

**REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
March 23, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Johnston with a salute to the flag. Roll call was recorded as follows:

Present: Bruno, Owen, DePamphilis, McCarrie, McGuigan, Dill, Johnston

Also Present: Mayor Glasser, Administrator Frost, City Clerk Samuelsen, City Solicitor Smith, and City Engineer Schneider

Open Public Meetings Act:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to two local newspapers. The agenda has been posted at City Hall and on the City's website, somerspointgov.org.

Council President Johnston stated that Resolution No. 77 of 2023 has been withdrawn from the agenda.

Introduction to Municipal Budget 2023

Resolution No. 73 of 2023

M/S: Dill/Owen

This resolution was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Auditor Leon Costello gave a brief overview of the proposed budget. He noted an approximate 8-cent tax increase, and the public hearing and final adoption will be held on April 27, 2023.

Communications:

None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Glasser announced that on March 28th the Veteran's Advisory Board will be meeting at the AMVETS Center to discuss Memorial Day preparations. In addition, the United States Daughters of 1812, who initially erected the memorial, as well as the Somers Point Historical Society, will be joining in the effort to repair the War of 1812 Memorial. Furthermore, he encouraged people to vote for the Somers Point Beach Concert Series in USA Today's Best Outdoor Concert Contest. Lastly, he recited a letter from the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, stating that the City will receive an allotment of \$500,000.00 for the reconstruction project of Exton Road, Bala Drive, and Colwick Drive.

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Administrator's Report:

None

Solicitors Report:

None

Engineers Report:

City Engineer Schneider stated the grant we received for the Exton Road, Bala Drive, and Colwick Drive Project will be used to repave those roads. Moreover, the Bay Avenue Light Replacement Project continues and is on schedule to be done by Memorial Day. Additionally, there is a pre-construction meeting on March 27th for the Bike Path Enhancement Project, which includes improvements to the Ocean Heights Avenue crosswalk.

Committee Reports:

- Council President Johnston introduced Max Slusher, who was asked by the Cannabis Committee for his advice on the economic aspect of having a retail cannabis store. Max Slusher, of the Economic Development Advisory Commission, gave an overview of his findings on the projected revenue from the retail market. His findings are based on research and his professional opinion. He recommends that if the City is seriously interested in pursuing the retail market, they should consult a specialist in this area.
- Council Member McGuigan commended Mr. Slusher for his research and asked for clarification of the findings and the process of sending out a bid package. In addition, he queried about the effect on nearby businesses and the need for an impact study. Furthermore, he agrees that the Committee should continue their research.
- Council Member DePamphilis reported that the recommendation of the Cannabis Committee has stayed the same, and they will move forward with looking into at least one retail store on the commercial corridor of Rt. 9, away from the schools. In addition, the Committee will consider Mr. Slusher's recommendation to hire a professional.
- Solicitor Smith asserted that he and the Cannabis Committee meet to discuss the particulars moving forward.
- Council Member Dill remains on the fence since the revenue can be taken away from the City by the State. He believes, however, that the Committee and Solicitor Smith should continue their research.
- Council Member Owen is concerned about the effect of Cannabis on the City's first responders, yet, he is open to see the final outcome of the Committee's recommendation.
- Council Member Bruno is interested in seeing how the medical field will feel about the possibility of retail Cannabis.

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- Council Member McCarrie asked if there were any data on crime statistics in relation to a retail Cannabis store. His main concern was whether this would create an issue for the Police Department and the costs associated with potentially hiring new police officers. He is interested to see more research regarding what other cities have experienced.
- Council President Johnston agrees that the Committee needs further research. She indicated that regardless of whether City Council moves forward with the Committee’s recommendation, Cannabis is in our City; therefore, if there is any way the City can benefit financially, we need it.

Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Council Member Owen, seconded of Council Member Dill and carried to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and of 3/9/2023.

Resolutions:

Public Portion Resolutions:

Council President Johnston duly opened the meeting to the public.

Alex Barrera, Esq., the attorney representing the buyer in the person-to-person transfer of the Anchorage, shared his discontent with the withdrawal of Resolution No. 77 from the agenda.

Mayor Glasser indicated that he understands the situation but will not interfere with a police investigation when it comes to the Anchorage transfer.

Solicitor Smith stated for the record that he is not involved with the liquor license transfer of the Anchorage.

John Helbig of 106 E Dawes Avenue asked for clarification on Resolution No. 76.

Hearing nothing further from the public, the public portion was duly closed.

Resolution No. 74 of 2023

M/S- Dill/Owen

This resolution was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of those present.

No. 74 of 2023

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Subject: Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation and/or Refund of Tax under The Disabled Veterans Act (N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 et seq.: L.1948, c.259 as amended)

Introduced by: Council President Johnston and Council Members McGuigan and DePamphilis

WHEREAS, the property owner at 30 Dogwood Dr. (Block 1929, Lot 11, qualifies as a disabled veteran under the Disabled Veteran’s Act. Taxes paid at the time of application need to be canceled/refunded. Mr. Cole A. Gasperini a 100% permanently and totally disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, the owner has filed all of the forms and provided all the necessary documentation for tax exemption; and

WHEREAS, the owner is now entitled to total real estate tax exemption beginning on 2/24/2023; and

WHEREAS, the taxes for 2023 should be canceled and refunded in the amount \$2,415.05; and

WHEREAS, the taxes for the 2nd quarter of 2023, should be canceled in the amount \$ 1,724.93; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, that the above taxes be canceled and refunded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and the Finance Officer by the City Clerk.

Block	Lot	Qual.	Owner	Amount	Year
1929	11		Cole A. Gasperini	\$ 690.12	2023 (cancelled and refunded)
				\$1,724.93	2023 (cancelled)

Resolution No. 75 of 2023

M/S- Dill/Owen

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 75 of 2023

Subject: A Resolution Setting Fees for Property Inspections Required Pursuant to Chapter 169, “Littering and Property Maintenance”, of the City Code.

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Introduced by: Council President Johnston, Councilmen McGuigan and Dill

WHEREAS, Chapter 169, “Littering and Property Maintenance,” of the City Code requires various inspections of property by the Construction Official and/or the Code Enforcement Officer; and

WHEREAS, City Council has routinely set the fees for these inspections by way of resolution; and

WHEREAS, a review of these inspection fees by the City’s Business Administrator reflects that these inspection fees do not adequately reflect the cost associated with same; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Business Administrator has determined that the City’s current cost for each inspection is \$250.00, and that the fee for any required reinspection as a result of a deficiency is \$100.00; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Somers Point now hereby wishes to increase the fees for these inspections required pursuant to Chapter 169 of the City Code to adequately reflect the cost incurred by the City in conducting these various inspections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Somers Point that the fees for all initial inspections conducted pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 169, “Littering and Property Maintenance,” of the City Code shall be set at \$250.00 per inspection, and the fee for any required reinspection as a result of a deficiency, shall be set at \$100.00.

Resolution No. 76 of 2023

M/S- Owen/Dill

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 76 of 2023

Subject: First Amendment – Solar Contract, Installation and Operation of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Energy System pursuant to a Solar Power Purchase Agreement

Introduced by: Council President Johnston

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution 140 of 2021, National Energy Partners LLC of Voorhees, New Jersey (DBA as NJ Solar 26 LLC) was awarded the contract for the Installation and Operation of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Energy System pursuant to a Solar Power Purchase Agreement; and

WHEREAS, during the course of the approval process with the Board of Public Utilities an extension and amendment to the Agreement was deemed essential in order for the project to move forward; and

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WHEREAS, the amendment is necessary to the feasibility of the project; and
WHEREAS, those changes have resulted in a change of the Solar Power Purchase Agreement as follows:

The kWh Rate with respect to the System under the Agreement shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

Year of System Term	kWh Rate (\$/kWh)
1	\$ 0.0875
2	\$ 0.0897
3	\$ 0.0919
4	\$ 0.0942
5	\$ 0.0966
6	\$ 0.0990
7	\$ 0.1015
8	\$ 0.1040
9	\$ 0.1066
10	\$ 0.1093
11	\$ 0.1120
12	\$ 0.1148
13	\$ 0.1177
14	\$ 0.1206
15	\$ 0.1236

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Somers Point approves the amendment to the contract for the Installation and Operation of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Energy System pursuant to a Solar Power Purchase Agreement and that the Mayor and/or Business Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents in this regard on behalf of the City.

