

September 19, 2006  
Keyport, New Jersey

Approved for  
Release by U+G  
12/5/06

Minutes of a Closed Meeting of the Mayor and Council, Borough of Keyport, held on the above date in the Council Chambers, Municipal Complex, 70 W. Front Street, Keyport, NJ pursuant to the adoption of Resolution #299-06, at the Regular Meeting of the same date in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231.

Mayor Merla called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

#### ROLL CALL

On Roll Call the following were present: Councilmembers Hassmiller, Walling, Wedick, Bergen (arrived 7:22 P.M.), Sheridan, Ortman. Others present: Mr. Ebner, Borough Attorney's Office.

#### DISCUSSION

##### Personnel

1. **Administration.** The Keyport Senior Center submitted a letter advising they would like to remain on summer hours throughout the year. Mayor and Council decided this request should be denied because the unions made the same request and it was denied.
2. **Fire Department.** This matter will be discussed in open session; it will be a long discussion and Mayor and Council need to be careful in how they address this publicly.
3. **Police Department.** There is a concern with light duty. The Borough Attorney prepared a memo regarding Police Officers who become [REDACTED] and policies that can be set, if Council so chooses. The Mayor said he received light duty policies from other towns.

A disciplinary matter was reported in the newspaper; the PBA President was contacted and requested to make a retraction to the article.

A final determination needs to be made on [REDACTED]. A week ago, the Police Committee sat with Chief Gajewski to hear his side and reason why he recommended the suspension. Councilman Wedick said the Police Committee after reviewing all of the facts on this matter back the Chief's decision; all agreed. A memo with the Mayor and Council's decision should be sent to [REDACTED].

Discovery is being collected for the Disciplinary action being taken on the three Police Officers for various reasons.

A salary ordinance amendment for the Police Chief will be introduced at the next meeting; he is approaching the maximum in the salary range. The new range should be \$50,000-\$125,000.

Councilman Bergen arrived at 7:22 P.M.

4. **Planning Board Secretary.** The new Business Administrator will address this matter. Someone needs to be trained before Mrs. Febo retires.

October 17, 2006  
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Minutes of a Closed Meeting of the Mayor and Council, Borough of Keyport, held on the above date in the Council Chambers, Municipal Complex, 70 W. Front Street, Keyport, NJ pursuant to the adoption of Resolution #316-06, at the Regular Meeting of the same date in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231.

Mayor Merla called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

#### ROLL CALL

On Roll Call the following were present: Councilmembers Hassmiller, Walling, Wedick, Bergen, Sheridan, Ortman (arrived 7:06 PM). Others present: Mr. Wisniewski, Borough Attorney and Mr. Valesi, Administrator.

#### DISCUSSION

##### Personnel

1. **Construction Code Office.** Mr. Valesi said he received a letter from [REDACTED] that he is not bringing charges against [REDACTED]. Mr. Valesi said he e-mail Council about this matter and there would be no public hearing. The Mayor said this was a waste of Council's time. There was a complaint made against [REDACTED] by a contractor. Mr. Valesi said things "get away" and take on a life of their own. Mr. Valesi said he dispensed of the contractor's issue in 12 minutes [REDACTED] seems to avoid conflict by smoothing things over. Mr. Valesi said matters need to be looked into before any action is taken. This matter should be dismissed and the Department Head held accountable.

Mr. Ortman arrived at 7:06 P.M. Mr. Valesi advised there is an advertisement for a Clerk Typist position posted.

2. **Public Works Department.** Bert Morris' last day of work will be October 31<sup>st</sup> and he will be officially retired on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Valesi said disciplinary action was administered by him in the [REDACTED] matter (a demotion in position). Mr. Valesi said he contacted Councilman Walling and Councilman Bergen to find out the background and history of this employee. Councilman Hassmiller said he never agreed to a demotion for [REDACTED]; the demotion would be a \$60 loss in his salary. Councilman Bergen said there are questions regarding [REDACTED] job performance. He said he looked at the files kept by [REDACTED] and they are in disarray; one year estimates are being given to the residents. Mr. Sheridan asked if a demotion was discussed with [REDACTED] and his Department Head; yes. Mr. Valesi said he met with George Sappah, Supt of Public Works and [REDACTED] and advised the decision would be left up to Council. [REDACTED] is happy with decision and is glad to still have a job. He will be reassigned. Mr. Walling recommended a 5 day suspension and demotion. Mayor and Council agreed to the demotion. Mr. Valesi apologized to Council if they felt he overstepped any boundaries.

