

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

**PRINCETON COUNCIL MEETING
March 24, 2014**

A meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on this date at 6:00 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 March 6, 2014 at 2:15 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Torontonion, the Town Topics, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Municipal Clerk then called the roll.

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

Absent: Mr. Simon.

Also Present: Mr. Bruschi, Mr. Kiser, Capt. Sutter and Mr. Schmierer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

February 24, and March 10, 2014

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve in block the minutes of February 24 and March 10, 2014 as amended. Ms. Butler seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

Areta Pawlynski, 93 Harris Road questioned the funding of the performance guarantee for the Avalon Bay project, the number of inspectors that would monitor the project, and how the public would be made aware of issues as the project moves along. Mr. Kiser said that the public would be made aware through reports to the Council.

Dr. Sam Hamod, 282-86 Witherspoon Street expressed concerns regarding demolition issues at the hospital site. He asked if there are ordinances that relate to demolition. Mr. Kiser said that the State BOCA Code regulates demolition.

Martha Friedman said that there are many trucks in the Franklin lot and that she is concerned about noise pollution, lead, asbestos and dust control. She also expressed concern about children who are walking to school. Ms. Butler said that the trucks in the Franklin lot are part of the Merwick project and belong to Princeton University. Mayor Lempert said that trucks for the Avalon Bay project need to park in the parking garage.

Paul Driscoll, 141 Harris Road expressed concern about the need for necessary testing for underground drains. He also expressed concern relating to sewers and whether Avalon Bay or the town intends to delete the eight inch sewer line going out to Witherspoon Street.

Linda Auerbach, Lytle Street questioned the difference between destruction at the hospital site and one that would be at an industrial site. Mr. Kiser said that the difference is simply what may have occurred on the site.

(Written public comments appended to this set of minutes)

WORK SESSION 2014 Municipal and Capital Budget

Ms. Monzo and Ms. Webb reviewed with the Mayor and Council a power point presentation detailing the proposed 2014 Municipal and Capital budgets. Ms. Monzo said that the \$50 million budget is \$2 million less than 2013, due in part to a reduction in reserves. The balanced budget represents a flat tax rate \$0.453. She said that service levels have either been maintained or increased and that the proposed budget maintains stable reserves for the future.

Ms. Monzo said that for 2014 budget goals include developing a conservative budget that allows for the continuation of all programs and services; to recognize areas where savings may occur, and monitor the outcome; the initial goal was a flat tax rate and then a reduction if possible; to follow newly adopted fund balance and debt management policies.

Ms. Monzo said that appropriations break out as follows: debt service 19%, public safety 16%, insurances and pensions 13%, infrastructure and operations 10%, reserve for uncollected 8%, sewer treatment 7%, and support for the Library 7%.

Ms. Monzo concluded by saying that in future operating budgets the restructuring of all labor agreements going forward will play a critical role in keeping taxes down; there is a need to develop a long term debt management strategy that maintains our AAA rating; create a policy for sustainable use of Surplus and reserve balances; and capital budget planning for a consolidated community.

Mr. Liverman asked if 19% of the budget for debt load is manageable or should we be worried. Ms. Monzo said that rating agencies talk about the debt level but noted that we have gone a long way with a debt management plan.

Scott Sillars, Chair, Citizen Finance Advisory Committee said that it would be unwise to let debt grow, but we have shown that we can manage the debt load.

a. Ordinance Introduction:

Mayor Lempert read by title on first reading a proposed ordinance entitled PRINCETON CALENDAR YEAR 2014 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A.40A: 4-45.14)

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance on first reading. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously by those present. The public hearing was set for April 28, 2014.

b. 14-77 Resolution to Introduce 2014 Municipal Budget (Public Hearing April 28, 2014)

Ms. Butler offered a motion to approve the resolution to introduce the 2014 Municipal Budget as presented. Ms. Crumiller seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. The public hearing for the 2014 municipal budget was set for April 28, 2014.

(Budget presentation appended to this set of minutes)

c. 6 Year Capital Plan

d. 14-78 Resolution to Introduce 2014 Capital Budget (Public Hearing April 28, 2014)

Ms. Butler offered a motion to approve the resolution to introduce the 2013 Capital Budget as presented. Mr. Miller seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by those present. The public hearing for the 2014 capital budget was set for April 28, 2014.

(Budget presentation appended to this set of minutes)

REPORTS

Monthly Police Report

Captain Sutter discussed the monthly police report with the Mayor and Council. He proudly reported that police department recently received accreditation. Captain Sutter also reported that there have been an increase in home burglary incidents during the last five weeks.

