Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council, Borough of Keyport, held on Monday, September 14th, 2015 in the Borough Hall Council Chambers, Keyport NJ pursuant to the Notice that was forwarded on September 10th to the Asbury Park Press, the Independent, Two River Times and Newark Star Ledger and posted on the Bulletin Board and Borough website in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231.

Mayor Harry Aumack called the meeting to order at 6:01PM and Borough Clerk Valerie T. Heilweil read the Sunshine Law Notice.

ROLL CALL

On Roll Call the following were present: Councilmembers Sheridan, Howe, Lamberson, Cooper, Goode and Mayor Aumack. Others present: Borough Administrator Stephen J. Gallo, Borough Attorney Andrew Provence and Borough Engineer Trevor Taylor.

The Mayor announced that Councilman Chamberlain is quite sick in Bayshore Hospital and asked the public to remember him in their prayers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilman Goode requested that prior to the Presentation and Public Hearing the Council take action on the Resolution memorializing the denial from the September 8th meeting of the extension of the Keyport Yellow Taxi owner's and drivers' licenses. The Mayor agreed.

RESOLUTION R270-15 Memorializing the Denial of the Extension of Taxicab Owner's License and Driver's Licenses Issued with Respect to Keyport Yellow Taxi

Motion to adopt R270-15 made by Councilwoman Lamberson and carried by Councilman Cooper

Roll Call: Ayes: Sheridan, Howe, Lamberson, Cooper, Goode
Nays:
Absent: Chamberlain
Abstain:

PRESENTATION

Administrator Steve Gallo explained that Council voted and approved to renovate Main Street Park in June 2015. The preliminary plan involves modernizing the ball field, establishing exercise stations, a skate park feature, benches and a picnic area. The Borough has begun the process for potential sources of grant funds. This grant is from

Monmouth County Open Space but the Borough will also apply for other grants such as the Tony Hawk Grant and Kaboom Grant.

Administrator Gallo then turned the meeting over to CME Engineer Trevor Taylor. His first exhibit was an overall rendering of the park. Mr. Taylor explained that the existing T-ball field would be refurbished and fitness equipment, play structures and a picnic area would be installed. A preliminary conceptual plan was developed by Spahn Ranch.

The Mayor asked how Mr. Taylor arrived at the cost estimate of $409,000 for the project. Mr. Taylor explained:

$140,000 – Refurbishment of the T-ball field
46,000 – Fitness Area
78,000 – Play Area & Picnic Area
145,000 – Skate Plaza
$409,000 – Total

The Borough would have to match 50% of the grant. The balance would be supported by the Open Space Trust Fund. The Skate Park area would not be enclosed by fencing. There was concern that the County may have some say on the project since the project abuts the Henry Hudson Trail but Mr. Taylor stated that the project is outside the County's right-of-way. The Borough would bond for the project and would use the Open Space Trust Fund to repay the bond.

The meeting was then turned over to Christine Matarese, Keyport Recreation Commission member, for a Power-Point presentation.

Mayor Aumack then asked about insurance costs to the Borough.

Administrator Gallo responded that once Council approves the plan, JIF (Joint Insurance Fund) will cover the Park provided they also approve of the plan. The JIF's only requirement is that we send them the plan and they sign off on it. We would also need to have written policies and enforcement in place.

At 6:38PM, Councilman Sheridan moved, carried by Councilman Goode, with ayes by all, that the meeting be open to the public to allow opportunity to make suggestions or comments concerning this application to improve Main Street Park.

Bob Ludwig, 50 Beers Street – raised his concern that the Park would become a "muster zone" for homeless along the Henry Hudson Trail.

Administrator Gallo stated the facility would be designed to the latest safety standards and would be reviewed and approved by the JIF. If Council votes "yes," we authorize applying for the grant. No money could be expended without approval of Council.

Jennifer Henning, 102 Main Street – Feels this is a wonderful space and believes that it would help the Borough's businesses. She stated that she is "shocked by 20-year-old prejudices towards skateparks." This Park is currently an underutilized space. The Waterfront has made this a more vibrant town and this is another opportunity to do that.

Kelly Brock, Beers Street – stated there is no place for the skaters to go now. They are getting yelled at for doing a sport.

George Walling, 54 Second Street – had the Borough Engineer clarify that the Skate Park portion would not be fenced in. He then asked whether the Borough has been charged for any of this yet. Engineer Trevor Taylor responded "no."

Nancy Jones, 282 Washington Street, a member of Keyport Recreation Commission – expressed that she is in favor of these Park improvements and thinks this is a good location.

Barbara Pierce, 132 First Street – believes this is a wonderful idea. She sees skateboarders going down First Street and is concerned someone will get hit by a car. This gives them a safe location.

Gaylee Benedict, 120 Main Street – has heard that this project is just a skatepark but these improvements are for everyone. She feels that we do need to address our parks.

Administrator Gallo explained that the Borough is in the process of preparing a six-year capital plan.

Dennis Fotopoulos, 77 Beers Street – Questioned whether joggers using exercise equipment would be required to wear helmets. Administrator Gallo stated he didn't think so. Mr. Fotopoulos expressed that he thinks the Borough will need equal enforcement of rules for exercise equipment as we do for the Skate Park. He mentioned that he is a member of the Planning Board, along with Councilman Cooper and spoke of an application on Green Grove where there was a preference from the Board for a parking lot over a recreation area. He asked Councilmembers when the last time was that they voted for something "Pro-Kid."

Councilman Howe stated that he is for the Park but that if we do not get the grants, we cannot afford it.

Administrator Gallo reminded the public that Council did dedicate Open Space through the Elizabeth Street Community Garden.

Dennis Fotopoulos – again stated that in the case of the Green Grove Planning Board application, the applicant would have had to pay for the Recreation area but Planning Board preferred the proposal of a parking lot.

There being no further comments, the Public portion of the meeting was closed at 7:08PM, moved by Councilman Sheridan and carried by Councilman Cooper with ayes by all present.

RESOLUTION #264-15

AUTHORIZING GRANT FROM MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD FOR THE MAIN STREET PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (BLOCK 56, LOT 1)

WHEREAS, the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved an Open Space Trust Fund and established a Municipal Open Space Program to provide Program Grant funds in connection with municipal acquisition of lands for County park, recreation, conservation and farmland preservation purposes, as well as for County recreation and conservation development and maintenance purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Keyport desires to obtain County Open Space Trust Funds in the amount of $204,500 to fund the Main Street Park Improvement Project, located at Main Street and Butler Street, Block 56, Lot 1 ; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the project including all matching funds is $409,000; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Keyport is the owner of and controls the project site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Keyport Borough Council that:

1. The Borough Administrator, or his successor is authorized to (A) make an application to the County of Monmouth for Open Space Trust Funds, (B) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required for the Municipal Open Space Grants Program and (C) act as the municipal contact person and correspondent of the above named municipality; and

2. The Borough of Keyport is committed to this project and will provide the balance of funding necessary to complete the project as described in the grant application in the form of non-county matching funds as required in the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Program; and

3. If the County of Monmouth determines that the application is complete and in conformance with the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Program and the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Municipal Grants Program adopted thereto, the municipality is willing to use the approved Open Space Trust Funds in accordance with such policies and procedures, and applicable federal, state, and local government rules, regulations and statutes thereto; and

4. The Borough Administrator, or his successor is hereby authorized to sign and execute any required documents, agreements, and amendments thereto with the County of Monmouth for the approved Open Space Trust Fund; and

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

OFFERED: Sheridan
SECONDED: Cooper
Roll Call: AYES: Sheridan, Howe, Lamberson, Cooper, Goode
NAYS:
ABSENT: Chamberlain
ABSTAIN:

After the passing of the resolution, the audience applauded and Administrator Gallo stated that we will file the application and will keep the Council posted.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 Motion to Adjourn was moved by Councilman Sheridan and carried by Councilman Goode with ayes by all present.

Respectfully submitted:

Valerie T. Heilweil, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk