

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL
HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hipp at 7:10 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present:

Councilwoman Keyes
Councilman Genovesi
Councilwoman Inguanti
Councilwoman Birdsall
Councilman DeSalvo

Councilman Sasso – Absent

*

Mayor Hipp asked those present to join him in a salute to the flag.

*

The Borough Clerk read the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law and confirmed that proper notice of the Special Meeting was posted.

*

CFO Edward Cortright distributed to the Council several variations of the budget with altering assumptions regarding revenues and expenditures for the Council's review. He updated the governing body on the pension deferral action with the State. The Council discussed at length the various options they were given.

*

Mayor Hipp reported on the current status of Encap.

After additional discussion on expenditures a motion was made by Councilman Genovesi to reduce legal fees by \$20,000. The motion was not seconded.

*

Mayor Hipp opened the hearing to the citizens.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 12, 2009

Bonnie Corcoran, 390 Montross Avenue stated she was glad everyone was being so productive and trying to get the budget down as much as possible; Councilman DeSalvo was correct in saying the economy down turn hadn't hit bottom. Ms. Corcoran said as she used to work in the financial markets it was not going to hit bottom for another two years. She thanked Councilwoman Birdsall for giving up some of the stipend to help the taxpayers and she hopes the other Council Members and the Mayor follow her suit. Ms. Corcoran said she knows a lot of other Council Members from other towns and they are doing the same thing, they are giving up part of their stipend to help give relief to the taxpayers even though it is basically pennies. She heard that Councilman DeSalvo was working with Chris Seidler to work on the budget numbers and she was wondering if they talked to other employees of the town, white collar, department heads, she thinks if the employees were told if they don't give back to the taxpayers then they lose their jobs the employees are probably going to want to give back instead of losing their jobs. Ms. Corcoran said it happened in Clifton with their Fire Dept. they wanted to give back and the Clifton City said no close Fire House No. 2 and people got laid off. She said with the legal, it was mentioned a few meetings ago where Lane Biviano was the Labor Attorney, she wanted to know how much they are paying him as she must have missed when he was appointed from what she remembered he was un-appointed the Borough Attorney and they hired William Smith; Councilman Genovesi said that Mr. Smith was handling a lot of the legal including arbitration so she wanted to know why Mr. Biviano was still on the books and also what they were paying him.

As no further citizens wished to speak the hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Keyes said she had asked the questioned if Mr. Biviano was their labor attorney but the Mayor had responded that he was continuing to work on the issues that he had been working on until the hand-off was done to Mr. Smith but she wasn't sure if he was still getting paid, she didn't know the answer to that.

The CFO said he didn't know off the top of this head but he would get back to Ms. Corcoran and let her know what they spent for the year, as they had just received a bill from Mr. Biviano for expenses as opposed to the fee. Councilwoman Keyes said because officially he is no longer the Borough Attorney as of March 1. The CFO said he believed the bill he received was just for expenses but he will get back to Ms. Corcoran on that.

Councilwoman Birdsall asked if the official hand-off had occurred to Mr. Smith. The Borough Administrator responded to the best of his knowledge he was still expecting two documents that he didn't receive as of then but otherwise everything else was closed out.

*

Councilman Genovesi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm, seconded by Councilwoman Keyes with all members present voting aye.

Borough Clerk