



Mayor and Common Council Borough of Flemington

June 8, 2020

Online during COVID-19 Emergency

Work Session (Canceled)

Regular Meeting (7:30 PM)

This meeting is being held in conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Flag Salute

Roll Call:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Caitlin Giles-McCormick	Council President	Present	
Jessica Hand	Council Member	Present	
Michael Harris	Council Member	Present	
Jeremy Long	Council Member	Present	
Christopher Runion	Council Member	Present	7:35 PM
Kimberly Tilly	Council Vice President	Present	
Betsy Driver	Mayor	Present	

I. OEM Report

Mr. McNally, OEM Coordinator, reported on the current status of COVID-19 procedures in the Borough. He noted that Borough Hall has reopened to the public on a one-at-a-time basis. A rally over the weekend in the Borough drew 1,800 participants, and went very smoothly.

II. Mayor's Report

Mayor Driver discussed a resolution authorizing outdoor sales for retail businesses, subject to a permit issued by the Zoning Official.

Adrienne Fusaro has resigned from the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Mayor discussed the painting-over of the blue line on Main Street, saying the resolution authorizing it expired in 2017, it's against DOT regulations, and as Mayor her job is to assure conformance to DOT standards. Over-painting the line was done on Saturday morning when DPW workers were in town. She said a lot of people were expected in town to protest racism, and many people have expressed to her that they felt threatened by the blue line.

She discussed the actions she's taken to support the Borough's police, including ensuring they have a place to call home following the sale of Police HQ and that they have a fair contract. She said when businesses start reopening June 15, she wants everyone to feel welcome.

III. Council Members' Reports

Council Member Harris

Mr. Harris commented on the sale of the police building and his efforts to discuss the cost impact of that sale, and he discussed the shared services study.

Shade Tree - Commission meetings will be resuming online-only.

Animal Control - The contract for animal control services is up at the end of this month. He reviewed April-May statistics, and how the ACO is using local shelters to arrange pet adoptions. He also discussed the ACO's legal obligations for ensuring public safety.

He criticized holding a special meeting on June 1 to award a new website management contract. He also said spending borough money carries a responsibility, and officials should be stewards.

Council President Giles-McCormick

Samuel Fleming House – They will be resuming garden yoga on Tuesday evenings, following social distancing guidelines. An Ice cream social is planned Saturday, July 11, 1-4 p.m.

Flemington Community Partnership - They're pushing to help businesses resume commerce. Two new businesses in town are Natures Ener-Qi on Main Street and Magic Cakes in Turntable Junction. The FCP is working on finding a new location for the Filling Station beer garden this summer, with the sale of 144 Main Street pending.

The NJ EDA has a grant opportunity opening tomorrow at 9 a.m. for business owners in Opportunity Zones, which includes all of Flemington. Opportunity Zone grant charettes, sidelined by the pandemic, are getting back on track.

The Administrative Committee has been looking at possible solutions for getting a Borough Administrator.

Saturday's demonstration, organized by high school students with help from Hunterdon County Democrats, went smoothly. Police presence was calm and appreciated; 9 people needed assistance and the police were there to help. The issues we have here are different from Minneapolis and New York, but we're not impervious to national events. The blue line is a symbol of support for police to many, but it's also a powerful symbol in the Black Lives Matter movement. She reiterated her support for the Borough's police.

Council Member Runion

The Environmental Commission will meet next Monday, online. He's invited an electric company spokesman in to discuss the electric vehicle charging stations. The commission is working on Sustainable Jersey action items, the charging stations, and exploring what ordinances and infrastructure may be needed to support the charging stations.

He said he's disappointed and frustrated that painting over the blue line didn't come to Council for a vote. It seems controversial, and reflects on all officials. The action denied Council members the voices they were elected to provide.

Council Member Hand

She said there are better ways to show support for police than a blue line. We can all work together in this town. She said she was proud of the student organizers of the weekend demonstration and thanked them for their strength. She commented on the coming reopening of Borough businesses, urging everyone to be kind to employees.

Council Vice President Tilly

The Fire Department food drive on 5/30 brought in \$745 in cash and gift cards, and 2,369 pounds of food.

Library - the interior renovations are going strong. A resolution on tonight's agenda stems from a credit for re-use of sheetrock; there are lighting and flooring projects that the library board wants to add.

DPW - No bulk trash is being picked up for now. She urged patience as they work on reinstating that service.

Parks and Recreation - An Eagle Scout project from a member of Troop 62 would replace some benches at Tuccamirgan Park and add signage.

HPC - The next meeting is 6/17; positions on the commission are available. Regarding the blue line and the Black Lives Matter movement, she said she rejects the idea that she has to pick a side; we have to come together as a community.

Council Member Long

The Planning Board is slowly getting back to taking care of things. Its next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

He discussed the weekend demonstration, saying everything went well. It was a hot day and people got overheated, but the police quickly responded to people who needed help.

He talked about the stresses on parents and families, and said no one learns when they're afraid or anxious. Times are crazy and the protests, violence and discord make it hard to see that good things are also happening. He wants to have a discussion with the police chief and any officers who want to participate, to find out what they think of all that's going on.

IV. Public Comments - Session I (up to 3 minutes each, for a maximum of 30 minutes)

Two comments were submitted in advance by email:

Ruth Fletcher asked who authorized the removal of the blue line on Main Street in Flemington.

Robert Wall, 47 Capner St., submitted a comment by email but participated in the meeting online and chose to ask his questions directly. He said he felt the blue line was a sign of respect for the Borough Police and wasn't hurting anyone, and that the local police have always protected everyone, shown respect and have done their job without prejudice. He said he saw removing the line as a slap in the face of the police and all those who show support, and asked to have it reinstated.

