

**TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON
REGULAR MEETING**

**June 21, 2017
6:30 P.M.**

FLAG SALUTE

Council President Cartier led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, announced that notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and followed by roll call.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Norma Trueblood
Jason Allen
Donovan Gardner
Letha Jackson
Kenneth Cartier

ABSENT

Also present: Mayor David Patriarca, Business Administrator, Dennis Gonzalez; Solicitor Andy Bayer and Township Clerk Amy P. Cosnoski.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Cartier called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

135-2017 Authorizes Council to go into Closed Session - No Closed Session

Council President Cartier advised that there would be no Closed Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Cartier opened the meeting up to general public comments.

Richard Gober, 26 North Hillside Avenue, Ventnor, NJ - 1. Noted his involvement with Pemberton Township for almost 50 years and that he owns about 68 properties in the town and 61 homes in Sunbury Village. Gave a brief history of his property ownership in town and stated that he is here tonight to plead for help in Sunbury. Advised that he had met with the Solicitor, the Mayor and the Chief of Police and asked for camera surveillance about 2 years ago and although he knows money was an issue then he believes the crime would decrease by 90% if the cameras were installed. Commented on the shooting that occurred. Commented on his tenants and noted that they desperately need camera surveillance. Advised that he went to the Burlington County Bridge Commission to try to obtain funding. Noted he was advised that he could not contact them but that his elected officials would need to request funding. Asked if anything had been requested. Mayor Patriarca advised that nothing has been done as far as funding for cameras in that area. Mr. Gober asked if we had reached out to other organizations within the State for assistance. Mayor Patriarca stated they had not. Mr. Gober noted some of the issues he has faced and things he has tried as a solution to the issues. Stated that they are trying to work with the Police but noted that his tenants are afraid to call the Police because of retaliation. Advised on some of the many issues going on in Sunbury. Commented on a scholarship he has had for 31 years, giving \$3,000.00 to 1 deserving student and that the student this year is going to a beauty school. Noted he was devastated when the college announced it was closing. Commented on changing the name of Sunbury Village. Noted the hindrances that come to the residents when it is known that is where they are from. Hopes that the Towns will endorse the name change once they come up with one in the next couple of weeks. Commented on another property he owns at 141 Kinsley Road, the shooting that occurred near there and the events that followed that evening including his home being set on fire by a flash grenade Police set off. **2.** Commented on the retirement of the Code Enforcement Officers and how much Nancy Palchanes would be missed. **3.** Commented on a cooking class he had wanted to start at the Nesbit Center and would still like to do. Councilman Gardner asked how many units he owns in Sunbury. Mr. Gober noted that it was 61 homes. Councilman Gardner asked about putting cameras on his own homes. Mr. Gober stated he would be willing to participate and would speak with some of the other landlords, but cannot afford to put them on all of his homes. Noted that some of his tenants have already put them on their homes.

Ken Festino, owns apartment building at 17 Juliustown Road - 1. Commented that he has a problem with the Red Carpet Inn and noted that he has documented these issues.

Noted that the occupants of the Inn cut through his property, do drug deals and have knocked on his tenants doors offering to solicit prostitution services. Noted the ways that they are doing this and how quickly they are doing these things. Stated that by the time the Police get there they are already gone. Commented that he has seen the transactions going down. Council President Cartier asked if Mr. Festino had gone to Administration about this. Mr. Festino advised that he has not but has been dealing with Mr. Benedetti. Noted that one of his tenants has called the Police and has been threatened. Stated that this is occurring continuously on a daily basis. Councilwoman Jackson asked if the Mayor had heard any other complaints about this. Mayor Patriarca noted he was not aware of these specific issues and he will speak with Mr. Benedetti tomorrow. Stated he knew there would be issues with the Inn well before he became Mayor and noted the steps they are taking to address the issues. Advised that a part of the problem is the County placing people there that should be there temporarily and are there for long periods of time. Noted the 11 officers currently in the process of being hired. A discussion ensued on the problems with the community and ways to fix it.

America Phillips, Presidential Lakes - 1. Commented on the last 20 years coming to meetings and speaking about Sunbury. Commented on her co-workers living there and that they should not be labeled. Stated that we need to take care of everyone in the town. Encouraged all to come together to work as a team. Stated that the residents need to help the Police because they cannot be everywhere 24/7. Told the residents not to be afraid to call the Police and not to let the people win the battle. **2.** Commented on her property in Presidential Lakes and finding empty boxes of drugs on the street corner. Noted that she has heard that Pemberton Township has been labeled as one of the main markets in drugs. Stated she is not afraid to report what she sees. **3.** Noted the sign that was down at the main entrance and that she had reported it on Tuesday and it was back up today. Thanked Public Works. **4.** Asked about the status of the Firehouse. Mayor Patriarca noted that they are meeting tomorrow with Public Works to go over the numbers from the developer and is hoping to bring something to Council soon **5.** Commented that she had asked about putting a Porto potty at the park in Presidential Lakes and why the Mayor is against it.

