

## **MINUTES**

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. OR AS SOON  
THEREAFTER AT BOROUGH HALL

### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.**

BOROUGH CLERK: this meeting is being held in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by forwarding a Sunshine notice which included the time, date and location of this public meeting of the Mayor and Council.

### **ROLL CALL:**

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Tanelli and Councilman Kearney

ABSENT: Councilman Yampaglia

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Peter C. Massa, Borough Clerk, Terence M. Wall, Borough Attorney, Gregory Randazzo

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Massa – ladies and gentlemen at this time I will open the meeting to the hearing of citizens. Anyone who wishes to be heard, please come forward state your name and address for the record. Please confine your comments to municipal business and please confine your comments to five minutes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one wishes to be heard

### **MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Kearney

SECONDED BY: Councilman Hughes

ROLL CALL: AYES: Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Tanelli, Councilman Kearney

ABSENT: Councilman Yampaglia

Mayor Massa – resolutions on consent.

### **RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT**

Administrator Wall – yes Mayor and Council. There's one resolution this evening and I'll give you the background.

R-182-11 RESO RE: WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

Administrator Wall – specific to the portion of medical insurance and prescription coverage insurance not including dental. This resolution was drafted based on the resolution document from Paul Larecy of Perma modified according to conversations with PIA to incorporate the fact that we are tempting to secure a September start date as opposed to an October date. The Department of Treasury has indicated they will do an October date. We are still endeavoring to have a start date of September which would save the taxpayers an additional approximate \$50,000. In order to properly advise BMED, you're required to give them a 60 day notice which would be appropriate to pass this evening in the event you receive a September start date with the state health benefits plan. In the body of the resolution in consultation with PIA Frank Covelli, we modified the resolution to accommodate either 60 day or a 90 day change and that's incorporated here and so with that I'd like to read it into the record and answer any questions if you wish if I can.

Mayor Massa – clerk will read the resolution.

Administrator Wall – yes Mayor. This is regarding withdrawal from membership in the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund specific to the medical and prescription portion. Whereas, the Borough of North Arlington is a member of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund; and Whereas, the by-laws of the Fund provide for a 60 day notice of the intent to terminate health/prescription insurance coverage. Now therefore be it resolved by the Mayor and Council as terminating its membership in the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund specific to health insurance and prescription insurance program only and it is providing its notice herewith, such termination to be effective on either September 1, 2011 or October 1, 2011 depending on the start date with the state health benefits plan according to the New Jersey Department of Treasury. Be it further resolved that certified copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Fund offices and delivered no later than June 30, 2011 which would be this evening.

Mayor Massa – motion introduced?

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Tanelli

SECONDED BY: Councilman Kearney

Mayor Massa – discussion?

Councilman Hughes – yeah, I'd like to make sure that we have this resolution modified to include the fact that we are not withdrawing from the dental plan at this time so that it's actually in the body of the resolution and it doesn't come back to haunt us somewhere down the road because we send this up to Perma and they just cancel everything.

Administrator Wall – if I may then restate the second sentence to modify to where as the bylaws of the fund provide for a 60 day notice of the intent to terminate health prescription insurance coverage and retain the dental coverage.

Mayor Massa – Councilman, that's why I wanted the clerk to read the language into the record so it was on a matter of record and your point is of course well taken. Thank you. Any other discussion?

Councilman Bianchi – yes, being that we're keeping this dental plan for a while, if one of our old guys that have retired has a dental bill, will it be covered?

Mayor Massa – clerk can answer that question.

Administrator Wall – it will be covered to the extent that coverage is available to that member for that particular plan at that particular time.

Councilman Hughes – according to the PBA contract and the blue and white contract, they're not entitled to specific separate prescription coverage or dental coverage or eyeglass coverage after they retire.

Councilman Bianchi – what I'm trying to say is this. We know that and that's the law and that's the way their contract is written but we've been giving it to them for so many years that they just think it's part of their contract so can we let I know what you guys are saying but can't we let them down easily. Can't we now send them out a letter to everybody telling them that come September 1<sup>st</sup> will no longer be covered with dental instead of just chopping their heads down? I don't know.

Councilman Tanelli – I take a totally different approach on this. Some of the early the latest retirees over the last ten years were fully aware that they weren't entitled do some of these benefits and took them anyway and now they've been found out to not be able to have the benefits and they still want to have the benefits. You know as far as I'm concerned shame on us for not realizing that they were getting it but...

Councilman Bianchi – alright I do know what you're saying.



