

CAUCUS/FINANCE MEETING

January 3, 2020

A REGULAR SCHEDULED CAUCUS/FINANCE MEETING of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt was held in the Caucus Room of the Borough Hall, 500 Madison Street, Carlstadt, New Jersey on Friday, January 3, 2020 at 7:05 P.M.

Mayor Robert Zimmermann asked Claire Foy, Borough Clerk to call the roll: Mayor Robert Zimmermann, Councilmen David Stoltz, James Lenoy, Joseph Emerson, William Roseman and Councilwoman Suzanne Fonseca were present.

Mayor Zimmermann led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Zimmermann – In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Meetings Act, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt is giving notice of the following meeting which was published in The Record on Thursday, December 19, 2019 as follows:

Friday, January 3, 2020

7:00 P.M. – Borough Hall Caucus Room

Purpose: Caucus/Finance Meeting

8:00 P.M. Borough Council Chambers

Purpose: Carlstadt Fire Department Installation of Officers

Mayor Zimmermann said we received correspondence from Police Chief Thomas Berta. This is in regards that two Patrol Division Supervisors are on extended sick leave for most of the first half of the year. He said the Patrol Division consists of four squads with two supervisors assigned to each squad. With the two supervisors being out on sick leave, the other two supervisors will now be working without a second supervisor. Since two squads are starting out with only one supervisor, this will restrict those two supervisors from taking any time off until the return of the two supervisors who are out on sick leave. We have encountered this problem in the past. The way the issue was addressed at that time was to relax the rule requiring a supervisor on every shift. For those specific shifts having only one supervisor, the Senior Patrol Officer was permitted to act in the supervisory role. In a supervisory role, that officer was financially compensated the difference between their hourly rate of pay and that of a Sergeants hourly rate of pay. Chief Berta requested the above practice of allowing Senior Patrol Officers to work in the capacity of Shift Supervisors be reinstated. He also requested that if a Senior Patrol Officer works in the capacity of Shift Supervisor they be financially compensated as described above. This would be discontinued upon the return of the two officers on sick leave.

Mayor Zimmermann asked for Council approval of our CFO, Domenick Giancaspro that this would not be for the full year and only until June 2020.

On motion by Emerson, seconded by Stoltz, unanimous on call of roll.

Councilman Emerson also asked for a monthly report so we can track it by month to see what is being spent.

Mayor Zimmermann said the next order of business is Resolution No. 2018-210 to rescind approving

CAUCUS/FINANCE MEETING

January 3, 2020

Page 2

and authorizing Riggins Field improvement funding with the Borough of Carlstadt 2019 budget. This allowed a payment for Riggins Field in the 2019 Budget but it is actually in the 2020 Budget.

Mayor Zimmermann sought Council's motion to rescind this resolution. On motion by Emerson, seconded by Lenoy, unanimous on call of roll.

Mayor Zimmermann said we have correspondence from Craig Solimine requesting that he be removed from the Carlstadt Fire Department LOSAP Program. This is to make the money in his account available for him to withdraw without proving a hardship.

On motion by Stoltz, seconded by Roseman, unanimous on call of roll.

Mayor Zimmermann asked if any of the Council members had anything to discuss. No one did.

Joseph Crifasi, DPW Operations Manager, mentioned that last year Mayor Lahullier and the rest of the Council asked the police to do a study for a crossing guard post at Seventh Street and Hoboken Road. The report came back as needed. He would like to get approval to give Chief Berta permission to start the post.

On motion by Roseman, seconded by Stoltz, unanimous on call of roll.

Joseph Crifasi said so that everybody knows the Chapter 78 law of contributing to medical benefits is mandatory to go up to the fourth step before you negotiate, lower it or keep it the same. The Borough Hall employees are still at 25% of the medical but we can go up to 35% like the DPW and Police. Mr. Crifasi said it would be more beneficial to keep the fifteen people at 25% more and once you negotiate the Police and DPW contracts then we can do what we have to do.

Mayor Zimmerman entertained a motion to keep the 25% for the fifteen non-union Borough Hall employees. On motion by Emerson, seconded by Lenoy, unanimous on call of roll of those present.

Mayor Zimmermann said he would like to look into grants for the flashing stop signs on certain corners. Last year Neglia Engineering applied for the grant but there were so many people that applied that the Borough did not receive anything. Joseph Crifasi mentioned that Chief Berta and he found a place in Mahwah, N.J. that sells these signs. The cost is \$2,500.00 each. We can buy two for busy intersections, at the school and Hackensack Street. Joseph Crifasi said once Chief Berta gets settled in we need to ask him for accident reports for Monroe and Division and Monroe and Central before we put in the flashing stop signs. He mentioned the year we put those signs up we really didn't hear of any accidents.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING ACT
RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Governing Body of the Borough of Carlstadt to conduct an executive session closed to the public in order to discuss one or more of the following subjects: personnel.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt hereby moves to go into executive session in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. Seq. for the purpose of discussing one or more of the

following subjects: personnel.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public will be informed either later this evening after reconvening the public meeting or at a future public meeting said date is not predictable at the present time.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in and minutes of the closed session shall be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Mayor Zimmermann entertained a motion to go into closed session at 7:30 P.M. On motion by Stoltz, seconded by Lenoy, unanimous on call of roll.

The meeting went back into open session at 7:45 P.M. with the following members in attendance: Mayor Zimmermann, Councilmen Stoltz, Lenoy, Emerson, Roseman and Fonseca.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-25-A

WHEREAS, Jane Fontana will no longer be employed by the Borough of Carlstadt effective January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to grant four months of salary and full medical coverage.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt that Jane Fontana be granted four months of salary and full medical coverage.

Mayor Zimmermann entertained a motion to extend the pay and medical benefits to Jane Fontana for four months beginning in January.

On motion by Roseman, seconded by Emerson, unanimous on call of roll.

Mayor Zimmermann entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M. On motion by Emerson, seconded by Lenoy, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

APPROVED: _____
ROBERT J. ZIMMERMANN, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CLAIRE FOY, BOROUGH CLERK