Resolution No. 78 of 2023

M/S- Dill/Owen

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 78 of 2023

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Subject: Subject: Resolution of Support – Atlantic County Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Challenge Grant, Fire and EMS Dispatch Services

Introduced By: Council President Johnston and Council Member Dill

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has allocated \$150,000 within each county for a statewide total of \$3.15 million in Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) funds to promote innovation among peer local units across New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) administers the LEAP grant program; and

WHEREAS, the LEAP Challenge Grant exists to challenge municipalities and counties to collaborate on more extensive partnership and collaborations to produce efficiencies through shared services; and

WHEREAS, Atlantic County Government and (Name of Participating Local Unit(s), have determined to apply for a LEAP Challenge Grant through the State of New Jersey Local Efficiency Achievement Program in the amount of \$150,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Atlantic County Government has agreed to be the lead agency in this program; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has made LEAP grants available to assist local units to study, develop and implement new shared services initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the project submitted in this grant application is intended to provide benefits to the participant local units' residents through the sharing of Fire and EMS Emergency Dispatch Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Somers Point City Council, that the City of Somers Point does hereby join with Atlantic County Government in applying for a LEAP challenge grant to support undertaking this endeavor.

Resolution No. 79 of 2023

M/S- Owen/Dill

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 79 of 2023

Subject: Authorizing the Stormwater Assistance Grant Application funded by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Introduced By: Council President Johnston

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WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is offering a Stormwater Assistance Grant; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding is to assist New Jersey municipalities in upgrading their MS4 Stormwater Programs to comply with the requirements of the 2023 Tier A MS4 Permit renewal, which was issued on November 30, 2022, with an effective date of January 01, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the expected funding for this grant is \$25,000 with no local match; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point wishes to apply for funding through the NJDEP Stormwater Grant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Governing Body of the City of Somers Point does hereby authorize the application for this NJDEP Stormwater Grant application; and
- 2) The Governing Body of the City of Somers Point authorizes the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the City of Somers Point and the NJDEP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit a grant application for the NJDEP Stormwater Grant on behalf of the City of Somers Point.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the City of Somers Point and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Resolution No. 80 of 2023

M/S- Dill/Owen

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

Mayor Glasser commended Stephen Hornig for his dedication to the City.

No. 80 of 2023

Subject: Subject: Promotion of Stephen M. Hornig

Introduced By: Council Members Dill, McGuigan and McCarrie

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of Somers Point to advance employees in according to their individual merits and in accordance with the New Jersey Civil Service Commission Policies and Procedures; and

WHEREAS, Stephen M. Hornig has been employed by the City of Somers Point since May of 2005, has performed the duties of Laborer in the Public Works Department on a part time basis beginning in 2005 and a full time basis beginning October 1st, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator and Supervisor of Public Works have recommended that Stephen M. Hornig be promoted; and

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WHEREAS, adequate funds are available within the Public Works Department operations in the 2023 budget for this promotion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

- 1.) The promotion of Stephen M. Hornig to the position of Laborer 3, New Jersey Civil Service Local Government Job Specification 06633, within the Public Works Department is hereby approved effective April 1st 2023, on a provisional basis, pending the results of a Departmental Promotional Examination to be issued by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission, if necessary.
- 2.) Effective April 1st, 2023 the salary of Stephen M. Hornig will be in accordance with the designation of DPW Level 7, Blue Collar Section of the agreement between the City of Somers Point and Teamsters Union Local No. 115 plus an additional amount \$7,620, which for 2023 is \$74,478.

