

Merchantville, February 24, 2020

A Caucus meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, February 24, 2020. Mayor Ted Brennan presided. Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer. Announcement was made that the meeting had been advertised in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the "Open Public Meetings Act".

**ROLL CALL:** Council Present: Fitzgerald, McLoone, Perno, Scarpa, Sperrazza, Woods, and Brennan. CFO Moules, Clerk Brouse and Attorney Higgins were present.

## **PUBLIC**

Kerry Mentzer, 201 St. James – Oak Tree at back of Borough Hall by police parking lot, experiencing loss of trees for various issues including budget constraints. There are other trees on the property, taking this tree down will not stop the problem.

Mayor – this is not the forum for discussion with the town to save the tree. Council is going to discuss an issue with a tree.

Dina Turan, 213 N. Centre Street – Tree has been borough up many times in the past. Budget isn't enough.

Ron Smith, 118 Leslie Avenue – Lead 4H students consider science for means of decision making.

Joseph Bouvie, 211 St. James – Green team member.

Tim Metzger, 201 St. James – Found out tonight that squirrels are the issue not the tree.

Pat Fields, 26 Alexander Avenue – Offer services to Parks and Playgrounds again as director. Need to get dates on calendar.

Suzanne Day, 101 Browning Road – We are a tree city, cutting down the tree doesn't fall into plan.

Nick Cockarusus, 101 Browning Road – Retired architect will design car port. Would provide a drawing.

Mike Donahue, 202 Westminster – Oak trees are few in town. It is a waste of money.

Mark Anderson, 204 Plymouth Place – Can spray chemical in the engine to keep squirrels away. Cheaper to build car port than cut tree down.

Maureen – 105 E. Cedar Avenue – Put peppermint on wires.

Mr. McLoone – Stated that he reported at the last council meeting the issues with the tree. On average of \$3,000 of damage on vehicles per year. A plastic hawk and owl were placed in tree. Open to other options.

Ms. Scarpa provided a list of options. Police force should be responsible for vehicle maintenance.

Mayor gave overview. Need to be practical. Tax payer's money. Trash is a problem and need to present solutions. See how long before we make a decision. Provide recommendations.

Mr. Perno – Proponent of succession planning. Doesn't think it needs to be cut down.

Mr. Sperrazza – gardens in yard-hike, back pack hikes, trees full – trees. Public safety issues come first. Vehicle damage to employee vehicles. Council needs to come up with solutions to solve the issues.

Seven dead trees on bike path. Inventory of trees is it working?

Maria Montefusco, 201 West End Avenue – Tree is in need of trimming. Better solutions than cutting a tree down.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Project Status Table Review CDBG Project Submission – History Theatre Non-profit COAH units

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Tree Issues at Police Parking Lot – Police responsibility to take care of vehicles.
- Downtown Redevelopment – Discussion/Meeting set up for Wednesday.
- Merchantville Police CBA Status – Request for meeting with Attorneys.
- Glenwood Ave Pump Station Update – Working with Camden County for potential funding.

**NEW BUSINESS** – On a motion by Mr. McLoone and a second by Mr. Fitzgerald council approved the following:

- Merchantville Teen Council – Sean will bring this up to Mr. Strong.
- Use of Facility for Market off Centre
- Use of Facility for Music Fest
- Use of Facility Beer Fest Spring
- Use of Facility Beer Fest Fall
- Merchantville Board of Health

Resolutions approved by consent agenda:

On a motion by Mr. Perno and a second by Mr. Sperrazza council approved the following resolutions:

**R20-35**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF**  
**MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE**  
**OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNING BODY**  
**AUTHORIZING THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANT APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Merchantville strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Merchantville is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program;

**THEREFORE**, Mayor and Council of the Borough of Merchantville has determined that Merchantville should apply for the aforementioned Grant.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Mayor and Council of the Borough of Merchantville, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant.

