

BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

A Workshop Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach was held in the Meeting Room at 701 Main Street, Bradley Beach, New Jersey on the above date and topic.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fox opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Sunshine Law

The meeting has been noticed publicly according to the Open Public Meetings Act requirement for the “Annual Notice” and posted on the official Municipal Building bulletin board.

ROLL CALL 6:00 p.m.

Present: Council: Bonnell, Gubitosi, Sexsmith, Weber, Mayor Fox
Borough Administrator, Kimberly M. Humphrey
Borough Attorney Alternative, Andrew Sobel
Municipal Clerk, Erica Kostyz

Newark Avenue Beautification Pilot:

Mayor Fox opened the discussion with a description of this project and presented a fact sheet with a summary of the following proposal:

- The Project is for the 500 Block, Southeast side of the street.
- Sidewalks would be replaced, reducing the width from 5 feet to 4 feet.
- The Planting Strips would have 1 foot of width added.
- Trees will be planted in the Planting Strip; the tree types will be aligned to the size of the strip to avoid future sidewalk issues.
- Grass will be planted uniformly along the entire strip.
- Residents will be responsible for the maintenance of the Planting Strip.
- The curb in front of 515 Newark Avenue will be straightened out.
- The three driveway aprons on the block will be replaced during the re-paving project.

Mayor Fox stated this project would be funded by the Borough and if approved and successful, it is possible it will be possible to implement similar projects for other selected streets in the town.

Councilman Gubitosi explained how this Pilot came into fruition.

Councilman Weber stated he is in favor of the Pilot, however, is concerned about other blocks wanting improvements as well.

Administrator Humphrey stated there was a recent grant through the Shade Tree Commission to do an inventory of side streets in need of improvements and with the Arborist and masons the

town is working with Ms. Humphrey feels the town will be able to accomplish these improvements.

Councilman Weber inquired if the person doing the tree inventory agreed to this.

Ms. Humphrey stated the inventory is part of the grant.

Mayor Fox suggested a member of the Shade Tree Commission work with the Arborist and perform other items in the grant inventory.

Councilman Gubitosi stated he would like to have a better understanding of the cost.

Administrator Humphrey explained how the cost would work.

Mayor Fox gave the approximate costs to do the work using DPW versus a contractor.

Councilman Sexsmith inquired if the Pilot project will be done at the same time of the paving work.

Administrator Humphrey explained how the costs would be incorporated into the bid process with the paving project.

Public Comment on this Workshop Discussion:

William Psiuk, 110 Fifth Avenue, inquired if all sidewalks will need to be replaced.

Mayor Fox and Administrator Humphrey both replied yes due to the condition of the present sidewalk.

J. Juarez, 507 Newark Avenue, expressed concerns about narrowing the sidewalk from 5 feet to four feet.

Heidi Modjeski, 614 Newark Avenue, expressed concerns with the placement of trees, parking and traffic safety.

Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue, stated he is in favor of narrowing the sidewalk to four feet.

David Critelli, 210 Evergreen Avenue, expressed concerns about planting strips causing future sidewalk issues.

A conversation ensued between Mr. Critelli and the Governing Body regarding artificial turf.

Standing Committees

Councilman Sexsmith gave an overview of the Standing Committee process and how it would work and can benefit the Borough.

Councilman Sexsmith gave the following recommendations this process:

- Workshop Meeting would be the first meeting each month with all Standing Committee Chairs to discuss pending business items.
- The Regular Council Meeting would be the second meeting each month to finalize and vote on the Agenda items.
- The five committees (Finance and Administration, Public Safety, Public Works and Infrastructure, Code Enforcement and Building Codes, and Sustainability, Environmental and Recreation) would report their pending business during workshop meetings.
- The Committees would consist of two Council members each (other than the Mayor, except for Finance and Administration).
- The Borough Administrator would be on each Committee to control the flow of information and requests.

Councilman Weber asked how this would work in conjunction with the liaison process currently in effect.

Councilman Sexsmith Liaisons will still serve on Commissions (Sylvan and Fletcher Lake, Recreation, etc.) and chairs of these groups would report to the Standing Committees.

Councilman Gubitosi commended the Mayor, Councilman Sexsmith and the Professionals that have worked on this.

Councilman Gubitosi stated he is in favor of this format however has concerns as to how effective the Governing Body can be having one Council Meeting per month.

Councilman Sexsmith stated the Workshop Meeting would be used to align the business to be placed on the Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

Administrator Humphrey stated other towns have this process and feels this process will enable better communication and efficiency for the Governing Body and the town.

Discussion ensued on how this would affect routine items (resolutions, payment of bills, etc.) with one meeting a month, Council Liaisons serving other Commissions, and Committees.

Public Comment Emails on this Workshop Discussion:

Nancy Meadow, 805 Beach Avenue, stated she is not in favor of this process and feels this will exclude the public.

Tom Gavin, 414 Fourth Avenue, stated he has seen this process done in other towns and feels it will be beneficial to the Borough.

Dr. Harold Cotler, 406 Monmouth Avenue, suggested going back to one workshop meeting and two business meetings a month as was prior practice.

Fox/Bonnell moved to adjourn
Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Erica Kostyz

Erica Kostyz RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk