CITY OF HACKENSACK

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015**

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hackensack was held at City Hall, 65 Central Avenue, Hackensack, New Jersey, on Tuesday, October 6, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Mayor Labrosse and he asked the City Clerk to call the roll.

**Present:** Mayor John P. Labrosse, Jr., Deputy Mayor Canestrino, Councilman Battaglia, Councilman Sims, Councilman Some, City Attorney Judge Alexander Carver and City Manager David Troast were in attendance.

**Ms. Karlsson:** “In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice to The Record and the Star-Ledger and by posting a copy on the Bulletin Board in City Hall."

**Manager’s Report:**

**Cultural Arts Board –** There will be two ordinances on tonight’s meeting, one to establish the Cultural Arts Board and one to separate it from the Recreation Board. The Cultural Arts Board will have seven (7) members.

PILOP Program – There will be an Ordinance for introduction tonight for the Payment in Lieu of Parking Program. There will be a payment for reserve parking – it will be a one-time fee and then a monthly fee for the parking spaces.

**CDBG Resolution** – There will be a resolution on tonight’s meeting for the authorization of the CDBG’s for 2016.

**18 East Camden Street -** There will be an Ordinance on tonight’s meeting for the Mayor and Council to adopt the redevelopment plan for this location.

**Record Site on River Street-** There will be an Ordinance on tonight’s meeting for the Mayor and Council to adopt the redevelopment plan for this location.

**Franklin Street One Way Street –** There have been comments and some complaints after the Ordinance was adopted to make Franklin Street a one way street. The city manager had the Traffic Division look in this matter again and they still stand by their recommendation to make this street a one way street.

**Prospect and Beech Streets –** There has been some talk about making this a blinking light stop or putting a traffic light at this location. In light of the most recent accident there we will be looking into this further. The traffic division will get some prices for both types of lights.

**Snow Removal – Winter 2015-2016 –** The County will be plowing and sanding/salting their streets within the city. This is a pilot program for the county. If there are any issues please call the county direct at 201-646-2808 during the day and after hours please call 201-336-7700. There is approximately 15 miles of county roads within the City of Hackensack. The county will no longer be providing us with salt. The Deputy Mayor wanted to know how will the city know if there are issues and whether or not they have been taken care of? The city manager stated that we could continue with our procedure and then have the police desk contact the county as well as the resident. The Mayor questioned as to why the County was starting with the largest city in the county for the pilot program?

**Fire Department SUV and DPW Asphalt Truck** – There will be no impact to the budget for the purchase of the two SUV’s for the Fire Department. These will be replacement cars. The truck for the DPW is a replacement also, went out to bid in August.

**Hackensack Sign** – The County removed the Welcome to Hackensack sign from West Look Out Avenue as it was not a county road. We will have traffic look into replacing the sign, cost etc.

**Commemorative Street Signs** – There should be criteria for this. It is a great idea will look into it.

Council Comments:

Councilman Battaglia – I have reservations regarding the county taking care of the snow. I have received some resident complaints regarding Franklin Street, glad we are looking into it again. Foschini Park, we need to raise the park to alleviate the flooding. We would need to raise it at least four (4) feet. We should really look into this – the municipalities on the other side of the river have raised their parks and as the Meadowlands develop the water has to go somewhere. Why should we upgrade the park if it will just keep flooding?

Councilman Some - I agree that we need to look into blinking stop signs or a traffic light for Prospect and Beech Street. We also need to speak with PSE&G about Prospect Avenue, it is much too dark. We should look into the cost of adding more lights to Prospect Avenue.

Mayor Labrosse – He wanted to recognize the new Main Street Alliance Director, the city’s new Personnel Director and our Project Manager all of whom were in the audience.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Canestrino and seconded by Councilman Some to open the meeting to the public. The Mayor reminded the public that they had five minutes to speak.

Victor Sasson- Euclid Avenue – Why is the county doing this pilot snow plowing program? How about pre-treating the roads before a storm? Has there been any progress on the solar panels on the city owned buildings? The city manager stated that on new construction it is suggested but on older buildings the cost needs to be explored. Teaneck has free standing panels.

Carolyn Davis – Have there been any Stigma Free classes? I know the city ran the program. How can I find out? The City Manager suggested that Ms. Davis speak with Jan McBride in his office for meeting dates. With regards to Franklin Street, you need to talk to the residents. When Stanley Place was discussed the police came around to the residents when most were not home. The needs of the residents need to be taken seriously. The residents of 1st street to Railroad would like traffic to look into making it a one way. Councilman Sims asked why? Ms. Davis replied due to the speeding.

Regina DiPasqua – Stigma Free had classes 2 months ago, we will have to take them again. It is mostly common sense. We need a traffic light at Prospect and Beech not just blinking signs. You just have to make sure that it in sync with Summit Avenue.

Mr. Gaillard - Standish Avenue – We need to take a look at the long term tax issues. We need to help our seniors who are on fixed incomes. I know redevelopment will bring in more ratables. What about FDU why can’t they give back to the city for the flat rate that they pay? The signs on Standish Avenue are still not correct. The blind crosswalks are not finished on Standish going down the hill. The manager said he will have traffic check out the signs and the crosswalks.

The Mayor at this time welcomed Judge Carver to his first meeting.

As no one else wished to be heard, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Canestrino and seconded by Councilman Battaglia to close the public portion of the meeting.

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| **Council Member** | **Intro** | **Second** | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** | **Absent** | **Excused** |
| Battaglia |  | x | x |  |  |  |  |
| Deputy Mayor Canestrino |  |  | x |  |  |  |  |
| Sims |  |  | x |  |  |  |  |
| Some | x |  | x |  |  |  |  |
| Mayor Labrosse |  |  | x |  |  |  |  |

**CITY OF HACKENSACK**

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack deem it necessary to discuss certain actions under Section 7b7 & 7b8 of the Open Public Meetings Act which pertains to matters falling within attorney-client privilege, on-going litigation and personnel matters concerning the employment of a current or prospective public employee(s).

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack is of the opinion that such circumstances may presently exist; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Council wishes to discuss the following issues:

1. Personnel Matters –
2. On-going Litigation –
3. Matters involving attorney/client privilege –

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack deem it necessary to exclude the public from this discussion. The outcome of the discussion will be disclosed within 90 days or at such time as the interests of the City do not require confidentiality.

**APPROVED**: By the Mayor and Council on December 8, 2015.

### ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CITY CLERK