

**Approved Minutes  
Open Session  
Of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton  
October 2, 2007  
Regular Meeting  
Closed Session 6:30 P.M.  
Open Session 7:30 P.M.**

Present: Council President Margaret Karcher, Councilwoman Winifred Benchley, Councilman David Goldfarb, Councilman Andrew Koontz, Councilman Roger Martindell, Councilwoman Barbara Trelstad, and Mayor Mildred Trotman

Absent: None

Staff Present: Borough Administrator Robert W. Bruschi, Borough Police Chief Anthony V. Federico, Assistant Borough Attorney Karen L. Cayci, Borough Clerk Andrea Lea Quinty

Mayor Trotman called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and read the open public meetings statement as follows:

*“This meeting is called to order pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of October 2, 2007, was included in a list of meetings sent to and advertised in the Princeton Packet and Trenton Times, posted on the bulletin board in the Borough of Princeton municipal building and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file of the Office of the Borough Clerk. Proper notice having been given, the Borough Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.”*

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item C, Resolution 2007-R224** as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2007-R224  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON  
INTO CLOSED SESSION ON OCTOBER 2, 2007**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public forum from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances may presently exist; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body wishes to discuss the following issues:

1. Personnel — Borough Administrator

**WHEREAS**, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then minutes can be made public; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from this meeting.

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Council President Karcher moved to approve, which was seconded by Councilwoman Trelstad and approved by Council members Karcher, Benchley, Goldfarb, Koontz, Martindell, and Trelstad. Hearing no nay votes, Mayor Trotman proclaimed the resolution approved.

Borough Council recessed into closed session.

At 7:30 P.M. the Council reconvened into open session.

Mayor Trotman asked all present to rise for the salute to the flag.

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item F, Summary – Closed Session Discussion – Robert W. Bruschi, Borough Administrator**

Mr. Bruschi reported that closed session discussion was devoted to his performance review.

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item E, Approval of Minutes.**

Presented for approval were the minutes of the open session of September 25, 2007.

Councilman Martindell moved to approve the minutes of the open session September 25, 2007, Councilman Koontz seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item G, Public Presentation**, and asked if anyone present wished to address the Council with an issue not on the agenda.

Linda Sippelle, Nassau Street, asked the status of the Cottage Club dispute. Karen Cayci, Assistant Borough Attorney, said the governor signed legislation supporting the Borough's position; an appeal is expected.

Councilman Martindell asked about open issues with the Township. Mr. Bruschi said a date for public discussion with both governing bodies is needed. While opposing further closed discussion on Township matters, Councilman Martindell stressed that Council members need to be sure of the issues and Borough's position.

Councilman Goldfarb requested open session discussion of Northridge, Library Parking and SOC Lands prior to a Joint Meeting with Princeton Township.

Seeing no one further from the public, Mayor Trotman closed the public portion.

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item H, Report (1) – Police Department Staffing – Robert W. Bruschi, Borough Administrator; Anthony V. Federico, Police Chief**

Mr. Bruschi provided a snapshot of current police staffing:

- Thirty-two officers authorized by ordinance
- Four squads with one sergeant and four officers

- Detective squad – one sergeant and four officers
- Traffic squad – one sergeant
- Two Officers - Safe Neighborhood Unit
- Three lieutenants
- One chief

With a 34-person force, Borough can reestablish a two-person safe neighborhoods unit with emphasis on traffic control. Currently squad average is three-and-one-half people of the five authorized by ordinance (illness, training, for example). Mr. Bruschi stated that prior budgeting decisions have left room for the proposed two new patrolmen. He said that benefits of a slightly larger force far outweigh budgetary restrictions if any. He and Chief Federico specifically recommended placing officers on the streets and in neighborhoods. Mr. Bruschi, personally, strongly supported increasing the size of the police force.

Chief Federico cited a recent occasion when a violent fight erupted on Maclean Street. All Borough on-duty officers were at the station handling arrests, Township police provided police services for the Maclean Street incident.

Councilman Goldfarb pointed out that the previous larger force was supported by New Jersey and Federal grants. He brought up the financial burden of officer salaries and retirement benefits (specifically, that police can retire after 25 years, earlier than most other Borough employees, with lifetime 70% of salary and full health coverage for all dependents). Mr. Goldfarb stated Council must do what is necessary to control taxes; say no to an expanded police force.

Council President Karcher emphasized that the one thing a local government is charged to do is maintain the safety and welfare of its citizenry; that charge cannot be upheld without safe neighborhood patrols.

Mr. Bruschi stated that a larger police department will not affect “cap” regulations.

Councilman Martindell suggested it is time for Council to revisit police programs and staffing needs, considered in a report of January 10, 2005, from former Chief Davall. It is also time to revisit joint police services with the Township and University. Councilman Martindell requested that Council initiate a dialogue addressing all police issues in the context of the proposal to add two officers.

Councilwoman Trelstad stated that she supported exploration of joint police protection with the township but that attempts to have discussion on this and other matters appear to have become a dead issue. Councilwoman Trelstad further stated that safe neighborhood programs were promised to the community.

Councilwoman Benchley asked Councilman Martindell to open discussion of police topics now with Chief Federico present. Councilwoman Benchley added that the biggest area of complaint from the public is speeding cars and trucks.

Councilman Goldfarb stressed the need for the University's proper contribution to community crime prevention. Council must determine the community's needs, police department's priorities, and how to coordinate and pay for the combined goals.

Chief Federico stated flatly that a two-person safe neighborhood squad does not work.

