

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

**PRINCETON COUNCIL MEETING  
April 21, 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 April 11 2014 at 2:40 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

Absent: Mayor Lempert and Mr. Simon.

Also Present: Mr. Bruschi.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Regarding Items Not On the Agenda**

Linda Auer Bach, Lytle Street discussed with Council the Avalon Bay project and the public's right to know. Ms. Auerbach referred to the request for Dr. Whitman's original report and the denial of the release of that document because it was a draft. She spoke about openness and transparency in government and that depriving citizens of critical information as setting a terrible precedent.

(Comments appended to this set of minutes)

Paul Driscoll, Harris Road also spoke about the Avalon Bay project and potential demolition permits and why demolition permits were issued to erect fencing, remove underground storage tanks and interior asbestos. Mr. Kiser said that type of work was not considered demolition and so the permits were issued. Mr. Driscoll asked in regard to the underground storage tanks if soil could be tested safely. Mr. Kiser said that Dr. Whitman would be there to determine if testing was necessary.

Mr. Bruschi said that when staff discussed permitting a decision had to be made as to what was reasonable for permitting as we can't hold up permits. He said that Mr. Kiser has tried to be conservative but that we need to be reasonable in the eyes of the town, the residents and ultimately the courts.

(Comments appended to this set of minutes)

Dr. Sam Hamod, 282-86 Witherspoon Street, said that the people wanted transparency. He said that they are concerned about taxes and does not believe that Princeton University pays the same taxes that they do and that the residents don't want to carry the University on their shoulders.

(Comments appended to this set of minutes)

PRESENTATION: Jeff Nathanson, Arts Council of Princeton

Jeff Nathanson, Arts Council of Princeton presented to the Mayor and Council the 2014 Neighborhood & Community Report about the Arts Council and its current activities. Noting the many

positive free and low cost activities that they are involved in, Mr. Nathanson said that they are here to serve the entire community.

Jim Floyd, Harris Road expressed his concern about parking during Communiversy during Sunday church services.

Ms. Crumiller, Ms. Howard, Ms. Butler and Mr. Miller all thanked Mr. Nathanson and the Arts Council for their work in the community.

(Neighborhood and Community Report appended to this set of minutes)

PUBLIC HEARING: Application of Renewal, Comcast of Central New Jersey II, LLC

Mr. Miller said that the Public Hearing for the Comcast renewal will be deferred to a later date to allow us proper time to meet noticing requirements. It has just come to our attention that a special notice should have been published 45 days prior to the public hearing. Comcast has no problem with this deferment and recognizes that we are working in good faith.

(8:00 p.m.)WORK SHOP: Budget Workshop

### **Corner House, Gary DeBlasio**

Mr. DeBlasio said that the budget for Corner House is approximately \$10,000. less than last year and spoke about other cuts in funding they receive from other sources including the County. Ms. Howard asked if there was anything that the Mayor and Council could do. Mr. DeBlasio said that any support from elected officials would be appreciated.

Mr. Liverman said that Corner House represented the best of a public and private partnership.

Ms. Butler asked how many people use Corner House services. Mr. DeBlasio said that there has been over 6,000 people per year using Corner House services.

(Corner House report appended to this set of minutes)

**Princeton Public Library, Leslie Burger**

Ms. Burger said that the budget represents a minimal increase of .8%. She said that 80% of the Library's budget is supported through municipal funding and the remaining 20% is supported through a variety of fundraising efforts.

Ms. Burger said that the budget has been kept pretty much even due to staffing transitions.

Ms. Burger said that 850,000 people came through the doors of the Library as it has become the center of most of the community's life.

Mr. Liverman said that he loved the Library and all it has to offer. Ms. Crumiller thanked Ms. Burger for the report and asked if the rooms were being utilized. Ms. Burger said that they were. Ms. Howard asked about the difference between eBooks and real books. Ms. Burger said that most of the reference section has been removed and most is going digital.

On behalf of the Council, Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Burger for all that she did at the Library.

**Engineering, Robert Kiser (Engineering, Planning, Zoning/Historic Preservation and Construction)**

Mr. Kiser said that the Engineering, Planning, Zoning/Historic Preservation and Construction departments are working together to build a responsive culture with the public. Deanna Stockton, Assistant Engineer said that the Engineering Department is trying to completely meet the needs of the residents of Princeton.

Mr. Kiser also noted that there has been a reduction in staff from 16 to 13 in Engineering Department alone and that they have been within budget of less this past year. Ms. Stockton said that in regard to the capital budget they are projecting approximately \$4 million per year.

Ms. Butler said that she would like to see a wish list of items that the Engineering Department is in need of. Ms. Butler also thanked the Engineering Department for being incredibly responsive to Princeton's residents.

Ms. Crumiller said that she would like to see an organizational chart of the Engineering Department.

Kip Cherry, 24 Dempsey Avenue thanked Mr. Kiser and Ms. Stockton for their work on the Transco Pipeline Project.

**Police/Police Communications, Nicholas Sutter, Chief of Police**

Chief Sutter said that the Police Department was giving a lot of forethought on any expenditures that they were making and that standardization was key. He said that there would be a need to update the weapons system.

Chief Sutter said that with the improvements in communications, they are in very good shape.

Ms. Howard asked if the department was in need to replace cars. Chief Sutter said that they kept the capital budget modest and fiscally responsible while making progress with vehicle replacement. Chief Sutter noted that the last cars were purchased in 2011. Ms. Butler asked about the budget in Princeton Borough that wasn't spent for new vehicles. Mr. Bruschi said that the money was reverted to surplus.

**Emergency Services, Robert Gregory, Director, Emergency Management**

Mr. Gregory explained to Council that the biggest capital request was to replace a piece of fire apparatus. Ms. Bruschi noted that the maintenance cost for apparatus continues to rise.

Mr. Liverman said that he hoped that this year that there would be funds set aside to study the fire department.

Ms. Crumiller asked how many actual building fires were there this year. Mr. Gregory said that there were 68 dwelling fire and 336 alarms.

Kip Cherry, 24 Dempsey Avenue said that the Princeton First Aide and Rescue Squad needed new facilities. She said that Princeton University would like to have a fire house near campus and asked that the whole situation be considered. She asked that the municipality think outside the box and be clear of the Universities aspirations.

**Financial Policies, Scott Sillars, Chair, CFAC**

Mr. Sillars reviewed with Council a power point presentation regarding the financial policies set by the municipality. He said that budgets are consistent with the Surplus, Capital and Debt Policies and

noted that while providing for contingencies in the budget is wise, many line items are based on last year's budget, not last year's spending.

Mr. Sillars said that the projected change in the 2014 surplus would be practically nil and that the projected debt ratios are staying within policy limits.

Ms. Butler asked with the percentage of obligation was for items with short life spans. Mr. Sillars said that it was the low hundreds of thousands of dollars. Ms. Butler asked if the projection was reasonable for a per year savings in surplus of \$3 million in the third year. Mr. Sillars said yes, it was and that the municipality was in good shape to meet that projection.

Mr. Liverman said that he did not want the public to think that the municipality bonded for items with short life spans such as iPads.

Kip Cherry, 24 Dempsey Avenue said that she was worried about the concept of seed money. She said that the community needs to have a discussion, to weigh in on capital items. Ms. Cherry told Council that they have influence over the tax rate and expenditures.

(Power Point Presentation appended to this set of minutes)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott  
Municipal Clerk