



BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK
COUNTY OF HUDSON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

*SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL*

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020
TIME: 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of East Newark was called to order at 7:01 PM, by Borough Clerk Kevin D. Harris.

MEETING NOTICE STATEMENT

Borough Clerk Harris read the following statement.

Open Public Meetings Act – This meeting is being held in accordance with the Public Laws of 1975, Chapter 231 and proper notification was issued to the Jersey Journal, Star Ledger and posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building and on the official Borough website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Grilo lead the Assembly present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Borough Clerk Harris conducted a roll call of the dais.

Present:

Mayor Dina M. Grilo
Council Member Jessica Diaz
Council Member Rose M. Evaristo
Council Member Kenneth J. Graham
Council Member Hans Peter Lucas
Council Chairman Charles F. Tighe
Council Member Jeanne Zincavage



BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK
COUNTY OF HUDSON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Also Present:

Kevin Catrambone, Borough Administrator
Brigite Goncalves, Borough Chief Financial Officer
Kevin D. Harris, Borough Clerk

There were also four (4) members of the public available by Zoom Audio / Video Conferencing System

Borough Clerk Harris informed the Mayor and Council that a quorum had been established.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Borough Clerk Harris informed the Council that there were two (2) resolutions on the Consent Agenda for consideration this evening.

Borough Clerk Harris read the titles for the following resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

114-20 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT AND HIRING OF A SEASONAL PART-TIME LABORER/WORKER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK, IN THE COUNTY OF HUDSON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

115-20 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT AND HIRING OF A SEASONAL, PART-TIME MAINTENANCE WORKER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK, IN THE COUNTY OF HUDSON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Borough Clerk Harris asked if Council Members wished to have any of the above resolutions removed for separate vote. There were no requests to remove resolutions for separate vote.

Borough Clerk Harris asked Council Members if there were any questions or comments concerning Consent Agenda items.

Council Member Diaz had questions concerning personnel for Borough Administrator Catrambone. Citing Morell v. Kean Federation of Teachers, Supreme Court of New Jersey (2019); Council Member Diaz stated that there was no need to either go into executive session or to Rice Notice anyone involved because Council could ask questions in open session on items that they were expected to take action on as the Court in Morell had ruled.

Council Member Diaz asked questions about the process in selecting candidates for these positions. Mr. Catrambone responded.

Council Member Diaz also questioned whether the employees named in the resolutions were already working. Mr. Catrambone responded that they were.



**BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK
COUNTY OF HUDSON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA (CONT.)

Council Member Diaz asked about a perception of “conflict of interest” in the Borough’s existing Policy and Personnel Manual. Mr. Catrambone stated that while he was not aware of it; he asked Council Member Diaz to provide him with a copy the following day.

Council Member Diaz expressed disappointment in the process because in some scenarios, the employees are already working prior to the Council having opportunity to see the applicants’ resume and/or application.

Council Member Graham stated that he was possibly leaning towards voting no, because there were no East Newark residents considered. Mayor Grilo stated that these two individuals were the only ones who applied for the positions subject to the resolutions. However, the Mayor stated that with regards to other potential positions in the future; there was going to be a more formal process for selection and getting Council involved earlier in the process.

Council Member Evaristo asked Mr. Catrambone; how long would the employees be working with the Borough as they are “seasonal”. Mr. Catrambone replied that they would most likely be with the Borough through the end of the summer as they would be returning to school in the Fall.

Council Member Evaristo stated that she would like to see going forward in resolutions, an end date for seasonal employees. For example, Council Member Evaristo stated that if employed for the summer, a seasonal employee’s time should end on a date prior to Labor Day. Mr. Catrambone stated that was a good point and he would make every effort to implement it.

There were no further comments from Council Members.

Borough Clerk Harris asked if there was a motion regarding the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Evaristo moved that the resolutions on the Consent Agenda be adopted. The Motion was seconded by Council Member Tighe and approved on the following roll call vote:

Trustee Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Diaz			X			
Evaristo	X		X			
Graham			X			
Lucas			X			
Tighe		X	X			
Zincavage			X			

Borough Clerk Harris announced the results of the vote and that the motion carried. Resolutions numbered 114-20 and 115-20 were both adopted.



BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK
COUNTY OF HUDSON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Borough Clerk Harris informed the Mayor and Council that the regular business items of the evening had concluded.

OPEN MEETING OF PUBLIC CITIZENS

Borough Clerk Harris opened the meeting to the public and asked if there were any members of the public wishing to address the Mayor and Council on any issue.

Dr. Richard Corbett, Ed.D., Superintendent of the East Newark Board of Education addressed the Mayor and Council regarding a letter that he received earlier that day (July 28, 2020) from Borough Attorney Johnson regarding the Borough's shared services agreement with the Board of Education which expired on June 30, 2020; and how the "Mayor and Council" had chosen not to renew it. Dr. Corbett stated that he did send via email to the Mayor, Council, Borough Clerk and Borough Attorney Johnson a written response to Borough Attorney Johnson's letter dated the same day.

Dr. Corbett stated that he was not aware of any Council action regarding the matter and asked to see the Council Resolution authorizing same. Dr. Corbett also stated that should the Borough agree to move forward in this direction, the children of the Borough would suffer. Dr. Corbett concluded his remarks by stating that he hopes to continue discussion with the Mayor and Council to prevent the matter from escalating further.

There were no further comments from any of the other members of the public present. Borough Clerk Harris closed the open meeting of public citizens.

ACTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Grilo provided a thorough and detailed response to the Council as to the Borough's actions regarding the shared services agreement with the Board of Education.

Council Member Diaz stated that she thought that Mr. Johnson's letter was presumptive in that Council had not discussed the matter. Mayor Grilo agreed that the letter could have been written better.

Council Member Diaz suggested that she and Council Member Evaristo meet with Dr. Corbett to hear more from him and report back to Council. Mayor Grilo stated that she had no objection regarding that.

There were no further comments from the Mayor or Council Members.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business for the evening.



BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK
COUNTY OF HUDSON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Graham moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Evaristo and approved unanimously on voice vote. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Borough Clerk Harris announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of East Newark would be on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 7:00 PM and while the would be an attempt to have a live, in-person meeting; same would be subject to the COVID-19 emergency precautions in effect at the time. Therefore, the would most likely also be an option for those who wish to attend virtually through the Borough's use of the Zoom Audio-Video Conferencing System. Details on both the Council's participation and the public's attendance and participation would be provided at a later date.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/ Kevin D. Harris

KEVIN D. HARRIS
Borough Clerk

Dated: July 28, 2020

Accepted and approved by Council: _____