

REGULAR MEETING MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL August 20, 2020

Meeting called to order via ZOOM at 7:00 p.m. by President McGuigan with a salute to the flag. Council President requested a moment of silence in honor of long-time resident and retired employee, Dick Gray.

Roll call was recorded as follows:

Present: Johnston, D'Adamo, Toto, Owen, Dill, Gerety, McGuigan

Also Present: Mayor Glasser, Administrator Swain, Assistant City Administrator Frost, City Clerk Samuelson, Deputy City Clerk Heath, City Solicitor Thomas Smith

Open Public Meetings Act:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided. Agenda for this meeting has been provided to two local newspapers and posted in the City Clerk's Office and on the City's website, somerspointgov.org. The meeting was held via ZOOM platform due to the pandemic of COVID-19. Council President McGuigan announced the instructions for joining the meeting electronically.

Communications:

Councilman Toto thanked Clerk Samuelson and the Volunteers of America for coordinating a food drive at the Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 that served 240 families. Council President agreed that it was a worthy cause that many people need right now.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Glasser mentioned that the Historical Society had a soft opening at their museum, which was a great event. Mayor Glasser thanked all the members for their hard work and encouraged everyone to visit the museum. Mayor Glasser gave kudos to the Police Department, the Volunteer Fire Companies, the Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Public Works for all their efforts regarding damage and debris from the recent storms.

Administrator's Report:

No report.

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Solicitors Report:

No report

Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Johnston reported that Bay Cats, LLC., reported running smoothly with a few boats utilizing the marina daily. Once the radios arrive, there will be improved communication with the boaters. The public is enjoying the activities that Bay Cats, LLC, has to offer and with summer ending, they will be open Thursday through Sunday. Councilwoman Johnston indicated there was minimal damage at the marina area, which was reported to the City's insurance company. Councilwoman Johnston reported the Boy Scouts are working on a project at the bike path that was not covered under the grant. Additionally, Councilwoman Johnston obtained a sponsor, Dunn Insurance, to landscape the area of Bethel Road near the Veterans' Park, and the Boy Scouts will work with this project also. Lastly, Councilwoman Johnston indicated that the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) is working on the Somers Point Veterans Reef. They are working with the Federal Government and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to submerge old ships at no cost to the public in hopes of encouraging fishing and diving.

Councilman Gerety reported that the Historical Society held an event on Saturday and thanked the following people for their support and cleaning up afterwards: Harbor Master Kedziora, Councilmembers Johnston, Toto and Owen, Mayor Glasser, Dennis Tapp, Lynn MacEwan, Sally Hastings, Greg Sykora, Dan Meyers and Levi Fox. He mentioned that Lawson's Pride and the Patriots of Somers Mansion attended the event with a visit from our local Congressman. Councilman Gerety reported 65 people toured the museum and more visitors attended outside. Councilman Gerety was pleased with the attendance and interest and mentioned everyone enjoyed each other's company while adhering to the rules of social distancing. Councilman Gerety indicated that Councilwoman Johnston contacted the hospital to open negotiations regarding the City's annual contribution. He followed up and reported that Shore Medical Center will be able to make a contribution at the end of year but was not sure of the amount.

Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Councilman D'Adamo, seconded of Councilman Dill and carried, the regular meeting minutes 7/23/2020, were approved.

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Ordinances:

Ordinance No. 6

Introduction/First Reading

M/S- Dill/Owen

The ordinance was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 6 of 2020

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES, WAGES
AND COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS AND
EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF SOMERS POINT,
COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, New Jersey that the annual wages, salaries and compensation of the Officers and Employees of the City of Somers Point shall be as follows, as of January 1, 2020:

**SECTION 1. FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
(for full year)**

Position	From:	To:
Account Clerk Typist	23,600	52,683
Acting Police Chief Stipend	2,500	5,200
Administrative Officer of Planning and Zoning & Construction & Code Enforcement Secretary with Technical Assistant to the Construction Official Certification	20,000	35,000
Asst. Supervisor of Public Works	40,000	78,700
Bookkeeper	23,600	53,174
Chief Financial Officer	5,000	70,000
City Administrator	60,000	182,270
City Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics, Municipal Search Officer	40,000	81,600
Clerk Typist	23,600	31,212
Clerk Typist/Matron	23,600	54,861
Comptroller	40,000	70,000
Confidential Asst. to the City Administrator	22,000	70,000
Confidential Asst. to the City Administrator – Senior Account Clerk	40,000	70,000
Confidential Secretary to the Police Chief	22,000	41,412
Construction Official	40,000	63,881

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Court Administrator	40,000	85,900
Department of Public Works Worker	26,000	70,949
Department of Public Works Work Leader	40,000	78,637
Deputy City Administrator	40,000	70,000
Deputy City Clerk/Deputy Registrar	35,000	54,570
Deputy Court Administrator	23,600	57,192
Deputy Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner	600	1,500
Deputy Tax Collector	23,600	56,507
Dispatcher	25,000	72,197
Administrative Officer of Planning and Zoning & Construction & Code Enforcement Secretary with Technical Assistant to the Construction Official Certification	20,000	35,000
Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner	1,200	2,500
Police Patrol Officer	32,000	98,256
Police Sergeant	35,000	108,502
Police Lieutenant	40,000	128,102
Police Captain	45,000	138,442
Police Chief	50,000	153,472
Principal Manager of Public Works	40,000	98,808
Qualified Purchasing Agent	5,000	20,400
Recreation Director	15,000	30,000
Superintendent of Public Works	60,000	98,808
Tax Assessor	40,000	70,000
Tax Collector/Tax Search Officer/Sewer Utility Collector	40,000	73,380
Senior Account Clerk	50,000	70,000
Waste Water Collection System Operator	5,000	12,829

Each full-time employee shall be paid for overtime, and any other additionally earned compensation, in accordance with his/her employment contract. This may include additional compensation based upon the length of his/her service, at the rate of \$100.00 per year, paid in addition to, and together with his/her salary.

**SECTION 2. PART TIME OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES
(for full year)**

Position	From:	To:
<u>Building Department</u>		
Electrical Sub-Code Official	7,000	15,000
Plumbing Sub-Code Official	7,000	12,240
Fire Sub-Code Official	7,000	12,240

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Building Inspector	per inspection	11.00	25.00
Construction Official	per inspection	11.00	25.00
Temporary UCC Sub-code Official	per inspection	11.00	25.00
Zoning Code Enforcement Officer	per hour	11.00	25.00
Asst. Code Enforcement Officer		2,500	15,000
Asst. Code Enforcement Officer	per hour	11.00	25.00
Clerk-Typist	per hour	11.00	20.00
Administrative Officer of Planning and Zoning & Construction & Code Enforcement Secretary	per hour	11.00	20.00
 <u>Police Department</u>			
Dispatcher	per hour	11.00	20.00
School Traffic Guard	per day	27.00	48.00
Special Officer	per hour	11.00	25.00
Data Processing Clerk	per hour	11.00	20.00
Clerk Typist	per hour	11.00	20.00
 <u>Recreation</u>			
Recreation Director		5,000	30,000
Summer Recreation Coordinator	per hour	11.00	25.00
Lifeguard	per hour	11.00	20.00
Recreation Workers	per hour	11.00	40.00
Boat Ramp Attendant	per hour	11.00	18.00
Program Instructor	per hour	11.00	35.00
 <u>Public Works Department</u>			
Clean Communities Coordinator		500	1,200
Clean Communities Laborer	per hour	11.00	20.00
Recycling Coordinator		200	800
Public Works/Sanitation Workers	per hour	11.00	20.00
Public Works Secretary	per hour	11.00	20.00
Parking Lot Attendant	per hour	11.00	16.00
Waste Water collection System Operator		5,000	12,829
Custodian	per hour	11.00	20.00
Marina Worker	per hour	11.00	18.00
Marina Supervisor	per hour	11.00	25.00
Marina Supervisor	per day	75.00	100.00
 <u>Administration, Finance, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and Court</u>			
Mayor		4,500	9,000
Council President		4,000	8,500
Council Persons		4,000	8,500

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Chief Financial Officer		5,000	25,000
City Engineer		5,000	13,000
Clerk Typist	per hour	11.00	22.00
Municipal Alliance Coordinator		500	2,000
Safety Coordinator	per hour	19.00	25.00
Blood Borne Pathogens Coordinator		500	1,000
Qualified Purchasing Agent		1,200	20,400
Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner		1,200	2,500
Deputy Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner		600	1,500
Municipal Magistrate		10,000	24,000
Temporary Court Clerk	per court session	60.00	100.00

Bureau of Fire Prevention

Fire Official		1,400	7,000
Senior Inspector		1,200	6,600
Inspector		1,000	6,000
Inspector	per hour	11.00	20.00

Fire Department

Fire Chief		Up to	7,000
Deputy Fire Chief		Up to	5,400
Assistant Chief		Up to	3,900
Captain		Up to	3,600
Lieutenant		Up to	3,300
Fire Marshall		Up to	2,500
Fire Marshall	per inspection hour	11.00	20.00
Deputy Fire Marshall		Up to	2,500
Deputy Fire Marshall	per inspection hour	11.00	20.00
Fire Safety Officer		Up to	1,600

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Coordinator		Up to	5,000
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator		Up to	3,000
Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator		Up to	500

Each part time hourly employee shall be paid for overtime at the rate of one and one-half times the employee's straight time hourly rate for all hours of work which are more than eight hours worked in one day or forty hours worked in one week for any such part time work.

SECTION 3. REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

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Resolutions:

Council President McGuigan read by title only the list of resolutions.

The meeting was duly opened to the public.

Greg Sykora resident of 2 Horter Avenue mentioned that EDAC has been working with the New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding beautifying the gateway from Longport to Somers Point at no cost to the public.

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

Resolution No. 142

M/S- Dill/Owen

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 142 of 2020

Subject: Certification of Receipt and Review of the Audit for the Year 2019

Introduced by: McGuigan, Dill and Gerety

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Report of Audit for the year 2019 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs, as per R.S. 52:27BB-34; and

WHEREAS, The Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled: **General Comments –**

Recommendations, and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled:

General Comments – Recommendations as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body; and

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WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 – to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 – “A local officer or member of a local governing body who After a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Somers Point hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

Resolution No. 143

M/S- Dill/D’Adamo

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 143 of 2020

Subject: Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security for the FY 2021 FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

Introduced By: Councilmen Dill and D’Adamo

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the U. S. Department of Homeland Security is offering a new program known as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)Program; and

WHEREAS, the BRIC Program aims to shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience and;

WHEREAS, FEMA anticipates BRIC funding projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to partnerships, such as shared funding mechanisms, and/or project design; and

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WHEREAS, the BRIC Program’s funding is tied to Presidential disaster declarations with a six percent set-aside from disaster grants; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point carefully considers grant programs that assist the City in achieving projects and programs that are priorities for the community; and

WHEREAS, actions taken through this Program may result in lower flood insurance premiums through the Community Rating System, increase ratables and improved resiliency; and

WHEREAS, this program is available to certain municipalities in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, this grant program requires a twenty-five percent local match from the municipality.

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

1. The governing body of the City of Somers Point formally approves that grant application for the above stated project.
2. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit a grant application to the U. S. Department of Homeland Security.
3. 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. 144

M/S- Toto/D’Adamo

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 144 of 2020

**Subject: Chapter 159 Resolution – FY 2018 PDM Grant for the Exton Road
Pump Station
Introduced By: Council President McGuigan, Councilmen Gerety, and Dill**

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WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has received a grant in the amount of \$287,887.50 and wishes to amend its 2020 budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Somers Point hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2020 in the sum of \$287,887.50 which item is now available as a revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenue

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Public and Private Revenue Offset with Appropriations:

NJOEM FY2018 PDM Grant – Exton Road Pump Station
\$287,887.50

pursuant to the provision of Statute; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$287,887.50 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations

(A) Operations - Excluded from “CAPS”

Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues:

NJOEM FY2018 PDM Grant – Exton Road Pump Station
\$287,887.50

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be certified and submitted to the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

Resolution No. 145

M/S- Toto/Dill

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

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No. 145 of 2020

Subject: Affirming the appointment of William H. Marsden as Electrical Inspector

Introduced By: Councilpersons Johnston, Dill and Toto

WHEREAS, due to an unanticipated resignation, William H. Marsden was hired by the City Administrator on a temporary emergency basis to provide electrical inspections for the City of Somers Point on August 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the position of Electrical Inspector was advertised in accordance with the City's Personnel Policies and Procedures; and

WHEREAS, after said advertisement the Construction Official has recommended that William H. Marsden be hired; and

WHEREAS, in conformance with the Personnel Policies and Procedures of the City of Somers Point the City Administrator has appointed William H. Marsden, New Jersey Licenses No.009511 to the position of Electrical Sub Code Official /Electrical Inspector, New Jersey Civil Service Commission Code 05046; and

WHEREAS, said appointment is made pending a New Jersey Civil Service Commission examination, list promulgation, and certification procedures as may be required.

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

1. City Council hereby acknowledges and affirms the appointment of William H. Marsden to the position of Electrical Sub Code Official /Electrical Inspector by the City Administrator.
2. The annual salary of William H. Marsden for this position shall be \$15,000, and this shall be prorated for the balance of 2020.

Resolution No. 146

M/S- Toto/Owen

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

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Councilwoman Johnston mentioned there has been a lot of positive communications with the County regarding this project.

No. 146 of

Subject: Resolution Requesting Beautification Project along The Somers Point-Longport Boulevard Gateway into Somers Point from The New Jersey Department of Transportation

Introduced by: Councilwoman Janice Johnston and Councilman Howard Dill

WHEREAS, New Jersey State Highway #152, known locally as Somers Point-Longport Boulevard, provides a vital link from the City of Somers Point to the barrier island communities of Ocean City, Longport, Margate, Ventnor, and Atlantic City; and

WHEREAS, this heavily traveled highway is in need of enhancement and represents the primary route residents and visitors enter Somers Point from these ocean front communities; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to identify and beautify the entrance to Somers Point along this route, the City is requesting that the New Jersey Department of Transportation provide landscaping for a portion of the southern right-of-way for a distance of approximately 200 linear feet just east of the intersection with Bay Avenue; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to expedite the project, the City Engineer of the City of Somers Point has created a proposed design for the project, a copy of which is attached to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the intent is to utilize indigenous evergreen plantings suitable for the coastal region so that the project will represent a low impact design providing an aesthetic gateway to the City of Somers Point; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Somers Point request that the New Jersey Department of Transportation fund, furnish, install, and maintain the landscaping project suggested by governing body of the City of Somers Point in the Southern Right of Way of the West End of New Jersey Route 152.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of New Jersey, Philip Murphy, New Jersey State Senator Chris A. Brown, New Jersey State Assemblyman Vincent Mazzeo, New Jersey State

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Assemblyman John Armato, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Acting Special Projects Coordinator Andrew B. Feller of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, and Vanessa Meades, Principle Engineer of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Old Business:

City Councilwoman Johnston received the County engineer's findings indicating that Mays Landing Road's speed limit does not need to be reduced. Councilwoman Johnston has questions about the report and requested to proceed with ongoing communications in hopes of reducing the speed limit. Council President McGuigan suggested that Greg Schneider, City Engineer, set up a meeting with her and Mayor Glasser.

New Business:

Social Affairs Permit

On the motion of Councilman D'Adamo, seconded of Councilman Owen and carried to approve the Social Affairs Permit for Theater Collaborative of South Jersey for an event on 8/27/20 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

East Village Drive – Possible One Way

Council President McGuigan reported that residents of East Village Drive requested a solution to prevent drivers using the street to avoid the traffic light. Council President McGuigan suggested designating the street one-way. Councilman Dill reported receiving a response from the Police Chief who acknowledged speeding on the street and indicated he was neutral regarding designating the street as one-way. City Council discussed the suggestion, the flow of traffic and notifying the residents of the street.

Short-Term Rentals

City Councilwoman Johnston indicated that the City has received numerous complaints regarding Airbnbs and suggested to gain control and require inspections for short-term rentals. City Council discussed the current registration requirements. Councilwoman Johnston mentioned that she and Councilman Gerety met with the Code Enforcement Officer. Thomas Smith, City Solicitor, advised that a lot of the concerns are addressed in the City's current rental ordinances. The issue is an enforcement issue. He suggested utilizing the Master Plan for guidance and determine if City Council would prefer to add items to the current rental ordinance.

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Councilwoman Johnston indicated that she has questions and is waiting for a return phone call from Airbnb. City Solicitor, Thomas Smith, stated that the City Code has regulations relative to the recovery of police department costs for recurring disturbances and nuisances. Councilman Dill stated that he did not have an issue with Airbnb, except for enforcement. Councilman D'Adamo mentioned he is in favor of Airbnb, but there must be enforcement for noise and trash. Thomas Smith, Esq., recommended the Chief of Police be involved in upcoming meetings. City Administrator Swain stated that it's much easier to identify Airbnbs; however, it's not practical to inspect them in between every rental and opined that Airbnbs be separated from the City's rental ordinance. Councilman Gerety indicated that inspections are needed for the safety of the occupants. Councilmembers Johnston and Gerety along with Thomas Smith, City Solicitor, Greg Schneider, City Engineer and Police Chief Somers will work together and report back at the next City Council meeting. Council President McGuigan clarified that Airbnb is a specific name; not a generic name. The Governing Body's discussion is directed at all short-term rentals.

Richard Somers Event

City Council President McGuigan mentioned that there is a time adjustment for the event to now start at 4:00 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. City Council concurred with the time adjustment.

Shore Road Speed Limit

Council President McGuigan mentioned that there have been discussions regarding the south end of Shore Road, and he received requests regarding a speed limit reduction on the north end of Shore Road. Council President McGuigan mentioned he will discuss the requests with Police Chief Somers and City Engineer Schneider. Mayor Glasser discussed the previous speed limits over the years.

Veterans Events

Mayor Glasser stated that the Veterans are interested in holding the POW/MIA event on 9/20/20, the Veterans' Day event on 11/11/20 and the Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance on 12/5/2020. The Governing Body concurred. Mayor Glasser mentioned that the COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. Councilman Dill questioned if there will be a 9/11 commemoration. City Administrator Swain stated that he has been working on it, and Mayor Glasser mentioned that he will contact the Fire Chief.

Prior Properties Identified with Repetitive Flooding

City Administrator Swain reported that there is a combination of different funding mechanisms to purchase properties that have repetitive flooding that was discussed in previous years. There are four properties identified on Jordan Road. The funding may be from Green Acres, Blue Acres, County Open Space Program and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). City Council concurred for City Administrator Swain to reach out to the four property owners to ascertain if they are interested in selling. Additionally, Administrator Swain noted that those properties would be removed from the tax rolls and be the responsibility of the City in perpetuity.

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Discussion of Bills:

Administrator Swain reported a Record of Payments dated 8/5/2020 in the amount of \$7,200.52, a Record of Payment dated 8/18/2020 in the amount of \$23,656.07, a Record of Payment dated 8/18/2020 in the amount of \$1,653,494.27, and a Bill List dated 8/18/2020 in the amount of \$ 4,236,121.33.

Public Portion

The Public Portion was duly opened to the public.

Greg Sykora of 2 Horter Avenue requested to be on the Short-Term Rental Committee, and Councilmembers Johnston and Gerety welcomed him.

Levi Fox resident of 90 Broadway requested to be on the Short-Term Rental Committee, and Councilmembers Johnston and Gerety welcomed him. Additionally, he expressed his concern regarding planting of trees in John F. Kennedy Park.

George Frees of 23 Laurel Drive South thanked Mayor Glasser for his support. He announced that the POW/MIA event will be held on 9/18/20 at 7:00 p.m. at Veterans Park. Council President McGuigan thanked him for the information. Mr. Frees thanked Mayor Glasser, Council President McGuigan and City Council. Additionally, Mr. Frees questioned City Engineer Schneider regarding a proposed pump station to address flooding. Greg Schneider, City Engineer, stated that City Council adopted a resolution this evening to apply for funding.

Theresa Dougherty of 26 Dogwood Drive moved here with her family for the diversity of the town. She expressed her concerns that the Black community is not employed as teachers, police officers, City government employees or owners of business. She requested the Mayor and City Council to find a meaningful way to acknowledge the Black Lives Matter movement for racial equality. Council President McGuigan thanked her for her speech and bringing it to the Governing Body. Since she chose to live in Somers Point due to its diversity, he shared that it is a compliment to him. Council President McGuigan mentioned that there are minorities on our police force. Additionally, he explained that our City is a Civil Service community that is dictated and governed by the N.J. Civil Service Commission, which controls our hiring and is open to everyone regardless of their color, creed and religion. Lastly, Council President McGuigan stated that City Council does not govern the schools.

Lisa Bender of 1304 Atkinson Avenue recommended diversity on the boards and commissions and requested the City to promote the opportunities to the general public. She expressed concern regarding environmental justice regarding a sidewalk for safe walking to the

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schools and other places of interest in the City. Ms. Bender questioned if the Green Team could present a resolution to show the whole City is diverse and that everyone is welcome to participate in City government. Council President McGuigan mentioned to forward the resolution to her liaison. Council President McGuigan complimented Ms. Bender as a very active participant and an asset to the community through volunteerism. He noted that we all struggle to get volunteers, and anyone who wants to get involved; please call him. He will be happy to present the opportunities to anyone interested. Regarding the sidewalk that is on the west side of Somers Point-Mays Landing Road, City Engineer Schneider reported that the plans are ready; however, the State will not allow the City to go out to bid until the golf course agrees to donate a parcel of land to create a bridge.

Payment of Bills

M/S – Dill/Johnston

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 Council, Councilman Gerety moved, Councilman Toto seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy R. Samuelsen, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Approved: 9/10/2020