CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kimberly A. Brown followed by the Flag Salute at 7:30 p.m. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read by Municipal Clerk La Shawn R. Barber.

Sunshine Notice: This meeting was called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting of February 10, 2020 was sent to the Central Record, Burlington County Times and Courier Post on January 14, 2020. Posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public, and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.


PROFESSIONALS IN ATTENDANCE: Township Engineer Dante Guzzi, Solicitor Peter C. Lange, Chief Financial Officer Rodney Haines, Township Administrator Douglas Cramer and Municipal Clerk La Shawn R. Barber.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minutes)

Stuart Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, commented on wanting a response from the Township Committee regarding all members to post their official email addresses on the website; criticized the members for their policy for their individual preference for not posting an email address on the website.

Fran Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, commented on wanting to have public comments follow Committee reports on the agenda; questioned the contract of the special counsel/conflict attorney and if Mr. Burns will participate in the executive session tonight, questioned if he has been without a contract and if his billings will under legal billings comptrollers best practices. Spoke about her displeasure of receiving the Municipal Clerk’s response to one of her OPRA request and advised the new Committee members to learn about the OPRA and OPMA law.

Being no further comments, Mayor Brown closed the public comment portion.

REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

2020 Road Program – Mr. Guzzi reported that bids will be received on February 26, 2020.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Mr. Haines had nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Cramer thanked Construction Official Thomas Boyd and the Public Works Department for the meeting room renovations.

REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

Mr. Lange reported on the proposed revisions to Chapter 10, Mobile Home / Trailer Parks for consideration at the next work session meeting.
REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr. Barton responded to Mr. Brooks’ comment regarding his email address and said that would like to proceed in the future to have one email drop box without individual names. Mr. Barton stated that he does not see the need to have a personal email with his name on it and he will not be replying. Invited Committee members to do the same. Recommendation was made for this administration to check with our IT for the possibility. The Construction Official Thomas Boyd, Public Works Department and Township Administrator Douglas Cramer were thanked for making Town Hall offices more secured and comfortable.

Mr. Moore expressed his appreciation of the office renovations and responded to Mr. Brooks’ comment regarding not having an email address; advising that it is his choice not to have an email address and desires communication to go through the Municipal Clerk.

Ms. McGinnis spoke of having ideas for the Township and asked consideration be given to the following six items:

1. Sewer line for Route 206 to bring in commercial ratables
2. Revise sign ordinance to support Murphy’s Market to draw more business off of Route 206
3. Township meetings changed to EMS buildings for easier access and have all town hall offices in one building (tax assessor, construction)
4. Tabernacle 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Town
5. Legal notices for local free newspapers (Pine Barrens Tribune and Tabernacle Sun) urge the State to change the rule
6. Township E-Bulletin to go out weekly to residents

Mayor Brown stated these items can be listed for future agenda workshop items.

Mr. Sunbury expressed his appreciation for the renovations and brighter lighting in Town Hall. Spoke about the pros and cons with respect to the emails; it being necessary for government participation with the office of emergency management, and it being an advantage for the Committee and residents if the Township to have a single point of contact email and expressed it is a great idea to have a shared email box for the residents. Mr. Sunbury commented on wanting more strategic planning for future workshop meetings similar to what Ms. McGinnis was talking about improving economic development to meet the needs of our residents, services, retail that is desired to bring ratables in the Township.

Mayor Brown echoed the comments regarding the shared email and would rather have personal phone calls when responding. Ms. Brown spoke about the Carranza Memorial Day notification in which they are looking for someone to attend on July 11, 2020. Ms. Brown announced the ribbon cutting on February 22nd for a new business of 3D Physical Therapy opening in Yates Plaza by one of our school graduates; the Committee was encouraged to stop for a visit.

Mr. Barton asked the Township Engineer to check with the Construction Official that all conditions of approvals have been met for 3D Physical Therapy before the opening. Mr. Guzzi advised that he has been working with the Construction Official and the applicant to make sure it has happened, and is all good.

Mr. Sunbury asked the Township Solicitor about the verbiage for Chapter 10 in the ordinance with respect to the mobile home park; Mr. Sunbury was advised that discussion will be addressed during a workshop meeting.

Mayor Brown asked for a motion to go into executive session.
EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION CS 02 102020

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

1. Contract negotiation update: Tabernacle Fire Company #1
2. Litigation matter: Fran Brooks v. Township of Tabernacle (BUR-L-002065-19)
3. Personnel matter regarding terms and condition: Conflict Attorney and Special Counsel

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires exist, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from this meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after executive session we will reopen the meeting in which action may or may not be taken.

• Motion to adopt, moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Barton. Ayes – Barton, McGinnis, Moore, Sunbury and Brown. Motion carried at 7:54 P.M. The Committee entered executive session.

Please take notice of the scheduled closed session meeting for Tabernacle Township Committee on Monday, February 10, 2010 will be held at the Annex Building located at 163 Carranza Road, Tabernacle, NJ (08088).

RECONVENE TO WORKSHOP

Mayor Brown reconvened to the regular meeting at 10:27 p.m. Mayor Brown advised that Township Committee received an update with respect to the current status regarding the contract negotiation for the fire company; the Tabernacle Fire Company was reminded that we are still waiting on their 2018 Annual Audit. Mayor Brown advised that a Resolution will be on the agenda for the next meeting to accept the continued appointment and re-award of contract for 2020 professional services for the Conflict Attorney and Special Counsel since Mr. Burns is now with a new law firm.

Mayor Brown provided response to Mr. and Mrs. Brooks regarding their questions; it was the Municipal Clerk who responded to her OPRA request; the Attorney does follow Comptroller Best Practices; as to the emails for the Township Committee, it is not a policy rather a preference to utilize email.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION - Mr. Moore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. McGinnis, and unanimously carried. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk
Approved: 04/27/2020