**R20-36**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN,  
AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO APPLY FOR A GRANT AND EXECUTE  
AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of the Borough of Merchantville desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of approximately \$10,000.00 to fund the following project;

Resiliency Planning – Merchantville Inventory of Public Trees

**WHEREAS**, The **Council of the Borough of Merchantville** authorizes and hereby agrees to match **33.33% of the Total Project Amount**, in compliance with the match requirements of the agreement. The availability of the match for such purposes, whether cash, services, or property, is hereby certified. **Up to 30%** of the match will be made up of in-kind services (if allowed by grant program requirements and the agreement the governing

**WHEREAS**, The Grantee agrees to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the agreement;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the governing body resolves that **Edward Brennan** or the successor to the office of **Mayor** is authorized (a.) to make application for such a grant, (b.) if awarded, to execute a grant agreement with the State for a grant in an amount not less than \$ **0.00** and not more than **\$10,000.00** and (c.) to execute any amendments thereto which do not increase the Grantee's obligations.

**R20-37**  
**BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE**  
**CAMDEN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**PLEDGING SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LAND USE**  
**RESOLUTION # R20-37**

**WHEREAS**, land use is an essential component of overall sustainability for a municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, poor land-use decisions can lead to, and increase societal ills, such as decreased mobility, high housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space and the degradation of natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, well planned land use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space, provide for adequate recreation, and allow for the continued protection and use of vital natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, given New Jersey's strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, achieving a statewide sustainable land use pattern will require municipalities to take the lead;

**WHEREAS**, Merchantville adopted a Master Plan Reexamination Report on January 21, 2020 that advances and enhances the sustainable principles set forth in the Boroughs Master Plan, dated October 23, 2007;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, supports taking the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making Merchantville a truly sustainable community. It is our intent to update our Zoning Ordinance and land-use regulations accordingly.

1. Regional Cooperation - We pledge to reach out to administrations of our neighboring municipalities concerning land-use decisions, and to take into consideration regional impacts when making land-use decisions.
2. Transportation Choices - We pledge to create transportation choices with a Complete Streets approach by considering all modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit and automobiles, when planning transportation projects and reviewing development applications. We will reevaluate our parking with the goal of limiting the amount of required parking spaces, promoting shared parking and other innovative parking alternatives, and encouraging structured parking alternatives where appropriate.
3. Natural Resource Protection - We pledge to take action to protect the natural resources of the State for environmental, recreational and agricultural value, avoiding or mitigating negative impacts to these resources.
4. Mix of Land Uses - We pledge to use our zoning power to allow for a mix of residential, retail, commercial, recreational and other land use types in areas that make the most sense for our municipality and the region, particularly in downtown and town center areas.
5. Housing Options - We pledge, through the use of our zoning, pursuit of grants, and revenue generating powers, to foster a diverse mix of housing types and locations, including single- and multi-family, for-sale and rental options, to meet the needs of all people at a range of income levels.
6. Green Design - We pledge to incorporate the principles of green design and renewable energy generation into municipal buildings to the extent feasible and when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements for residential and commercial buildings.
7. Municipal Facilities Siting - We pledge, to the extent feasible, to take into consideration factors such as walkability, bike ability, greater access to public transit, proximity to other land-use types, and open space when locating new or relocated municipal facility.

**R20-38**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE,  
COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT,  
BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE**

**WHEREAS**, the Camden County Improvement Authority provides funding for certain infrastructure improvements or services under Community Development Block Grant Funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body has chosen to submit an application for Program Year 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body has agreed to apply for funding for the following project; Blight Prevention and Elimination Activities within the Borough of Merchantville

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Borough of Merchantville that the Mayor Is hereby authorized to sign the Project Description Form for Program YEAR 2020 along with the Community Development Grant Agreement.

**R20-39**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF  
CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Merchantville has an Autonomous Board of Health in the Borough of Merchantville; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor desires to appointed the following residents of Merchantville to the Board of Health  
Joan Brennan and Nicole Kipp

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Joan Brennan and Nicole Kipp are hereby appointed to the Board of Health for the Borough of Merchantville, County of Camden and State of New Jersey. Effective January 1, 2020; expiring December 31, 2020.

Resolutions for agenda—the following are business resolutions that will be included on the agenda for the council meeting:

- Establishing Merchantville Teen Council and Appointing Certain Members
- Authorizing Contractor for Community Center Recreation Project
- Authorizing Contractor for 2019 Municipal Aid Road Program

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

On the motion of Mr. Perno and second of Mr. Sperrazza, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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Denise Brouse, Borough Clerk