Councilman Koontz stated that staffing level is a priority and that "creative" staffing techniques are currently required to provide minimal traffic patrol. The force is inadequate to supply proactive protection. Chief Federico concurred. Councilman Koontz added that Council would do well to consider following staffs recommendation.

Councilman Goldfarb proposed full-scale police recruiting for the future with an eye toward replacement through retirement and resignation, expansion and diversity. Councilman Goldfarb added that increasing enrollment at the University will reach 500 students in approximately five years.

Mr. Bruschi mentioned the large upcoming increase (177) in downtown dwelling units and suggested that Council plan now for a suitable police force.

Councilman Koontz moved to increase police manpower to 34 members and draft appropriate ordinance, Councilwoman Benchley seconded.

Mayor Trotman asked if anyone in the public wished to address Council.

Kevin Wilkes, resident of Maclean Street, stressed the need for protection in neighborhoods. He described his neighbors' terror during the lengthy lack of police presence at the recent brawl on Maclean Street. Mr. Wilkes mentioned \$140,000 recently authorized for outside (not licensed professional) engineers to inspect construction trenches. He suggested the Borough hire a junior engineering graduate for \$42,000, provide a \$3.00 tape measure, and ask him/her to inspect the trench. Mr. Wilkes proposed using the rest of the consultant fee to hire a police officer to provide neighborhood bicycle patrol up and down Maclean Street.

Mayor Trotman called the question. Council members Karcher, Benchley, Koontz, and Trelstad voted aye; Councilman Goldfarb and Councilman Martindell voted nay. Mayor Trotman proclaimed the motion to authorize 34 police officers approved.

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item I, New Business (1) — Resolution 2007-R225** as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2007-R225  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON  
APPROVING A VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE PLAN VIP  
FOR THE PRINCETON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton have established by Ordinance a Princeton Fire Department consisting of three fire companies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Princeton Fire Department consists of an all volunteer membership that give thousands of hours per year in dedication for the safety and well being of the residents of the Borough and Township of Princeton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Princeton Fire Department continually struggles to recruit and retain volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, the leadership of the fire department has developed a program known as the Volunteer Incentive Plan VIP, which provides for modest incentive through the payments of stipends; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to continue to provide incentive to these fire department volunteers the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton does hereby endorse this plan and instructs the Borough Administrator to implement the plan in accordance with any and all directives that are required by the Borough's Municipal Auditing Firm; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Attorney is instructed to modify the Borough ordinance governing the Princeton Fire Department so as to provide for this stipend in the same manner as other stipends that are contained within the existing ordinance.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Princeton do hereby accept and endorse the Volunteer Incentive Plan VIP

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Administrator and Borough Attorney are hereby authorized to implement this plan in accordance with any and all directives provided by the Borough of Princeton's Municipal Auditing Firm.

Councilwoman Trelstad moved to approve Resolution 2007-R225; Councilman Koontz seconded. Mr. Bruschi described the proposed plan and asked Council to approve implementation of the program and to draft an appropriate ordinance.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Trotman called for a vote. Hearing no nay votes, Mayor Trotman proclaimed the resolution approved.

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item I, New Business (2) — Resolution 2007-R226** as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2007-R226  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Princeton has determined the need for construction services in connection with the reconstruction of Cleveland Lane and a portion of Lafayette Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has solicited bid proposals for same; and

**WHEREAS**, all bid proposals were opened on Thursday, August 23, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough received the following bids: S. Brothers, Inc., in the amount of \$1,434,586.60; Green Construction Inc., in the amount of \$1,540,309.07; and Bill-Jim Construction Co. Inc., in the amount of \$1,598,248.49; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Borough Administrator that the contract be awarded to S. Brothers, Inc., 12 Ferry Street, South River, New Jersey 08882, as the lowest responsible bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for the purposes set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton that a Contract be awarded to S. Brothers, Inc., 12 Ferry Street, South River New Jersey 08882, for the reconstruction of Cleveland Lane and a portion of Lafayette Road as set forth in the bid specifications.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract on behalf of the Borough.

Mr. Bruschi stated that the accepted bid reflects the alternate number for stone curbs. If neighbors agree to alternate bid curbing expense, Borough will initiate a change order to decrease total cost.

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Councilman Koontz moved to approve Resolution 2007-R226 and Councilman Martindell seconded.

After various questions of Councilman Goldfarb regarding property owner assessments, Mr. Bruschi recommended deferring vote until precise responses from homeowners can be evaluated. Council agreed to table.

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item I, New Business (3 and 4) – Resolutions 2007-R227 and 2007-R228** as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2007-R227  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON  
APPROVING THE 2007 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT  
FOR A THREE YEAR TERM**

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the individual listed below is appointed as a member to the Borough of Princeton Boards or Committees beginning October 2, 2007 as follows:

**TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE**

Donald P. Dowd

To fill an unexpired term  
through 01-01-2010

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each committee and the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

**RESOLUTION 2007-R228  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON  
APPROVING THE 2007 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT  
FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM**

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the individual listed below is appointed as a member to the Borough of Princeton Boards or Committees beginning October 2, 2007 as follows:

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

Nancy Greenspan

To fill an unexpired term  
through 01-01-2011

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each committee and the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Councilman Koontz moved to approve Resolutions 2007-R227 and 2007-R228, Councilwoman Benchley seconded and Borough Council approved unanimously.

Councilman Koontz moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Trotman adjourned the open session meeting at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*October 2, 2007*

Andrea Lea Quinty  
Borough Clerk