

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hipp at 8:04 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present:

Councilwoman Keyes
Councilman Genovesi
Councilwoman Inguanti
Councilman Sasso
Councilwoman Birdsall
Councilman DeSalvo

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

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The Borough Clerk read the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law.

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Mayor Hipp opened the hearing to the public; as no one wished to speak the hearing was closed.

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FINANCE

Mayor Hipp announced the Special Meeting was being held for final adoption on the 2009 Municipal Budget.

The public hearing for the 2009 Municipal Budget was opened; as no one wished to speak Mayor Hipp closed the hearing.

Councilwoman Inguanti moved the adoption of the 2009 Municipal Budget, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo.

CFO Ed Cortright spoke regarding the budget with a 2.8% increase in the municipal tax which was approved by Local Government Services. The CFO stated that the next step after the approval of the Budget would be once the State and County receive the Budget, a tax rate will be struck and then the tax bills would be sent. He said they will be appearing before the LFB because they were issuing checks to taxpayers of successful tax appeals which amounted to approximately \$142,000 and they expect to be issuing more before the end of the year with that they hope that the LFB will allow the Borough to issue a five year bond to pay off the tax appeals.

Councilman Sasso asked for clarification related to the cap on employee vacation and sick time. The CFO responded. Councilwoman Keyes questioned Director Thompson's vacation time.

Mayor Hipp asked the CFO to confirm that the LGS accepted the amendment to the budget that was passed last week. The CFO confirmed such.

As no further discussion was requested, Mayor Hipp closed the discussion.

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The Borough Clerk read the roll call: Councilman Genovesi, Councilwoman Inguanti, Councilman Sasso and Councilman DeSalvo voted aye; Councilwoman Keyes and Councilwoman Birdsall voted nay.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Councilman Sasso moved to reject the bids for the Memorial Field Fence Improvement and authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare new specifications for same, seconded by Councilwoman Inguanti.

Councilwoman Keyes asked for an explanation. Councilman Sasso responded that when the bids were sent out there was a misunderstanding what diamonds were part of the bid.

The Borough Clerk read the roll call with unanimous approval.

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Councilwoman Birdsall asked for consent to add an item to the agenda regarding a resolution at the County level for a consolidation study of Building Departments within Rutherford, Carlstadt, Wood-Ridge and East Rutherford and she was concerned that as the Building Department Liaison she was not informed and wanted to know how that resolution was at the County level.

Council gave consent to the added item.

Mayor Hipp asked what it was that Councilwoman Birdsall wished to inquire. Councilwoman Birdsall replied that she wanted to know if anyone could give her information on this.

Discussion continued between Councilwoman Birdsall, the Mayor, Councilwoman Inguanti, Councilman DeSalvo and Mr. Shenkler.

Councilwoman Birdsall explained her question again. Councilwoman Inguanti asked if the Resolution was passed. Councilwoman Birdsall responded no, that it was pulled. Councilwoman Inguanti asked who pulled it. Councilwoman Birdsall responded that she was informed by the Shared Services Coordinator that it was pulled. She said she understood that they did pass a resolution for general shared services which she was not concerned about but was concerned for the fact that any specific things would have been brought for discussion for the Council.

Councilwoman Inguanti stated that it was a grant for studying it, not for moving towards anything. Councilwoman Birdsall said it was a grant for a consolidation study for the Building Department. Mayor Hipp said for the record the Borough of Rutherford along with several other Boroughs passed resolutions earlier in the year to ask for \$20,000 from the County to do a feasibility study on shared services. The Mayor asked the Councilwoman if she was informing them that there was a resolution before the County on those resolutions that was pulled. Councilwoman Birdsall responded that she was informed that it was a grant specific to the Building Dept. by the Shared Services Coordinator and the discussions were specific to the consolidation of the Building Dept. among those municipalities. She said her concern was if there were discussions about consolidations of Building Depts., why wasn't she aware of that, she was only aware of the previous discussions relating to courts, tub grinder and general items.

Councilwoman Birdsall was asking what the next step was so she deferred to the Borough Attorney to see if action needed to be taken.

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Discussion continued and Charles DiNoto made a point of order and stated that the Councilwoman was raising a question and was in need of an answer.

Mayor Hipp explained the point of order under Robert's Rules of Order. Mayor Hipp said he was troubled by what he considered implied accusations of under-handedness by Councilwoman Birdsall. Councilwoman Birdsall responded that she was offended by that statement and she thought he was out of order as she was raising a legitimate question and concern and something that should be discussed so they could figure out what the correct procedure should have been to make sure things are done correctly. She said the fact that he was sitting there about her making accusations was ridiculous. Mayor Hipp said it was not ridiculous and she was asking members of the Council and Administration to explain to her why the Freeholder's pulled a motion. Councilwoman Birdsall corrected him and said she was asking how it got there.

Councilwoman Inguanti stated to the Administrator that during his discussion with the other Borough's did he understand it to be a grant to study multiple different issues, was that what he understood it to be? The Administrator said yes and they only met once in June. Councilwoman Inguanti said at some point at the County level it became a singular grant, according to Councilwoman Birdsall, from the Shared Services Director which was the Councilwoman's concern as she voted yes for a general study of shared services and subsequently it became specific. The Administrator said he spoke with Mr. Murphy that afternoon. Councilwoman Inguanti asked if that was what his understanding was that it was specifically \$20,000 to only study the Building Dept. The Administrator responded no, it was supposed to be for a variety of issues, unbeknownst to them at the time but they all threw out suggestions at the June meeting. Councilwoman Inguanti said it was his understanding that if the resolution was put back on the agenda at the Freeholders it would be used for a variety of different prongs of study. The Administrator responded that was his understanding.

Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Councilman DeSalvo and unanimously approved on roll call.

Borough Clerk