

March 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Quinn 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: Deputy Mayor Quinn, Councilman Gibbs, Councilman Murphy, Township Attorney Thomas Ryan, Township Manager William Close, Chief Financial Officer Sam Rome and Township Clerk Kate Chambers. Mayor Hertzberg and Councilwoman Whilesmith were absent.

Salute to the Flag:

Deputy Mayor Quinn led the assembly in a salute to the flag.

Proclamation:

Deputy Mayor Quinn read the Red Cross Month proclamation into the record.

Minutes:

On motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Gibbs and carried, the minutes of the special meeting held on February 17th and the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on February 27, 2018 were approved as presented. Mayor Hertzberg and Councilwoman Whilesmith were absent.

Open to the Public:

No one wished to be heard this portion of the meeting was closed.

Manager's Report:

School Resource Officer

Mr. Close stated that the Township was now undertaking action on a Shared Service Agreement with the Board of Education that would provide for the assignment of a School Resource Officer (SRO) in the Sparta Schools. He stated that this position would provide various benefits to both entities by creating a liaison in the schools with the youth of our community. He further stated that recent events throughout the country underscore the value in having the presence of an officer in the schools.

Recent JCP&L Outages

Mr. Close stated that as everyone was aware the recent storms Riley and Quinn had created a number of challenges in the community particularly with the loss of power. He further stated that approximately 1400 homes in Sparta were without power. He stated that there were 10 road closures due to the storm which had further hindered the restoration efforts. He further commended the DPW for all their efforts on clearing the snow and keeping the roads open. He also commended the Police and Fire Departments along with the Ambulance Squad for their combined efforts to provide for the safety of the public as best they could given the conditions created by the storm. He further commended the residents for their assistance in working with the town and coping with the loss of power for an extended period. Mr. Close informed Council that he had met with Jackie Espinoza of JCP&L and would be setting up a meeting with her, Mayor Hertzberg and Chief Spidaletto to do a post event critique to see what items could be addressed moving forward to help minimize/mitigate the impacts of future storm events.

Budget

Mr. Close informed Council that the Introduction of the 2018 Budget was on the Agenda. He stated that it would be forwarded to the State by the end of the week for their review. He further stated that the Public Hearing and Adoption of the Budget would be on the April 10th Council meeting.

Cram the Cruiser

Mr. Close informed Council that the Sparta Police Department along with other local police departments in Sussex County, the Sussex County Sheriff's office and New Jersey State Police Troopers of Sussex County are teaming up this year to conduct the second annual Sussex County-wide Cram the Cruiser food drive. He stated that the purpose of the event was to collect food donations for Sussex County residents who are in need of assistance. He stated that donations would be accepted at all the above mentioned Police Departments beginning March 15th through March 31st. He further stated that donations could also be dropped off at the Mohawk House in Sparta from noon to 10:00 p.m. daily.

Approval of Manager's Report:

On motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Gibbs and carried, the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

Introduction of Ordinance

18-02 Township of Sparta Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

On motion by Councilman Murphy seconded by Councilman Gibbs and unanimously carried, the following resolution was duly adopted as amended:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled: TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14): is hereby adopted on first reading and the same shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on March 27, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish notice of the introduction and final hearing according to law.

Open to the Public – Resolutions:

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

Resolutions:

On motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Gibbs and carried, Resolutions 6-1 through 6-3 were duly adopted:

6-1 Introduction of Municipal Budget – Title Only

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the budget be read by title only inasmuch as the conditions set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:4-5 shall be met as follows: that a complete copy of the approved budget shall be posted in the Municipal Building and copies of said budget shall be made available to each person requesting the same prior to a public hearing to be held on April 10, 2018.

6-2 Allocation of \$16,342.00 to the Sparta Municipal Alliance for the Provision of Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Council of the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Sussex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Sparta Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2019 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 16,342.00
Cash Match	\$ 4,086.00
In-Kind	\$ 12,257.00
2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

6-3 Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement Between the Township of Sparta and the Sparta Township Board of Education for a School Resource Officer

WHEREAS, the Township of Sparta and the Sparta Township Board of Education have agreed to enter into a Shared Services Agreement for a School Resource Officer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Sparta Township Council desires to approve the Shared Services Agreement with the Sparta Township Board of Education; and

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

1. The Shared Services Agreement between the Township of Sparta and the Sparta Township Board of Education, whereby the Sparta Township Police Department will provide the services of a School Resource Officer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq., is approved. The terms and conditions of the Agreement (Exhibit "A") is made a part of this Resolution.
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to sign the Shared Services Agreement on behalf of the Township.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately and the Agreement and shall take effect upon the adoption of a similar Resolution by the Sparta Township Board of Education.
4. 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 parts of this resolution.

Council Liaison Reports:

Councilman Gibbs stated that Tech Flex was the new sponsor for Breakfast with the Bunny which is being held on Saturday, March 24th. He stated that there would be two seating's, the first at 9:00 a.m. and the second at 11:00 a.m. He further stated that Unico would be providing an Easter egg hunt behind the Mohawk Ave. School between the two seating's.

Old Business:

Councilman Gibbs stated that there had been volunteer applications submitted for the Planning, Zoning and Library Boards. Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that the vacancies were filled on the Planning and Zoning Boards, but that it would be confirmed by the Planning Board Secretary.

New Business:

Councilman Murphy stated the Sussex County League of Municipalities would be having an Opioid Crisis conference on Thursday, March 15th. Councilman Murphy made the following statement for the record: “The opioid problem is not merely a criminal justice issue; it is a national health crisis.”

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that Council had to complete mandatory training for the JIF by May 1st.

Open to the Public:

Dan Chiariello, 15 Cambridge addressed Council and asked if the 2018 budget was on the website. Mr. Close responded telling him that the budget would be posted after the introduction which was on the agenda for this evening’s meeting.

Mr. Chiariello asked if there had been a special meeting posted regarding the Glen Lake issue. Mr. Close stated that the agenda had been posted on the website and had been sent to the newspapers, but that the notice did not need to be published. Mr. Close further stated the notice was also posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building.

Expenditures:

On motion by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Murphy and unanimously carried expenditures in the amount of \$969,632.94 were approved as presented.

Adjournment:

No one else wished to be heard and no further business was brought up, motion was made by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Councilman Murphy and unanimously carried to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Chambers, RMC
Municipal Clerk