

**These minutes not yet
Approved by the Princeton Council**

**PRINCETON COUNCIL MEETING
February 24, 2014**

A meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room in the municipal complex, 400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Clerk read the following statement.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of a written notice. On January 24, 2014 at 3:15 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, the Town Topics, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Municipal Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mesdames Butler, Crumiller, Howard and Messers Liverman, Miller and Simon and Mayor Lempert.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Ms. Monzo, Mr. Kiser, Capt. Sutter and Mr. Schmierer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

Henry Singer, 187 Laurel Circle thanked the staff for the cleanup after the recent snow storms. He asked that neighbors remember to help neighbors remove snow from sidewalks, especially the sick and elderly.

Paul Driscoll, 141 Harris Road; Luke McGee, 81 Harris Road and Linda Auerback, 10 Lytle Street discussed with Council concerns about the proposed Avalon Bay development.

(Written comments appended to this set of minutes.)

Joe Small, Hawthorne Avenue said that he felt that resolution 14-64 regarding the Tax Assessor should not be on the consent agenda and noted that there should be a limit on the delegation of authority. Mr. Small also said that in regard to resolution 14-60 regarding the hiring for the municipal attorney, he

felt that the public had a right to see the process and the proposals of the attorneys that were interviewed.

He also congratulated Mr. Schmierer on his years of service to Princeton.

MINUTES

July 8 and July 22, 2013

Mr. Miller offered a motion to approve in block the minutes of July 8, 2013 (as amended), and July 22, 2013. Ms. Crumiller seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Spirit of Princeton, Ray Wadsworth

Ray Wadsworth, Spirit of Princeton, detailed the following event calendar for 2014. May 24, 2014, Memorial Day Parade; June 16, 2014, Flag Day Ceremony; July 2, 2014, Fourth of July Fireworks; November 11, 2014, Veterans Day.

Ms. Butler offered a motion to accept the proposed calendar of events and to waive any associated fees. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crumiller and carried unanimously.

(Calendar of events appended to this set of minutes.)

Palmer Square Annual Calendar, Anita Fresolone

Anita Fresolone, Palmer Square Management reviewed with Council the event schedule for 2014.

Ms. Crumiller offered a motion to accept the proposed calendar of events. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liverman and carried unanimously.

(Calendar of events appended to this set of minutes.)

Princeton Community Television

George McCollough, Executive Director gave a power point presentation reviewing Princeton Community Television between 2009-2013. He said that programming can be viewed through Comcast Channel 30 and Verizon Fios 45 and are funded through cable franchise fees to the municipality.

Council thanked Mr. McCollough and said that the television station is a gem in Princeton. Mr. McCollough said that the town has been very supportive of Princeton Community Television and its programs. Ms. Crumiller asked if there was a contract for publicizing the Planning Board. Mr. McCollough said that there would need to be a new contract with the municipality.

(Presentation appended to this set of minutes)

WORK SESSION
Preliminary Budget Discussion

Ms. Monzo discussed with the preliminary municipal budget for 2014. Ms. Monzo said that the summary sheets are very preliminary and that she is planning to present the capital plan concurrently.

Ms. Monzo presented the schedule as follows: March 10, 2014, adopt dept and surplus policies; March 24, 2014, introduce operating budget and 2014 cap ordinance; April 14, 2014, budget work session; April 28, 2014, budget public hearing and adoption.

Mr. Liverman asked if the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee was on board with the same dates. Ms. Monzo said that they were.

Mr. Miller asked if hard copies of the budget books were available. Ms. Monzo said that they would be and that everything could also be put on the municipal website.

Ms. Crumiller said that she thought that it was a valuable exercise when department heads came before Council to discuss their departments. Ms. Butler said that she thought that this was helpful too.

Mayor Lempert said that we should see where the questions are and work from there.

Ms. Howard said that Governor Christie was introducing his budget tomorrow. She asked if we knew when the municipalities will know about state aid. Ms. Monzo said that she did not know but that we are assuming it will be flat.

REPORTS
Police Report

Lieutenant Sharon Papp discussed with Council the monthly Police Report for December 2013.

Lt. Papp noted that most recently the department has been undergoing training in federal and state immigration laws and wage theft issues. She also noted that the Safe Neighborhoods Unit has been going around and reminding people about the sidewalk shoveling policy and handing out warnings. Ms. Butler said that it might be nice to facilitate an “angels” program to help people shovel their sidewalks that might otherwise not be able to.

Ms. Howard noted that the Police Department was doing a nice job utilizing social media.

(Report appended to this set of minutes)

Park Maintenance Update

Ben Stentz, Executive Director, Recreation reviewed with Council a power point presentation regarding park maintenance and a shift in the division of labor. He said that beginning immediately, the Recreation Department will administer all park related maintenance and that they will establish itself as a one-stop shopping agency for residents to communicate with regarding parks. Mr. Stentz said that Recreation will re-direct appropriate tree/trail/open space work to Public Works in the form of a documented work order.

