



MINUTES
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP

January 24, 2012
7:30 P.M.

Borough Hall-Council Chambers
Emerson, NJ 07630



Mayor Colina called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., and identified the emergency exits. Mr. Joseph Solimando led the assembled in the salute to the flag. Mayor Colina asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of good thought and hope that our economy turned around in 2012 and for everyone to generate a positive vibe and good thoughts and work collaboratively as a team in reaching their goals in 2012.

O.P.M.A. Statement

Mayor Colina read the Sunshine Statement announcing that the meeting of January 24, 2012 had been adequately noticed and was in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Further, that the meeting was included in the Annual Meeting Notice Resolution transmitted to the Bergen Record and Ridgewood News on December 21, 2011; posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall, Municipal Place, Emerson, NJ 07630 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice was on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and had been available to the public since its approval by the Governing Body.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

Mayor Colina, Councilwoman DiPaola, Councilwoman Garis, Councilman Knoller, Councilman Rivers, Council President Shaw, Councilman Worthington

Also present were Borough Clerk Carol Dray, Borough Attorney Scott Mooney, Borough Administrator Joseph Scarpa and CFO Catherine Henderson.

III. EXCUSED ABSENCE OF GOVERNING BODY MEMBER

- Councilman Worthington for absence from Special Meeting of January 19, 2012
☞ **Motion** to excuse Councilman Worthington for his absence from Special Meeting of January 19, 2012 was **moved** by Councilwoman DiPaola, **seconded** by Councilman Rivers and carried.

IV. BUDGET WORKSHOP - 2012 Municipal Budget

Departmental Presentations:

- **Ambulance Corps** – Emerson Volunteer Ambulance Corps Captain Janine Solimando had three capital requests for 2012: an additional Stryker power lift stretcher and two Panasonic Tough Books to perform electronic charting. The Governing Body reviewed the EVAC budget with Captain Solimando and Ms. Henderson.

- **Fire Department** – Chief Joseph Castrovillari and Mr. Ron Berg presented the Emerson Volunteer Fire Department budget for 2012. Councilman Rivers said that he had met with the Chief and everything was very well thought out. They had put in for a five year plan. Among the items requested were pagers, radios, and the second half of the turnout gear. There was also a request for \$750,000 for a new rescue pumper, a dual purpose vehicle which would replace a 1983 pumper, a 1986 pumper and a 1986 rescue vehicle all combined into one unit. Councilman Rivers noted they were under tremendous constraints this year and it might be difficult if not impossible for this to go through in 2012. They needed to be committed if not in 2012, then in the next couple years, that the group was given what they needed to keep Emerson safe. Mr. Berg also emphasized that it was needed for the safety and efficiency of the fire personnel. Councilman Rivers said they had three Fire Prevention vehicles, one being a 1993 rusted vehicle that needed to be replaced. He pointed out that a vehicle could be used by other areas of the Borough.

- **Police Department** – Police Chief Rossi presented his budget requests for 2012 and outlined the department's successes in 2011. He provided a synopsis of the dispatcher consolidation feasibility study and explained that the startup cost for each town would have been approximately \$250,000 and cost \$218,000 annually. He noted they presently spent less than that, approximately \$208,000 to \$210,000 annually, more cost effective than participating in a joint venture. He was interested explore the possibility of having their desk take on another town to make it more cost effective. He requested an increase in dispatchers' hourly rate to enhance employee retention. He recommended the following capital expenditures for 2012: two way radio equipment to be compliant with narrow banding, two new computers to replace computers that were ten or eleven years old, four Tough Books and upgrading software to allow accident reports to be filed electronically with headquarters. He discussed promotions and hiring an additional police officer to allow for sufficient supervision and training and the acquisition of two replacement police vehicles. Firearms and ammunition needs were also reviewed.

Chief Rossi also presented the Office of Emergency Management budget. He commended OEM Coordinator Mark Savino and Deputy OEM Coordinator Joe Solimando for doing a great job dealing with some major issues within the community during the last year. He also praised the DPW staff and police officers for all they did in the last year. He proposed purchasing a generator as a shared project with the one of the schools and mentioned Memorial School as a possible facility. Councilman Rivers proposed pushing out the \$100,000.00 request from the Fire Department budget for a generator if one of the schools were to be designated an emergency location. Chief Rossi said the OEM was requesting an emergency response trailer. He said OEM Coordinator Savino was performing his responsibilities even while he was working as a police officer as long as it did not interrupt the normalcy of what he had to do, but emphasized that Mr. Savino did a tremendous amount of work while off duty and was not compensated at all for it. He said that Mr. Savino and Mr. Solimando should receive some kind of compensation and recommended a \$1,500 stipend for the OEM Coordinator and \$750.00 for the Deputy Coordinator.

The Governing Body commended Chief Rossi for overtime savings they had seen in the last few years. Mayor Colina congratulated the Chief on a great first year and added that the job done by the OEM Coordinator and Deputy OEM Coordinator were more than admirable.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Before opening the meeting for comments from the public, Mayor Colina reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones, keep their comments as brief as possible and try to limit them only to governmental issues of concern to an Emerson resident. He further requested that if a subject matter was addressed and answered, to please refrain from repeating it unless they had something new to contribute. A five-minute rule was in effect for each speaker at the discretion of the Council. Mayor Colina asked that everyone do their part to be civil, to the point and respectful of another's point of view and opinion. He further warned that speaking out without recognition would not be tolerated and a second warning could result in removal from the Council Chambers.

☛ **Motion** to open the meeting for comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Rivers, **seconded** by Councilwoman Garis and carried.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Colina asked for a motion to close the meeting to comments from the public.

☛ **Motion** to close the meeting for comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Rivers, **seconded** by Councilwoman Garis and carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to address, at the request of Mayor Colina, a motion to adjourn was **moved** by Councilman Rivers, **seconded** by Councilwoman Garis and carried at 9:01 p.m.

Carol Dray, RMC/CMC/CMR
(Proofed 03/12/12)

February 8, 2012