Peter Sawyer, 180 Kinsley Road, Sunbury Village - 1. Commented that he and his family lived in Moorestown for over 10 years and when his wife became wheelchair bound they had to move to Sunbury. Commented on the ADA issues with the sidewalks that he faces when pushing the wheelchair around. Stated that these ADA issues need to be addressed. **2.** Commented on the cameras and that years ago there had been a sting operation where someone was trying to buy missiles and to shoot down planes. Asked why Homeland Security can't chip in since Sunbury is right in the flight path.

Abraham Mushinski, Sunbury Village - 1. Thanked Mr. Gober for making him aware of the meeting. Commented on the cost of the cameras having significantly dropped and costing next to nothing. Stated he wanted to focus on possible solutions to the problems instead of the problems. Stated they have been discussing having a once a month meeting or possible virtual forums. Noted the possibility of having a community watch from within the community. Noted the need to have a better relationship between the community and the Police. Commented on renaming the area and how no one wants to be related to the area and thinks that is a first step to move in the right direction. **2.** Commented on a property that he had bought in Sunbury and the issues he has been having with Community Development. Councilman Allen asked if there is a way the Police Chief could provide a calculation on the amount of time surveillance is being done in the areas being discussed tonight. Mayor Patriarca noted that this would not be something the Township would want to give out but that they could get a report of service calls.

Cynthia Benjamin, 166 Kinsley Road, Sunbury Village - 1. Noted that Mr. Gober was her landlord but unfortunately is not any longer. Explained the issues she has with living there. Commented that she is scared living there and her house has been shot at. Stated she has tried to apply to live other places but as soon as they learn she lives in Sunbury she is denied. Asked that Council please think about what Mr. Gober has said. Stated that she left Philly to live here for the same reason and sleeps on the floor just in case a bullet comes through the window.

Yvette Smith, Sunbury Village - 1. Stated she is a tenant of Mr. Gober's, a long time resident of Browns Mills and remembers when the Mayor was still an officer. Asked about the Police Officers that used to be on bike patrols and asked what happened to that as it helped with the issues. Mayor Patriarca advised that right now we do not have enough officers to staff that operation and explained the issues with getting officers. Ms. Smith noted the drug deals that are going on and that the Police are making it easy for them.

Mayor Patriarca noted that he and Administration do not have the authority to make the Chief do anything operational with the Police department. A discussion ensued on security cameras. Mayor Patriarca noted that government is not allowed to put money into private property. Ms. Smith asked if they still honored the curfew in town. Mayor Patriarca stated he does not have the authority to make the police do anything. Councilman Allen noted that the Mayor may not have the authority but he can make recommendations to the Chief. Commented that we have to think outside the box because to solve the issues things have to be done and not just one thing will help but everything collectively working together. Stated that there needs to be a balance and that the issues need to be addressed. Noted that he believes in our Police Department and thinks that they do a wonderful job but asked that Administration write to the Police department to make recommendations based on what is being heard tonight. Mayor Patriarca advised that they do meet with the Chief regularly and will address these issues with him.

Michelle, Sunbury Village - 1. Noted that she is one of Mr. Gober's tenants for over 4 years. Stated that she felt like she was in the twilight zone when she moved here because she never saw this kind of behavior before. Commented that people throw trash in her yard, kids stand in the road and won't move when you try to drive through. Stated that her mailbox has been smashed twice and she has had to have her window replaced. Stated she doesn't understand the behavior. Commented that she feels that people are just too comfortable with everything that is going on there. Stated she has called the Police constantly and feels cameras and street lights would help. Noted that she has seen the Police patrolling but knows they can't be everywhere all of the time. Feels that consequences need to be made towards those that are violating the laws. Commented that changing the name is nice but will not change the area or the people. Councilman Gardner noted that Council and Administration cannot administrate parental control over their kids. Stated that the community needs to come together as a collective unit because they can do that. Michelle stated that she thought there could be consequences to the parents that are not controlling their kids. A discussion ensued on Police patrols and everyone helping each other. Councilwoman Trueblood noted that a few years ago there were issues in Lakeshore Mobile Village and the neighbors started a neighborhood watch together and met with the Chief of Police to discuss the issues. Commented that when the residents came together the situation improved and was a success. Suggested that the residents come together and contact the Chief to set something up.

Sharon Chevro, Norcross Lane, Sunbury Village - 1. Stated she has lived there for about a year. Noted that her neighbors are good people but that there are some bad apples. Advised on her son being jumped at the front door of her home, for his car keys, after returning from WaWa. Commented that her son has scars on his face from being hit in the face with a gun. Noted that an hour prior to the incident with her son, another person was robbed a street away. Commented that they know who it is and no arrests have been made and the case has been closed. Noted that when she is asked where she lives she will only say Pemberton and not Sunbury. Stated that Mr. Giber is her landlord and has been great. Stated that her neighbors are good with the exception of those that are diagonal to her. Commented that if there was a camera on the corner it would have caught the person who attacked her son.

Joseph, Norcross Lane, Sunbury Village - 1. Noted that they have issues and when the Police come out they are told "well, you know the area you moved into", "you moved into Sunbury", "you knew what to expect". Commented that he has a special needs daughter and although he works part-time, he is disabled. Stated he has to worry about his family when he is at work. Noted he also does not tell anyone where he lives. Stated that something needs to be done. Noted when the patrols come through it is quiet and it is good, but when they are not there. Stated he would like to help Mr. Giber out but he doesn't know what to do. Commented on having volunteer cops like they did in his neighborhood watch in Florida. Noted that cameras would help the situation but not solve it.

Robert DeCamp, Sr., Browns Mills - 1. Noted he was robbed at gun point by two guys at around 7:45am. Stated he has been a tenant of Mr. Giber's since back in the 80's and moved to Browns Mills back in 1995. Commented on putting cameras up at his house since being robbed. Stated that his house is being well watched through Comcast since April of last year.

Richard Gober, 26 North Hillside Avenue, Ventnor, NJ - 1. Stated he enjoyed listening to the comments that people made. Commented that we have a choice, throw our hands up in the air and give up or try to do something about it. Reminded that we have not asked anyone yet for grant money and asked if the Township could try and find money to help. Made the suggestion that we look into what surveillance has done in Burlington City.

Noted that the cameras at the Red Roof Inn are their own and they are not going to tell you what issues they have when they are collecting a lot of money for the people they are housing. Councilman Gardner stated that from the tenants that are here tonight it sounds like they have a good start with a good group of people who are not afraid to get involved.

Abraham Mushinski, Sunbury Village - 1. Commented on someone being coordinator of a security watch and how it was effective. Commented on the people coming out and that they are willing to do their part. Asked what has been done about the cameras and what can be done. Stated he heard a lot of what we cannot do but what can be done to improve the situation and if the Council cannot help then let's meet with the Police Department. Commented on the parents parenting and stated that the Judge here is aggressive and feels that more punishment is not the answer but smarter punishment is the answer. Commented on possible solutions to the issues.

America Phillips, Presidential Lakes - 1. Commented that she has been a part of the crime watch in Presidential Lakes since the 80's and noted that the crime watch today is not what it used to be a few years ago. Stated that a few years ago they had radios and flashlights but no longer do that. Commented that you can be in your home with your curtains open and looking through your window or out your door and look up and down your street. Noted that you are no longer allowed to go out of your home to do a crime watch. Councilwoman Jackson commented that crime in the 80's and 90's is night and day compared to now, and to tell someone in Sunbury to just keep your door open or go outside and report is easier said than done. Noted that Sunbury is different from some of the other areas where we live and was different many years ago.

Seeing no other residents wishing to be heard, Council President Cartier closed this portion of the meeting.

Consent Agenda: All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine by the Township Council and will be enacted by one motion. Should a Council Member wish to discuss a consent agenda item separately, that item can be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the regular agenda.

Councilman Gardner asked to pull Resolution 138-2017. Councilwoman Jackson asked to pull Resolution 144-2017 Council President Cartier advised that Resolution 141-2017 would be tabled per Administration. Councilman Allen asked to pull Resolution 139-2017.

CONSENT AGENDA

***MEETING MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes, June 7, 2017.

***CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

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| 136-2017 | Requests permission from DLGS for insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2017 Budget in the amount of \$72,658.74 from the NJDEP Clean Communities Program. |
| 137-2017 | Authorizes the refunding and/or closing of Treasurer's Escrow Sub-Accounts in the total amount of \$800.00. |
| 138-2017 | <i>Pulled from the Consent Agenda and considered later in the meeting.</i> |
| 139-2017 | <i>Pulled from the Consent Agenda and considered later in the meeting.</i> |
| 140-2017 | Authorizes a professional services contract with Remington and Vernick Engineers and Affiliates for a Professional Planning "Area in need of Redevelopment Investigation" and the preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for the area at and adjacent to the Deborah Heart & Lung Center. |
| 141-2017 | Conditionally Designates Walter Pereira as the Redeveloper for Block 775, Lots 18 and 19 within the Town Center Redevelopment Area. <i>Tabled per request from Administration.</i> |
| 142-2017 | Authorizes the 2017 payment pursuant to the agreement with the County of Burlington for 9-1-1 Services pursuant to the Integrated Law Enforcement Computer Project. |
| 143-2017 | Approves 2017-2021 Municipal Solid Waste Service Contract between the County of Burlington and the Township of Pemberton. |

NEW BUSINESS***a.** Purchases over \$2,000

1. Public Works - Purchase of 30 Trash and Recycling Containers for parks, beaches, ball fields, dams, and concession stands from Recycle Away LLC, in the total amount of \$16,875.00.
2. Public Works - Aluminum Trench Box from Trenchtech, Inc., in the total amount of \$4,620.00.

Motion by Allen and Trueblood to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Allen, yes; Trueblood, yes; Gardner, yes; Jackson, yes; Cartier, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

138-2017 Authorizes the discharge of mortgage note for Patrick Boyle as to the premises known as 1500 Red Feather Trail, Block 626, Lot 1. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Motion by Allen and Trueblood to approve Resolution 138-2017. Allen, yes; Trueblood, yes; Gardner, abstain as he knows Mr. Boyle personally; Jackson, yes; Cartier, yes. Motion carried.

139-2017 Authorizes the purchase of hot mix asphalt from American Asphalt Company, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00 under Burlington County Cooperative Contract No. 4-BuCCP-15048. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Councilman Allen asked where and what this asphalt will be used for. Mr. Gonzalez advised that generally this is additional asphalt that is needed for the in house road paving program and believes Catesville Road is next and that 2 miles of roadway have been done already in Presidential Lakes.

Motion by Allen and Gardner to approve Resolution 139-2017. Allen, yes; Gardner, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes; Cartier, yes. Motion carried.

144-2017 Authorizes Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption Licenses and Club Licenses. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Councilwoman Jackson asked about the name as the Hornets Nest is no longer in business. Ms. Cosnoski advised that she realized at the last minute that the name had not been changed to Ciao Pizzeria and apologized for the oversight and noted that the owner is still Mr. Inge. It was explained that Terrace Inn and Jamison's were pulled as they have not yet satisfied the necessary requirements for renewal.

Motion by Jackson and Gardner to approve Resolution 144-2017. Jackson, Yes; Gardner, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes; Cartier, yes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND/OR ADOPTION**ORDINANCE NO. 17-2017**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF EASEMENTS UPON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 255 AND 257 REEVES AVENUE FOR THE PRICE OF TWO THOUSAND AND ONE DOLLARS.

Council President Cartier opened the meeting up for public comments. Seeing no residents wishing to be heard this portion of the meeting was closed to the public.

Council President Cartier asked if there were any comments from Council and there were none.

Motion by Allen and Trueblood to adopt Ordinance 17-2017. Allen, yes; Trueblood, yes; Gardner, yes; Jackson, yes; Cartier, yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Engineer's Report - 6/15/2017

Council had no comments regarding this report.

BILL LIST

Approval by Council required for payment of vouchers on bill list dated 6/16/2017.

Motion by Jackson and Gardner to approve the Bill List. Jackson, yes; Gardner, yes; Trueblood, yes; Allen, yes with the exception of any grant funds pertaining to the Police Department to which he abstains; Cartier, yes with the exception of any Fire Department bills to which he abstains. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Bayer reported: Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S AND/OR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Patriarca reported: Commended the Fire Department on another job well done on the St. Ann's Church fire that occurred this past week. Commented that they stepped up and were able to save a lot of property. Council President Cartier added that the Fire Department is currently out on Route 206 assisting, as Allied Recycling is on Fire. Mayor Patriarca stated that you just cannot say enough about these volunteers who are running ragged to house fires and other things. Noted that anyone who wants to volunteer for the Fire Company can feel free to fill out an application. Complemented the Department of Public Works for all of the work that they have been doing throughout the town. Noted that they have been doing well keeping up with the grass cutting in the heat and maintenance around the building. Commented that they recently updated the Administration office and saved thousands by doing all of the work in house. Gave kudos to the paving crew and all of the work that they are doing and noted the hundreds of thousands of dollars they are saving by doing the work ourselves. Noted that they would be forwarding a report to Council from Public Work that lays out what we are saving. Commented on the money being spent on Sepulga Drive through the grant. Commented on the Police running to several calls including some serious calls. Stated that we do have a drug problem like any other town, it is all over. Advised that the type of drugs that are being used today are the same that were used years ago, but are manufactured differently. Noted that this is an epidemic problem throughout the Country but in our community also. Stated that the number of overdoses that are occurring daily here in town are phenomenal. Advised that the officers are running out of Narcan because they are using so much. Commented on the seriousness of the choice to use these drugs and what some of the consequences are. Commented on the amount of resources being used to try and fight the issue. Noted the consequences that should face the dealers and the crimes that are being committed, some violent, because of the drugs. Stated he is not sure what we can do but that it is a serious problem and we do need to be aware. Encouraged people who know people with a drug problem, to guide them towards getting the help they need. Commended the EMS for all of the calls they are running to.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilman Allen - Thanked all for coming out and sharing their stories and giving input on ways to strengthen the community.

Councilwoman Trueblood - Thanked everyone for coming out and sharing what is in their hearts. Pointed out that the community is coming together as far as sharing. Noted that Councilman Gardner and her had attended a meeting with a speaker about drugs and stated it is a nationwide epidemic. Stated that the speaking was about gangs but did relate more to drugs and what to look for as parents and residents. Commented that it is frightening but we need to learn, be active and pray about it.

Councilman Gardner - Noted the one thing he got from the meeting he attended with Councilwoman Trueblood was that the parents that brought their children out were not bringing 16 year olds they were bringing their 8 year olds because that is where you need to start. Stated it takes the community but you just have to get involved and take a stand. Thanked all for coming out and sharing their experiences. Commended Mr. Gober on some of the things he is doing including providing a scholarship for the kids.

Councilwoman Jackson - Asked if there were any grants for sidewalks and curbs that could be used for Sunbury. Mayor Patriarca stated that the current grant that was applied for is for the Lake Valley area. Stated that we would do the corners of the properties as required to do in the right-away. Stated that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the residents. Noted that

they can try to apply for grants, where we can, to help in that area. Advised that the current grant was able to be obtained because of the State's safe sidewalk to school program and the area is a walking area. Stated it is harder to get a grant for sidewalks or general purposes because they are not really there. Councilwoman Jackson thanked all for coming out with the questions, comments and concerns as well as ideas. Noted that what she was trying to say earlier is that Sunbury is a different kind of area compared to Lake Valley or Oak Pines. Noted that none of them lives there and in her opinion cannot tell you what to do as far as calling the Police or report what's happening because they are not living there to have to deal with the consequences of doing that. Stated she does think that Councilwoman Trueblood was right as far as trying to come together to hold meetings and knows that there is an association in Lake Valley. Commented that she will be honest, people do not come out until there is a problem and it does get frustrating. Noted that the people have to do what is safe for them because when it is all said and done the people have to go back to their homes at night and live there. Stated she respects and understands that and will keep them all in prayer. Encouraged them to continue to come out and let their voices be heard and hopes they can find some positive solutions, but noted it will take time and consistency.

Councilwoman Trueblood - Stated that is also suggesting not only getting together but reaching out to the Police Chief as he will come out. Noted he has come out before and met with the residents.

Councilman Gardner - Stated he hopes that this is not the last time he sees them sitting in the chairs and hopes they will come out and report updates and let them know what the progress is good or bad. Stated that the residents are the eyes and the ears of their community and need to keep them informed of what is going on.

Council President Cartier - Thanked all for coming out and stated he appreciated the feedback and agreed with the rest of Council that they do not know what is going on unless the people come out to inform them. Stated they do not know what is going on because they do not live there and know the communities they live in. Noted that there is a problem at the spillway that is not being addressed. Commented on the drug problem and that it is a shame what is happening nationwide. Noted he sees this first hand on a daily basis as the Mayor pointed out and that is horrible. Commented that until the mentality changes for the people that don't believe they have a problem he doesn't know what can be done. Stated that they need to understand that they do have a problem and start addressing it before something tragic happens to your family. Asked for all to have a safe trip home. Noted that the Mayor knows how he feels about this and that it hits home for him. Apologized and encouraged all to talk to their kids, talk to their families and get them off the drugs.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy P. Cosnoski

Amy P. Cosnoski, RMC, Township Clerk