Approved June 24, 2008

July 18, 2006
Keyport, New Jersey

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council, held on the above date in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 70 West Front Street, Keyport, New Jersey pursuant to being called by Mayor and Council. Notice was forwarded to the Asbury Park Press, Courier, Independent, Two River Times and Newark Star Ledger and posted on the Bulletin Board in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231.

Council President, Robert Bergen called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M. and the Borough Clerk read to Sunshine Law Notice.

ROLL CALL

On Roll Call the following were present: Councilmembers Walling, Wedick, Bergen, Sheridan, Ortman. Absent: Councilman Hassmiller, Thomas Fallon, Chief Financial Officer.

DISCUSSION

1. **Keyport Business Alliance 2006/2007 Budget**

RESOLUTION

1. Resolution Authorizing the Borough Clerk to read the 2006 Business Improvement District Budget by Title.

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk heretofore posted a complete copy of the approved 2006 Budget in accordance with R.S.40A:4-8(1a-1b); and

WHEREAS, the copies of said Budget were available to each and every person requesting the same during the week prior to this Hearing and at the time of this Hearing; and

WHEREAS, a Budget Summary was advertised in the Courier on July 13, 2006 said Budget Summary was published in accordance with N.J.S.A:4-6.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Keyport, that the 2006 amended Budget was advertised, posted and distributed, be read at the Public Hearing by Title.

Offered for adoption by Mr. Wedick, Seconded by Mr. Sheridan

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Walling, Wedick, Bergen, Sheridan, Ortman
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Councilmembers Hassmiller

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Meeting was opened to the public for comments or questions at 6:13P.M.

Art Olsen, KBA President, read a brief statement. One million dollars spent in the last four years no commercial ratables. Ten percent decrease with this new board. Repay loan this year 8.25%. Eight to two vote to approve this current budget.

Mike Norris, past KBA officer, stated that Mr. Olsen refused another Meeting to be held with the KBA. Vague outline of cuts to budget provided. Council being misled by the new board. Advised by e-mail by Olsen that no additional meeting is to be held. Decisions are being made without proper approval. Council is also being held accountable as a partner with the KBA.

Joseph Wedick- there are seventeen Board members (sixteen are voting members) how many are needed for quorum; nine. Previous Board approved the original budget and Council did not want to act until election took place. Asked what the number needed to pass. Majority of quorum in attendance.

Rob Bergen stated that the KBA budget needs to be approved prior to the end of July to strike tax bills.

George Walling summarized the June 12, 2006 meeting and noted that Mike Norris and Jeff Fink were not in attendance.

Rob Bergen summarized what events took place leading up to this evening.

Norris excluded from process of budget.

Jeff Fink stated he was not allowed to give input. There was no meeting held and it was unfair. Need a fair and Democratic process. Communications should be done by e-mail. Guidelines are not being followed. Has been on board for five years and can offer advice. Mayor and Council set KBA Budget. Hold meeting over, very important to Keyport.

Rob Bergen stated a meeting should have been held. Council can adopt original budget as they see fit.

Christian Bolte read a statement regarding the Budget. Disband KBA if needed or elect original Budget. Voting a "one man budget" for Art Olsen.

John Olsen stated that Captain Mitchell released 2005 ballot box. Budget voted down last year and this year.

Teresa Bolte, Clever Hen, read a small statement. A customer advised her to move to Red Bank. Merchants are losing their voice.

Terry Musson - committee put budget together. Committee meetings have been held trying to straighten out mess that was created by previous officers. There was a five year loan taken out. Violating Ordinance that created KBA. Trying to overcome. Trying to also comply with Ordinance. Investigation into past actions.

Art Olsen stated that elections have consequences. Paying a little under thirty-five thousand dollars in loans.

Rob Bergen mentioned that the assessment is being cut by ten percent not the budget.

Jeff Fink stated the State changed the law. There are goals we want to accomplish.

Rob Bergen noted that the Council is aware of the split in the board.

Mike Lane stated that the KBA is presenting an amended budget.

Rob Bergen - Council is setting total amount raised and assessment. Symbiotic relationship between Borough and KBA. Also mentioned about Annual budget and report of what the budget is for 2006.

Mike Norris said to keep assessment at what it is; hold money for improvements and capital projects.

Joe Sheridan - Asked why there is not another meeting. 12 people showed up. Eight to two vote. Vote against budget was a landslide. Not everyone voted on the budget.

Joseph Wedick - Asked if there was notification of the June 12th meeting, Yes by fax or e-mail the Friday before the meeting. Any response for a change of date? None received.

Rob Bergen went through budget and numbers. Decided to cut Administration budget and legal expenses. Art Olsen stated $4500 raised plus events. Fall festival is being eliminated. Not many People showed up on Sunday for Festival of Sails.

Art Olsen stated that a lot of Keyport merchants benefit from events in town.

Rob Bergen asked how much money was set aside for events and the answer was $26,800. No meeting until October and doesn't want this to be an issue.

Mayor stated $30,000 is for "slush fund." One time line item plus event money that comes in would be kept in events budget. **Art Olsen** mentioned no loan payment next year; paying 8.25% at present. **Mr. Bergen** said there is weak structure in this budget. Focus improvements into a different part of the town, similar to Red Bank. Marketing is pretty good for events. **Mayor** stated there is a trade off. **Mr. Walling** sat on board for both budgets as council. Process was fair when budget increased; worked hard on this budget. Members are verbally attacked. Want to adopt a $180,000 budget. **Mr. Ortman** concerned with contentiousness with KBA membership. Bad press for Borough. No satisfaction. Fraction in KBA and seems a disbandment is needed or wanted by some. The town needs something positive.

Mayor asked if adoption had to take place tonight. **Mr. Bergen** answered that we must get it to county by the end of the month to set tax rate. Set assessment at quarter based on ordinance. See if they can operate on a $180,000 budget.

Mayor - consensus of council? **Mr. Ortman** abstains because of lack of understanding. **Mr. Walling** states $180,000 budget; members are not happy. Budget voted down by members; reflects a cut and what members want. **Mr. Bergen** said the budget was structurally unsound and will cause a crisis situation. Borough should adopt as originally presented and reserve the remainder. End of July and generate $30,000 by December.

Mr. Wedick reviewed budget votes and process. Majority voted down 108 to 22 so reduce the budget.

Mr. Hassmiller suggested waiting one week for them to come through with original budget.

Mr. Sheridan stated there should have been a meeting. He agrees with Mr. Bergen and thinks everyone should not vote down. They are between two budgets.

Mr. Art Olsen brought up that Council agreed to pick up gazebo expense and Smart Growth last year.

Mayor said there is no vast major in favor. 2 are for cut, 1 abstain, 2 in favor of original, and one for in-between. No vote pressed for. Call meeting for July 25, 2006. Mr. Wedick asked if it was possible to vote by phone and Attorney answered that it can be done. Mayor is to work at it and look at other data.

There being no one further from the audience that wished to be heard, the meeting was closed to the public at 6:58 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn moved by Mr. Wedick, Seconded by Mr. Bergen, with Ayes by all present.

Time of Adjournment: 7:35 P.M.