(Monthly Police report appended to this set of minutes)

Council Reports

Ms. Crumiller reported that the Ordinance Review Committee was putting together a schedule to review the Code Consolidation. She said that there would be a need for special meeting for Council to review the proposed changes.

(Schedule appended to this set of minutes)

Mr. Liverman said that he recently had a meeting with concerned citizens regarding affordable housing. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming Corner House event on April 11, 2014.

Ms. Butler noted that the new Parks and Recreation cleanup has been implemented.

Mayor Lempert reported that there will be a Meet the Mayor meeting on April 26, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Howard expressed her concern about potholes at The Princeton Shopping Center.

PRESENTATION/ DISCUSSION

Princeton First Aide and Rescue Squad Headquarters Presentation

Mr. Bruschi and Mr. Freda reviewed with Council a power point presentation regarding the Municipal-PFARS Headquarters proposal.

Mr. Bruschi said that the goal is to help facilitate the construction of a much needed new PFARS headquarters facility and to get the project out of neutral and move forward. He said that the current facility is antiquated at best and to the extent possible the new facility should be centrally located and in close proximity to other service providers.

He said that in the current building the bays are undersized and insufficient bays to meet equipment needs. The administrative areas are undersized and not designed to meet today's needs, and the sleeping quarters for the duty crew needs upgrading.

Mr. Bruschi reviewed potential options for a new building that included: building on the current site, building on the Valley Road School site, building on some other site yet to be found.

Mr. Bruschi recommended building on the former municipal public works facility site at Valley Road and Route 206, and constructing on the old municipal DPW site on Valley Road and Route 206.

Mr. Liverman said that this discussion has been going on for many years and that he felt that there was no more deserving entity than PFARS. He said that with all the technology, equipment needs to be enclosed. He said that he was on board for moving ahead with the project.

Mr. Miller commended Mr. Freda and PFARS.

Ms. Howard recognized members of PFARS who were in the audience, noting that the project was very important and that the memorandum of understanding (MOU) was essential.

Ms. Butler asked what the timeline would be. Mr. Bruschi said that the MOU could be on the Council agenda for April 21, 2014 as a critical first step. Ms. Butler asked if we take on the additional debt, still impacting the debt service, would this preclude us to stay within the debt policy. Ms. Monzo said that she thought it was doable as we go to bond for just our portion, and look at structuring the PFARS payoff portion in several different ways.

Ms. Crumiller said that she was supportive of the project and the recommended location.

(Power point presentation appended to this set of minutes)

RESOLUTIONS

- 14-79 Change Order #1, Top Line Construction Corporation Improvements to Great Road West, \$75,000.

Ms. Crumiller offered a motion to approve resolution 14-79 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liverman and carried unanimously by those present.

- 14-80 Professional Services Agreement, IH Engineers, Mountain Avenue/Great Road Intersection Improvements, Not to Exceed \$19,525.50

Ms. Crumiller offered a motion to approve resolution 14-80 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously by those present.

- 14-81 Pole Installation Agreement, Princeton/Crown Castle NG East, LLC.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve resolution 14-81 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crumiller and carried unanimously by those present.

(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 Maintenance/Performance Guarantees
 - Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, Geothermal Well Field and Renovations, Release of Performance Guarantee along with any remaining escrows.
 - Princeton University, 306 Alexander Street, Block 11501, Lots 7&8, Release of Performance Guaranty along with any remaining escrows.
- c. 14-82 Resolution: Banner Request for Homefront announcing 6th Annual Hope 5K Run/Walk, to be hung over Washington Road, May 19-27, 2014
- d. 14-83 Princeton University Art Museum, Seven Pole Banners on Nassau Street from May 17, 2014 to October 11, 2014 to promote the upcoming art exhibit *“Rothko to Richter: Mark-Making in Abstract Painting from the Collection of Preston H. Haskell”*.
- e. Request for Noise Waiver by NJDOT for repaving of Route 206 from Nassau Street to Arreton Road, beginning April 4, 2014, 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- f. Request for Noise Waiver by NJDOT for water main work, Route 206 between Route 27/ Nassau Street and Mountain Avenue, beginning April 7, 2014, 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

(Resolutions appended to this set of minutes.)

9:40 p.m.

14-84 CLOSED SESSION: Personnel/Negotiations

**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:

Personnel/Negotiations

- Police Chief
- Princeton University
- Personnel Committee Update

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 11:06 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott
Municipal Clerk