3. **Police Department.** Several memos were received from Chief

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#### DISCUSSION

##### Personnel

1. **Administration.** The Keyport Senior Center submitted a letter advising they would like to remain on summer hours throughout the year. Mayor and Council decided this request should be denied because the unions made the same request and it was denied.
2. **Fire Department.** This matter will be discussed in open session; it will be a long discussion and Mayor and Council need to be careful in how they address this publicly.
3. **Police Department.** There is a concern with light duty. The Borough Attorney prepared a memo regarding Police Officers who become [REDACTED] and policies that can be set, if Council so chooses. The Mayor said he received light duty policies from other towns.

A disciplinary matter was reported in the newspaper; the PBA President was contacted and requested to make a retraction to the article.

A final determination needs to be made on Sergeant Anthony Gallo's grievance. A week ago, the Police Committee sat with Chief Gajewski to hear his side and reason why he recommended the suspension. Councilman Wedick said the Police Committee after reviewing all of the facts on this matter back the Chief's decision; all agreed. A memo with the Mayor and Council's decision should be sent to Sergeant Gallo.

Discovery is being collected for the Disciplinary action being taken on the three Police Officers for various reasons.

A salary ordinance amendment for the Police Chief will be introduced at the next meeting; he is approaching the maximum in the salary range. The new range should be \$50,000-\$125,000.

Councilman Bergen arrived at 7:22 P.M.

4. **Planning Board Secretary.** The new Business Administrator will address this matter. Someone needs to be trained before Mrs. Febo retires.

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12/15/06

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Mayor Merla called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

#### ROLL CALL

On Roll Call the following were present: Councilmembers Hassmiller, Walling, Wedick, Bergen, Sheridan, Ortman (arrived 7:06 PM). Others present: Mr. Wisniewski, Borough Attorney and Mr. Valesi, Administrator.

#### DISCUSSION

##### Personnel

1. **Construction Code Office.** Mr. Valesi said he received a letter from Robert Burlew that he is not bringing charges against Carole Cerase. Mr. Valesi said he e-mail Council about this matter and there would be no public hearing. The Mayor said this was a waste of Council's time. There was a complaint made against Mrs. Cerase by a contractor. Mr. Valesi said things "get away" and take on a life of their own. Mr. Valesi said he dispensed of the contractor's issue in 12 minutes. Mr. Burlew seems to avoid conflict by smoothing things over. Mr. Valesi said matters need to be looked into before any action is taken. This matter should be dismissed and the Department Head held accountable.

Mr. Ortman arrived at 7:06 P.M. Mr. Valesi advised there is an advertisement for a Clerk Typist position posted.

2. **Public Works Department.** Bert Morris' last day of work will be October 31<sup>st</sup> and he will be officially retired on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Valesi said disciplinary action was administered by him in the Jonathan English matter (a demotion in position). Mr. Valesi said he contacted Councilman Walling and Councilman Bergen to find out the background and history of this employee. Councilman Hassmiller said he never agreed to a demotion for Mr. English; the demotion would be a \$60 loss in his salary. Councilman Bergen said there are questions regarding Mr. English's job performance. He said he looked at the files kept by Mr. English and they are in disarray; one year estimates are being given to the residents. Mr. Sheridan asked if a demotion was discussed with Mr. English and his Department Head; yes. Mr. Valesi said he met with George Sappah, Supt of Public Works and Mr. English and advised the decision would be left up to Council. Mr. English is happy with decision and is glad to still have a job. He will be reassigned. Mr. Walling recommended a 5 day suspension and demotion. Mayor and Council agreed to the demotion. Mr. Valesi apologized to Council if they felt he overstepped any boundaries.

3. **Police Department.** Several memos were received from Chief