couple of years ago and he was hopeful that there would be new consideration given to providing monies for that project and it would be reopened. He stated that there might also be some private organizations that were looking to make funds available for that purpose as well. Mr. Close stated that the Township would certainly revisit the project again should funding become available.

Councilman Murphy stated that the EDC had discussed Phase IV of the streetscape project and members had been updated as to where the project was going and its limitations.

Councilman Gibbs stated that the Trout Derby would be held on May 5, 2018 sponsored by the Sparta FOP. He stated that the Trout Unlimited organization would also be present to give lessons on fly casting. He stated that the pond in Station Park would be stocked with trout. Councilman Gibbs also asked that participants donate nonperishable food for the local food pantries.

Old Business:

Councilman Murphy brought up the issue of changing the verbiage on proclamations issued by the Mayor and Township Council. Mayor Hertzberg stated that Council had not reached a consensus and Councilman Murphy stated that he would address it again at a future meeting.

Councilman Murphy stated that Eric Powell had given Council an update on the bridge at Station Park and had told them that bids would be going out and he had indicated that the bridge would be repaired before Sparta Day.

Mr. Close stated that he had spoken to Mr. Powell and he had the report on the structure and he was in the process of obtaining quotes. Mr. Close stated that he could not commit to a particular event because it would create unfair expectations. He stated he was hopeful that the project would be completed in due course, but it would be done in a fashion that will provide for the long term safety of users.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that the May meeting date of the Sussex County League of Municipalities would be released shortly and the speaker will be a representative from JCP&L and the topic would cover JCP&L restoration. She stated also that in September the League would have a presentation from the Sussex County Community College. She stated that the College was making great strides in becoming a highly regarded technical vocational college. Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that in October a member of the Department of Homeland Security would be present to address elected officials regarding a program named Psychology of a Disaster.

Mayor Hertzberg stated that he and the Township Manager had met with JCP&L representatives and asked them to address issues that might happen during a future weather event. He stated that JCP&L had responded and proactively worked on mitigating any issues that might arise during future storms.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that JCP&L had made significant strides in their efforts in providing their customers with apps in order for them to report issues and keep track of things that are important to them.

New Business:

Councilman Gibbs stated that Council had received an invitation from the Sparta Elks to attend a cocktail party commemorating their 150th Anniversary on May 10th.

Open to the Public:

No one wished to be heard and this portion was closed.

Expenditures:

On motion by Deputy Mayor Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Whilesmith and carried expenditures in the amount of \$5,450,935.46 was approved as presented. Councilman Gibbs abstained.

Adjournment:

No one else wished to be heard and no further business was brought up, motion was made by Deputy Mayor Quinn, seconded by Councilman Murphy and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kate Chambers, RMC
Municipal Clerk

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Respectfully submitted,

Kate Chambers
Municipal Clerk