Adrienne Fusaro thanked the Mayor for having the blue line removed. She saw it as a hostile, vindictive indicator. She said the weekend demonstration gave her hope, and she's hoping more minorities and LGBTQ families will invest in the Borough, thereby improving property values.

Tony Critelli, Walnut Brook Drive, asked for the Borough to pursue a shared services study. He said he supports local businesses and asked if the new website manager is local. Ms. Giles-McCormick said neither the current nor proposed website developer is local, and that the new provider can offer expanded services.

V. Approval of Minutes

Council neglected to consider the minutes from the May 26 and June 1 Council meetings; they will be added to the agenda of the June 22 Council meeting.

Regular Agenda

Mayor Driver called for a motion to amend the agenda to include a resolution to rescind the 15-minute parking limit on Main Street as of 6 a.m. on June 15. Ms. Tilly moved the motion, seconded by Mr. Long. All voted yes to add the resolution to the agenda.

The Mayor also called for a resolution to amend the agenda to add a resolution authorizing outdoor retail sales provided there is no encroachment on the ADA right-of-way. Mr. Harris moved to amend the agenda, seconded by Mr. Long. All voted yes to add the resolution to the agenda.

1. RESOLUTION 2020-115: RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2020-102 AFFIRMING TEMPORARY 15-MINUTE PARKING LIMITS ON A SECTION OF MAIN STREET DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kimberly Tilly, Council Vice President
SECONDER:	Jessica Hand, Council Member
AYES:	Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OUTDOOR RETAIL SALES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

There was general discussion about non-essential retail business opening back up on June 15, and about how this resolution would work. Mr. Runion commented on the lack of preparation and wanting to see the language of the resolution. It was decided that the Borough Attorney would draft language for the next regular board meeting.

Both motions to adopt this resolution were withdrawn and the motion failed.

RESULT: FAILED FOR LACK OF A MOTION

3. ORDINANCE 2020-10: 1ST READING: PROVIDING DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT FOR RECORDS RETENTION AND DISPOSAL FOR THE BOROUGH OF FLEMINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$130,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

RESULT: INTRODUCED [UNANIMOUS] **Next: 6/22/2020 7:30 PM**
MOVER: Christopher Runion, Council Member
SECONDER: Caitlin Giles-McCormick, Council President
AYES: Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

4. RESOLUTION 2020-110: APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE BOROUGH OF FLEMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERIOR ALTERATIONS PROJECT TO BGD CONTRACCTING COMPANY FOR AN INCREASE OF \$27,600.00

Ms. Tilly said when the library paneling was removed, they found that the wallboard behind it was usable, and received an \$11,000.00 credit. There was also a \$2,000.00 credit for not having to install an access ramp since the library has been closed due to the pandemic. The library board, using funds from bequests to the library, wants to replace ceiling tiles at a cost of \$21,000.00, and carpet tiles at a cost of \$25,000.00. In combination with the credits, this falls in line with the cap on allowable contract increases.

Mr. Runion expressed frustration over the delivery of the agenda and supporting documents for this meeting.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Kimberly Tilly, Council Vice President
SECONDER: Caitlin Giles-McCormick, Council President
AYES: Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

5. RESOLUTION 2020-111: AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF THREE LOCATION SIGNS AND TWO PARK BENCHES AT TUCCAMIRGAN PARK

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Kimberly Tilly, Council Vice President
SECONDER: Christopher Runion, Council Member
AYES: Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

6. RESOLUTION 2020-112: GRANT APPLICATION TO NJ STATE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND ACT PROGRAM FOR LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Caitlin Giles-McCormick, Council President
SECONDER: Michael Harris, Council Member
AYES: Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

7. RESOLUTION 2020-113: WAIVING THE PROHIBITION IN ORDINANCE 5-6.1(A) ON BEER AND WINE CONSUMPTION ON PUBLIC STREETS AND SIDEWALKS IF SUCH DRINKS ARE CONSUMED IN CONNECTION WITH PROPERLY PERMITTED OUTDOOR DINING AND WITHIN SUCH DESIGNATED AREAS

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Michael Harris, Council Member
SECONDER: Jeremy Long, Council Member
AYES: Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

8. RESOLUTION 2020-114: AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSE PREMISES EXPANSIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Michael Harris, Council Member
SECONDER: Christopher Runion, Council Member
AYES: Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

VI. Public Comments - Session II (up to 3 minutes each, for a maximum of 30 minutes)

Robin Lapidus, executive director of the FCP, said they've held sidewalk sales in the past; that might be a solution for opening week, if businesses want to sell their wares outside.

VII. Attorney's Report

Attorney St. Angelo has been in contact with OEM Coordinator McNally regarding interpretation of the various Executive Orders. She thinks the Borough is prepared for reopening.

Council may eventually be able to hold Council meetings in person without the public present, live-streaming the meetings out to the public.

The State of Emergency needs to be extended; Mr. McNally said he'd be getting that signed tomorrow.

VIII. Payment of the Bills

In general discussion about bills, Mr. Harris said the animal control contract expires at the end of this month, and he recommended continuing with our current contractor.

Motion To: **Pay the Bills**

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Caitlin Giles-McCormick, Council President
SECONDER: Jessica Hand, Council Member
AYES: Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

IX. Executive Session for Any Other Applicable Matter Identified During the Regular Meeting (Action May Be Taken)

None needed.

X. Adjournment

Motion To: **Adjourn**

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Kimberly Tilly, Council Vice President
SECONDER: Jessica Hand, Council Member
AYES: Giles-McCormick, Hand, Harris, Long, Runion, Tilly

This meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Attest: _____
Sallie Graziano, Borough Clerk