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WORKSHOP MEETING
JUNE 1, 2015
7:00 P.M.
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The Workshop Meeting of the Borough of Butler Mayor and Council was opened by Mayor Alviene who indicated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act having been duly advertised and posted in Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Alviene, Councilman Fox, Councilman McNear, Councilman Meier, Councilman Regis, Councilman Verdonik and Council President Vath

ALSO PRESENT: J. Lampmann, Borough Administrator, R. Oostdyk, Borough Attorney; J. Alderton, Fire Consultant and M. O'Keefe, Borough Clerk,

DISCUSSION:

Fire Department Ordinance.

Councilman Meier and Council President Vath recused themselves, and left the room for discussion of the Fire Department Ordinance. In attendance representing the Butler Fire Department were Chief Neill and Chief Futchter. Mayor Alviene polled the Council to see if there were any questions regarding the updated ordinance, seeing none, he asked that Ordinance No. 2015-14 be introduced this evening.

2015-14 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BUTLER (Fire Department)

Public Hearing: June 16, 2015

Moved: Fox

Second: Regis

Voted Aye: Fox, McNear, Regis and Verdonik

Voted Nay: None

Councilman Meier and Council President Vath returned to the meeting, prior to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2015-13.

2015-13 Bond Ordinance Providing for the Improvements of Various Roads and Appropriating \$300,000 for said Improvements

Introduced: May 19, 2015

Advertised: May 22, 2015

Mayor Alviene opened the meeting to the public on this ordinance and this ordinance only.

Councilman Fox seeing no one come forward made a motion to closed this public portion of the meeting, second by Councilman McNear

All in favor

Moved: Fox

Second: McNear

Voted Aye: Fox, McNear, Meier, Regis, Verdonik and Vath

Voted Nay: None

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Application of Chris K. Ziegler for Appointment to the Recreation Commission for the Unexpired Term of Robert Soules ending 12/31/19 Mr. Ziegler has expressed an interest in becoming a member; the Mayor and Council agreed and appointed Mr. Ziegler to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Soules. The Clerk will notify Mr. Ziegler of his appointment.

Application of Remy Donnard for the Unexpired Term of Fred Locke ending 12/31/17 Mr. Donnard had applied to become a member of the Museum Committee taking the place of Mr. Locke who has relocated to Pennsylvania; the Mayor and Council agreed and appointed Mr. Donnard to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Locke. The Clerk will notify Mr. Donnard of his appointment.

Changes to the Personnel Manual Regarding Filing of Financial Disclosure Statements Mr. Lampmann informed the Mayor and Council that he would incorporate these changes into the Personnel Manual; however, he is waiting for required changes from our insurer so he can issue all the revisions simultaneously.

Mayor Alviene opened the meeting to the Public at this time.

James Neill, 100 Kinnelon Road, Kinnelon felt that he and Chief Futcher were invited to this meeting to discuss the changes to the Fire Department chapter of the Code, however, he feels that there was not much talking about it. Councilman Verdonik and Mr. Oostdyk explained that you might ask questions, make comments and offer suggestions at this time. Chief Neill requested clarification on the residency provision of the ordinance as he thought if you do not live in Butler you could not be on the fire department. Mayor Alviene explained that you could continue to be on the Fire Department if you reside within the five-mile radius; however, you can no longer be an officer. He asked why his suggestion of grandfathering existing officers who do not reside in Butler was not implemented, if so then on January 1; non-residents will no longer be officers. Councilman Verdonik noted that he feels that it is important that the Officers be residents, additionally, he commended the officers who while they are not residents have done a lot for the Fire Department. Chief Neill stated that there is no one in the Ladder Company who is qualified to be Chief on January 1, 2016. He has scheduled some of the required courses beginning June 2, 2015; however, he has not budgeted for any of the other courses, as he was not aware that educational requirements would be implemented. Chief Neill asked if he should contact the Bergen County Fire Academy to arrange for additional courses, to be given on Tuesday and Thursday nights in July, August and a portion of September, however, all attendees must pass the test given at the conclusion of the course or you will not be eligible to be Chief. Chief Neill asked why were these changes being made and he feels it might hurt the fire department.

Councilman Fox reiterated that the courses are required; Councilman Regis stated that the budget would need to be reviewed for funding, but the courses are required. Mayor Alviene thanked Chief Neill, however, he stated that funding and the required courses are two separate issues, the finance issue will be reviewed and worked out.

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Councilman McNear had no questions as he feels the Committee discussed the ordinance and this is the outcome of those meetings, these requirements need to be met, if changes are required as far as qualifications for Chief then it will be discussed if necessary.

Councilman Fox stated that this needs to be done, the funding will be found, but the courses must be taken.

Mayor Alviene questioned if these courses are completed this year would there be other individuals qualified to be Chief.

The Mayor and Council concurred that scheduling of the courses take place to proceed with the educational requirements.

Mr. Alderton explained that when you take both courses concurrently it is both cost effective and less time consuming. He recommended Bergen County Fire Academy, as they were one of the pilot agencies who has done an admirable job. In answer to a question posed by Chief Fitcher, he explained that many towns are going to residency requirements, as they would like the members to be accountable.

Mr. Oostdyk concurred with the Mayor and Council that course requirements and funding are two separate issues that need to be viewed individually.

Councilman Fox seeing no one come forward moved that the public portion be closed, seconded by Councilman McNear.
All in favor.

Motion to adjourn
Moved: Fox
All in favor.

Second: McNear

ADJOURNMENT: 7:31 p.m.

Adopted: August 18, 2015

Robert W. Alviene, Mayor

Attest:

Mary A. O'Keefe, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Dated: August 18, 2015