

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor:	Robert A. Sabosik
Council President:	Pamela Snyder
Council Member:	William Borowsky
Council Member:	Joseph Furmato
Council Member:	John Wisniewski
Council Member:	Antoinette DePaola - absent
Council Member:	Charlene Archer
Borough Attorney:	Jerry J. Dasti, Esq. – via conference call
Borough Administrator:	Frank Pannucci
Borough Clerk:	Antoinette Jones

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

STATEMENT BY MAYOR SABOSIK: Pursuant to the applicable portions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been given. Notice of this meeting of the Governing Body has been posted in the corridor of the Municipal Building, posted on the Municipal Website and transmitted on March 16, 2020 to *The Ocean Star* and *The Asbury Park Press*.

A. RESOLUTION

1. (098-2020) **Declaring the Need for an Emergency Meeting Pursuant to the Provisions of NJSA 10:4-9**

MOTION: Adopt Resolution

MADE: Mr. Wisniewski

SECOND: Ms. Snyder

Ms. Snyder: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Absent

Ms. Archer: Yes

B. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Seeing no members from the public, public session was not opened.

OEM Director Bill Dikun and Police Chief Richard Larsen were both in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Sabosik stated the reason for the meeting this evening is to update you on the most recent developments of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The General Assembly is preparing the following bills which will be voted on by the State Senate by Monday, March 23rd. Mayor Sabosik highlighted a few that directly rate to the Borough:

A-3847: Provides paid leave without utilizing accumulated leave time for local government employees under certain circumstances.

A-3849: Permits public agency to respond to request for government record within 21 calendar days during period of emergency.

A-3851: Extends deadlines for adoption of county and municipal budgets under certain circumstances.

Mayor Sabosik stated the Governor has enacted Executive Order No. 104 which implements aggressive social distancing measure to mitigate the further spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey. Among the directives, Governor Murphy's Executive Order indefinitely closes all public and private preschool, elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education, casinos, racetracks, gyms, movie theaters and performing arts centers are closed indefinitely. The order also mandates that all non-essential retail, recreational and entertainment businesses must cease daily operations from 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM. All restaurants establishments, with or without a liquor license are limited to offering only delivery/or take out services only.

Mayor Sabosik stated that Stop-N-Shop will have senior hours, which includes anyone over the age of 60 (with identification) can shop at the store from 6:00 AM – 7:30 AM. Also, garbage pick-up will continue in the Borough. The Mayor stated he has received many phone calls relating to hair salons, tanning salons, barber shops.

Chief Larsen stated that he was on a conference call and at this time they are not closing barber shops.

Mayor Sabosik stated that the Ocean County Parks System has closed down their parks and playgrounds. Chief Larsen stated the Governor feels people should be going out and getting fresh air. Mr. Dasti, Esq., explained the parks are open but the actual playground equipment is closed because there is no way to sanitize the equipment. The Council advised Mr. Pannucci to put up signs at the Borough parks that the playgrounds are closed, but the open area/fields will remain open to the public.

Mayor Sabosik stated that Ocean County has advised cancelling non-essential meetings. Council agreed to cancel the March 25th Zoning Board meeting, March 26th Planning Board meeting, and the April 8th Zoning Board meeting.

Mr. Pannucci stated that as of tomorrow, March 17, 2020, Borough Hall will be closed to the public. There will mail drop off boxes in the Court hallway area. Which will be the only doors open to the public. All other doors will be locked. Borough employees will be advised to use the back entrance only. The website will be updated, and he has been working with all Department Heads on doing their work through email and online.

Mayor Sabosik stated that as of now the council meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 is still scheduled. Mr. Dasti, Esq., explained how the council could do their meetings via skype if necessary.

Council Member Snyder asked how the closing of Borough Hall to the public would affect the Construction Department. Mr. Pannucci replied that inspections would be done by appointment and only after all the mandatory CDC questions have been answered will the department go out. The department would also prioritize the inspections and only necessary inspections will be done at this time.

Council discussed the issue about the need to declare a local state of emergency. Based off of recommendations from the County, Mr. Dasti, Esq., said since the Governor and County Freeholders have already made such declarations, there was no need to locally at the moment, especially since locally we have already adopted prevention policies.

Bill Dikun, OEM Director gave a rundown of the various towns, which include Point Beach, Bay Head, Mantoloking, as well as the Borough. He stated that Point Beach was going to close all of their bars but stated this was a moot point now that the Governor has enacted the closure of bars and restaurants.

Bill Dikun asked council if they thought it was prudent to hire outside EMS back-up to assist the First Aid squad and he explained how the mutual services agreement with the neighboring towns works. Mr. Dasti, Esq., explained that he didn't think the Borough would be able to hire EMS back-up because the only

company he knows of is Quality Medical and he doesn't believe they have the capability at this time. Mr. Dikun stated he would look into this.

Council Member Snyder asked why the Mckenna baseball field is locked. Mr. Pannucci stated that maybe the baseball club themselves are locking it because none of the Borough parks are locked. Council decided since the baseball season has been suspended that it would be wise to keep the ballfields locked at this time.

Mr. Pannucci stated the skatepark will remain open at this time, but he will monitor it and if necessary close it at a later date.

Mr. Pannucci first thanked the Council Members for staying in constant contact and providing valuable input as the Borough navigates through the COVID-19 health crisis. Mr. Pannucci also thanked the Mayor who spent close to 25 hours over the weekend with him crafting local policies and participating in meetings and conferences calls with officials at all levels of government to ensure essential services still remain available through our local government. Mr. Pannucci stated that because of Mayor Sabosik, the Borough Council, Chief Larsen and our employees, the Borough is ready and prepared to handle the Novel Coronavirus today and, in the future, should the situation escalate.

Mr. Dasti, Esq., stated the Mayor, Mr. Pannucci, Police Chief Larsen and Bill Dikun have done a remarkable job in keeping everyone informed.

Council Member Snyder stated her concerns regarding the elderly. Chief Larsen assured her that Operation Reassurance is still in effect and at-risk seniors are being closely monitored. Mr. Pannucci stated because of the grant money received the two senior service workers will be able to continue working and will call them.

Mayor Sabosik thanked everyone for coming and stated he will continue to keep everyone informed as the news changes every day.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

All in Favor.

TRANSCRIBED BY: ANTOINETTE JONES, BOROUGH CLERK

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**ANTOINETTE JONES, RMC, CMR
BOROUGH CLERK**

**ROBERT A. SABOSIK
MAYOR**