Mr. Liverman thanked Mr. Stentz and said that he thought that it was a great program.

Ms. Butler said that she thought that it was great that we had a lot of volunteers but that she was concerned about potential liability for trail work.

Ms. Howard asked about the possibility for a dog park and asked where the recreation department was with this project. Mr. Stentz said that they are looking at deed restrictions on potential properties noting that this is not an easy project to figure out due to maintenance issues and that no one would want it near them.

Ms. Crumiller asked if one of the parks could be considered off-leash. Mr. Stentz said that it was a possibility but that there were a lot of liability issues.

(Presentation appended to this set of minutes.)

Police Leadership Process

Mr. Bruschi reviewed with Council a power point presentation regarding the police leadership process.

Mr. Bruschi presented the proposed schedule as follows: written questions and review of personnel file, March 7, 2014; closed session interview, March 10, 2014; public meeting/presentation, March 24, 2014.

Mr. Miller asked is this proposal is from Public Safety or from the Administrator. Mr. Bruschi said that it was from both. Mr. Miller said that he was concerned about funneling any internal comments through the PBA.

Ms. Butler said that she was not with a clear clarification about the chief model and was concerned about how we can restrict the process to one person. She was concerned about trying to limit liability.

Mr. Simon said that it looked like a decision had to be made tonight but that his concern is by going forward are we saying this time is really different. Mr. Simon also asked if it was possible to create a password protected submission on a website or use survey monkey.

Ms. Butler said that she echoed Mr. Simon's comments and that she was not sure that things will continue to go smoothly.

Ms. Crumiller said that she too agreed with Mr. Simon's reservations saying that she did not think that we were doing anything differently.

Ms. Howard said that she did not want to lose site of the risks of continuing in an awkward state and that there was a need to lock in leadership of the police department.

Mr. Miller said that there was a risk in acting but also a risk in not acting.

Joe Small, Hawthorne Avenue said that there was an absence of discussion of the real problems and that was negligent.

(Presentation appended to this set of minutes)

COUNCIL REPORTS

Ms. Crumiller said that it was announced in a recent DPW meeting that there were currently six people working on pothole, securing them with cold patch.

Mr. Miller said that the Princeton Community Television proposal was currently being reviewed.

Mayor Lempert said that Meet the Mayor would be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

Mayor Lempert also announced that there would be a Light up the Night Event on March 14, 2014.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. 14-58 Professional Services Agreement, Coded Systems, Codification Services 2014, Not to Exceed \$7,500.; Creation of New Code and Codification Services, Not to Exceed \$14,000.

Ms. Crumiller offered a motion to approve resolution 14-58 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Butler and carried unanimously.

- b. 14-59 Joining Purchasing Co-op Agreement with Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve resolution 14-59 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Howard and carried by five affirmative votes. Mr. Simon abstained from the vote.

- c. 14-60 Professional Services Agreement, Trishka W. Cecil, Esq., Municipal Attorney, March 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014, Not to Exceed \$375,000.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve resolution 14-60 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Howard and carried by four affirmative votes (Ms. Howard, Mr. Miller, Mr. Liverman, Mayor Lempert). Ms. Crumiller, Ms. Butler and Mr. Simon voted in the negative.

(Resolutions Appended To This Set of Minutes)

CONSENT AGENDA– Contains items of a routine nature, which are approved by a single vote.

a. Bills and Claims

b. 14-61 Banner Request for HiTops announcing The Princeton Half Marathon, to be hung over Washington Road, October 27-November 3, 2014.

c. 14-62 Banner Request for The YWCA announcing The Firecracker 5K Race, to be hung over Washington Road, June 16-23, 2014.

d. 14-63 Resolution Renaming The freeB Task Force as The Public Transit Advisory Committee.

e. 14-64 Resolution Authorizing Tax Assessor to File and Settle Tax Appeals for 2014.
Tabled until March 10, 2014.

Ms. Butler offered a motion to approve the consent agenda items “a-c. as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Ms. Butler offered a motion to approve item “d” as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liverman and carried unanimously.

Item “e” was tabled until the Council meeting of March 10, 2014.

(Resolutions appended to this set of minutes.)

10:00 p.m. 14- 65 CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION: Negotiations/Personnel

RESOLUTION

TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION
(Open Public Meetings Act Sec.3)

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of Princeton:

1. This body will now convene into a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of an item or items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed in said session is as follows:

Negotiations/Personnel

- Lavid, 59 Meadowbrook Drive
- D'Ambrisi Property
- Police Leadership

Stated as precisely as presently possible, the following are the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted at said session can be disclosed to the public:

Within 90 days or upon settlement of litigation, if applicable

The above referenced issues were discussed by the Princeton Council.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott
Municipal Clerk