Councilman Hughes – it's going to be a rather lengthy meeting because we're going to have the budget hearing, we're going to have a budget amendment and some various other housekeeping items that are going to have to be cleared up at that time. So it may be a rather lengthy meeting because we may have also some discussions with contract negotiations. We may even have an arbitrator's ruling by then.

Borough Attorney Pearce – we should have an arbitrator's ruling by that date.

Administrator Wall – so that would be July 28<sup>th</sup>?

Councilman Hughes – no the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Administrator Wall – I'm sorry okay the following Thursday.

Councilman Kearney – that's fine for me.

Councilman Hughes – now with doing budget amendments, we have to wait ten days is it to adopt the budget Terence I believe?

Administrator Wall – I'll verify that, I believe so.

Councilman Hughes – so the original intent was having the budget hearing on the 14<sup>th</sup> and having a special meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> to adopt the budget but because that's not going to be able to take place, we can't have that meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> because we don't have that 10 day window. There may be a need on say July, August 4<sup>th</sup> for a special meeting to adopt the budget and if you want we can move the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to the 18<sup>th</sup> but you know I don't know what people's vacation schedules are like. So.

Councilman Tanelli – that works for me because I'm away on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Hughes – you're away on the?

Councilman Tanelli – I'm away on the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> so if [inaudible] move the 11<sup>th</sup> that works for me.

Councilman Hughes – so do we want to just do this right now? We'll take care of it? Are you available?

Borough Attorney Pearce – I used up all my vacation a long time ago.

Councilman Hughes – so why don't we then schedule a meeting for the 21<sup>st</sup>, we'll schedule a special meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> which we can cancel if we're not ready but we'll look to adopt the budget and then move the 11<sup>th</sup> council meeting to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Is that agreeable with everybody?

Councilman Kearney – what was that again?

Councilman Hughes – we're going to take the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and make it July 21<sup>st</sup>. We're going to take we're going to have a special council meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> all Thursday nights which hopefully will be to adopt the budget. We'll be introducing the amended budget on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> so we have to wait 10 days to adopt it. Then we'll have a final budget and so forth. So and then instead of having another meeting again on August 11<sup>th</sup>, take the meeting that was normally scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> and move it to August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Kearney – I'll be on vacation on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Borough Attorney Pearce – well do we need, I'm not a councilmember so excuse me for speaking out of turn, you were going to go to one meeting a month in the summer anyway, do we really need to have the second meeting in August?

Councilman Hughes – I don't know, maybe not.

Councilman Tanelli – the only thing is that going to put a cramp in Terence waiting a whole month to pay bills and do what has to be done.

Administrator Wall – we'll work around your schedule.

Mayor Massa – we'll take care of the business we have to take care of on the 4<sup>th</sup>?

Councilman Hughes – I don't know. The thing that's kind of throwing a monkey wrench in here is all the blue and white and PBA and all the contract negotiations and you know we still have to deal with the layoffs and so forth and so on.

Councilman Kearney – it's a good reason to put it off though.

Councilman Hughes – what's that?

Councilman Kearney – is we're still waiting for things to work out with the appeal with the police...

Councilman Hughes – well we may have the answer by then.

Councilman Tanelli – are you available on the 25<sup>th</sup>?

Councilman Kearney – I am available on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Tanelli – what if you made it the end of the month versus the 18<sup>th</sup>?

Councilman Hughes – the 25<sup>th</sup>?

Councilman Tanelli – 25<sup>th</sup> yeah.

Councilman Hughes – that would be fine with me.

Councilman Tanelli – then we're pretty much back on schedule where it's the ...

Councilman Hughes – it's not Labor Day weekend is it?

Borough Attorney Pearce – no, Labor Day is late this year, it's the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Hughes – okay.

Administrator Wall – so the concept is cancel the 14<sup>th</sup> move it to the 21<sup>st</sup>, and did I understand have a special meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Hughes – a tentative special meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Administrator Wall – to finalize the budget if it's introduced and changed okay.

Councilman Hughes – finalize the budget if we can get it introduced and ready on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Administrator Wall – and move the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Hughes – well move the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Administrator Wall – I'm sorry okay. Is there consensus on that?

Mayor Massa – everybody okay with that gentlemen?

Councilman Bianchi – we're going to have two meetings in August?

Councilman Hughes – maybe.

Mayor Massa – if possible.

Councilman Hughes – if we can cancel the 25<sup>th</sup> we will.

Mayor Massa – if we can take care of all the business on the 4<sup>th</sup> than that's fine. Anything further?

**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Tanelli

SECONDED BY: Councilman Hughes

ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative