

Workshop Meeting
Borough of Eatontown Governing Body
Wednesday, January 12, 2022

NOTICE - In light of the health risks associated with the global pandemic the January 12, 2022 Council Meeting will be held via Zoom Video Conferencing ONLY. There will be no in person participation. In order to virtually attend the meeting, members of the public must dial **1-929-205-6099** or **1-253-215-8782** and use **access code/meeting ID 857 4888 9345** or can join via video at **<https://zoom.us/j/85748889345>** or by downloading the **Zoom App**. Please follow prompts. Out of respect for the need to run an orderly meeting, we ask that all participants keep their phone on mute. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this challenging and dynamic time.

Mayor Talerico opened the Workshop at 7:03 pm, noting the Borough's compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Anthony Talerico, Jr., Council President Kevin L. Gonzalez,
Councilmembers Maria Escalante, Danielle M. Jones, David Gindi, Everett D. Lucas

ABSENT: Councilmember Mark Regan, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Bayer, Interim Administrator Lucia, Borough Clerk Martin

The Flag Salute was led by Gonzalez

2. MONMOUTH MALL REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS (Mayor Talerico)

Mayor Talerico asked for Council consensus for how to proceed, suggesting an escrow account be created, and that public town hall style hearings be held at least twice during the process, and suggested a Council subcommittee be created to include himself, Council President Gonzalez and Councilmember Gindi. Attorney Bayer explained the first steps in the process. Council agreed with the committee. Mayor Talerico noted there would be no final report unless or until there were public hearings, Council agreed. Attorney Bayer confirmed Council concurrence would allow the process to begin.

C/Regan joined the meeting at 7:07 pm

The meeting was open to the public on the Monmouth Mall Redevelopment Process.

Mr. Al Baginsky, 39 Irving Place, asked about the redevelopment planning process. Attorney Bayer explained the process would be to plan what would be the best steps to revitalize the mall through a public/private partnership. Mr. Baginsky asked if the Borough could require the developer to sell; Attorney Bayer explained under redevelopment law the property could be declared a condemnation area, but the property has been declared a non-condemnation area so the Borough works with the current owner.

3. ADDITIONAL INSPECTORS (C/Escalante)

C/Escalante noted there is a lot of construction and new businesses and she has received complaints regarding the slow process of receiving permits. There are currently four inspectors, and C/Escalante suggested adding inspectors to allow for a quicker turn around. Mayor Talerico concurred the building department is short staffed, as did C/Gonzalez. Interim Administrator Lucia concurred there is a need in the Department, further keeping current staff has been a challenge because the market is competitive. C/Escalante commended the current staff on their efforts to keep up. Discussion continued on staffing and budgeting.

C/Gonzalez explained he would like to bring back the Veteran's Day Parade and to look into Hometown Hero Banners. C/Gonzalez provided broad stroke information about the banners. Discussion followed.

The meeting was open to the public.

Mr. Gerrie Diaz, Tinton Avenue, suggested looking at a ratio of revenue vs inspectors for filling the positions in the building department. Interim Administrator Lucia will look into it.

4. ADJOURNMENT – 7:30 pm

Motion to adjourn by C/Jones; seconded by C/Gonzalez

Voice Vote: AYE - C/Gonzalez, C/Regan, C/Escalante, C/Jones, C/Gindi, C/Lucas

By: Julie Martin, RMC, Borough Clerk