Resolution No. 81 of 2023

M/S- Dill/Owen

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 81 of 2023

Subject: Approving proposals – Goods and Services 2023

Introduced By: Council President Johnston

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point received proposals for various goods and services in accordance with the Fair and Open procedure of the New Jersey Pay-to-Play law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the following proposals, received on January 24th 2023 and March 21st 2023 approved, and that the City Administrator is hereby authorized to issue contracts to the following vendors for goods and services during the period of April 1st, 2023 to March 31st, 2024:

- a) **Alarm, Monitor, Networking and Ancillary Parts, Installation and Service**
Priority Protection Services LLC
- b) **Celling’s, Flooring, Wall Covering and Partition Material, Materials and Installation and Services**
ERCO
- c) **Cellular Communications and Mobile Broadband Services**
Verizon
- d) **Concrete and Masonry Service**
Landberg Construction

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- e) **City Hall Custodial Services**
Offshore Carpet Cleaning and Janitorial
- f) **Demolition Services**
American Demolition
- g) **Electrical Contractor Services**
Electric-Tech, Incorporation
Calvi Electric Company
Hughes Electric
- h) **Emergency Sewer Pumps and Equipment**
Municipal Maintenance Company
Godwin
- i) **Excavation and Pipe Installation and/or Replacement**
Seashore Associated Mechanical Incorporation
Ocean Construction
- j) **Flags Banners and Miscellaneous Display Items**
Display Sales
Metropolitan
- k) **Generator Parts and Service**
Genserve
- l) **Hardware Supplies**
Shore True Value
Lawson Products
Val-U Auto Parts
- m) **Heavy Duty Truck Mechanic Services**
Clegg's Garage Incorporation
- n) **Influent Grinders for Sewer Pump Stations**
Municipal Maintenance
Watermark Environmental Systems, Inc.
KRS Services
JWC Environmental
- o) **Information Technology and Networking Services**
INSC
All Covered
Mae Tro
- p) **Leaves and Brush Disposal Site**
Atlantic Blueberry Co Inc
- q) **Misc. Employee Uniforms**
Action Uniform
- r) **Plumbing and HVAC Services**
McCloskey Mechanical Contractors Inc
Bilmark
Multi-Temp Mechanical
- s) **Sewer Pump Station Parts & Supplies**

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- KRS Services
- Municipal Maintenance Company
- EVOQUA
- t) Sewer Pump Station Maintenance**
 - KRS Services
 - McMloskey Mechanical Contractors Incorporation
 - Municipal Maintenance Company
 - CW Sales Corporation
 - A.C Schultes
 - West Bay Construction, Incorporation
- u) Sewer Pump Stations, Electrical & Electronics**
 - KRS Services
 - Municipal Maintenance Group
- v) Sewer System Coating, Lining & Restoration**
 - The Precision Group
 - Sewer and Water Evaluation and Rehabilitation Procedures
- w) Storm Drain Cleaning and Television Inspection**
 - Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe
- x) Recreation Equipment and Installation**
 - Ben Shaffer Recreation Incorporation
 - Green Lane Contractors
 - BSN Sports
- y) Roofing Repair and Maintenance**
 - Dorothy Gale Roofing
 - East Coast Contracting Roofing and Siding
 - KMR Enterprises Inc
- z) Vector Parts and Service**
 - Vacuum Sales Incorporation
- aa) Video Cleaning and Maintenance**
 - Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe
- bb) Outdoor Farmer's Market Operations and Management**
 - Rob Hopkins
- cc) Auto Mechanic**
 - Galloway Auto and Tire
- dd) Animal Control Services**
 - Animal Control of Atlantic County
- ee) Signage and Misc Repair**
 - Eastern Signs
 - Copiers Plus
- ff) Environmental / Asbestos Remediation Monitoring Services**
 - Environmental Connection

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Old Business:

None

New Business:

- Approval of Social Affair Permit for Cornhole Craze for April 7th from 4:00 pm to 11:34 pm and April 8th from 12:00 pm to 11:34 pm.

Discussion of Bills:

Administrator Frost reported a Bill List dated 03/21/2023 in the amount of \$2,487,035.26 and a Record of Payment dated 03/21/2023 in the amount of \$74,260.30.

Public Portion:

The meeting was duly opened to the public.
Hearing nothing from the public, the public hearing was duly closed.

Payment of Bills:

M/S: Owen/Dill

The Bill List was approved by a unanimous vote of those present. A complete list of bills is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before City Council, Council Member Dill moved, Council Member Owen seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by,
Lucy R. Samuelson, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Approved: 4/13/2023