

Regular Meeting
Via Teleconference
May 5, 2020 5:30 p.m.

The Board of Commissioners met in a **REGULAR MEETING *via teleconference due to COVID-19 Pandemic*** with Mayor Santiago presiding. Members present on conference call included Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas and Commissioner Cooper. City Solicitor, Brock Russell, Administrator, Regina Burke, CFO, Marcella Shepard, and Assistant Municipal Clerk, Laura Burns were also present.

Teleconference was open to the public as required by law. Attendance of all attendees was taken by City Clerk upon entering the call. Public attendees in the order which they joined the teleconference was as follows: Maryann Jordan, Brad Scott, Betty Monteleone, Tamara Isajiw, Kirk Hewitt, William Davis, Don Carty, Tim Carty, Yvonne Leone, Claire Hughes, Angeline Broomhall, Lynne Compari, Mary Messick and Joe Sooy.

Mayor Santiago led the salute to the Flag.

City Clerk, Jeanne Hitchner made the statement required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975:

“This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, was advertised, posted and made available to the public as required by Statute. The Municipal Clerk is directed to include a statement in the minutes of this meeting.”

City Clerk to Review Changes to the Agenda

Mayor Santiago asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Ms. Hitchner stated there were three (3) changes to the agenda being:

1. The addition of Ordinance on 1st Reading Item #2 adding a new title and salary range for part time Investigator Police Department.
2. The addition of Resolution Item #6 terminating Professional Services Contract of Grace Marmero & Associates, LLP.
3. The addition of Resolution Item #7 awarding Professional Services Contract to Gruccio, Pepper, DeSanto & Ruth, PA for Labor Counsel services.

Bills

The following bills were ordered paid, when properly certified on a motion by Vice Mayor Parent and seconded by Commissioner Pepitone. The motion was carried by the following vote. Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

SEE COPY OF BILLS FOLLOWING THE SIGNATURE PAGE OF THIS MEETING

Minutes

Vice Mayor Parent made a motion to approve to dispense with the reading of the minutes for April 7, 2020 Regular Session and April 21, 2020 Regular Session. Commissioner Pepitone seconded the motion which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Mayor Santiago stated that this is the time for any Public Comment on Agenda Items Only if anyone wishes to be heard. City Clerk, Jeanne Hitchner called the names of residents in order of attendance that was taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Kirk Hewitt of Millville discussed Resolution # 6 terminating Grace and Marmero contracts. Mr. Hewitt stated that the vote needs to be unanimous decision of the Commission. He continued that it is extremely important to request all other contracts be terminated by the City of Millville for other legal services provided. Mr. Hewitt stated that Grace and Marmero have legal, financial and ethical issues and we need to terminate all contracts in full.

Joe Sooy of Millville stated that he does not know why the Commission would terminate at this point since they knew their conduct before.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Santiago closed the Public Portion on Agenda Items Only.

Old Business

Mayor Santiago asked City Clerk if there was any Old Business. Ms. Hitchner stated there was no Old Business.

Petitions and Letters

Mayor Santiago asked the City Clerk if there were any Petitions and Letters.

Ms. Hitchner stated there was correspondence received from John J. Betz, Biologist of the County of Cumberland Department of Public Works regarding an Informational Packet explaining the activities of the Cumberland County Mosquito Control Division, tips for the general public on how they can help control mosquitoes, which pesticides are used and various important phone numbers.

The correspondence was received and filed on a motion by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Udalovas which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Reports of Commissioners

Commissioner Cooper

Commissioner Cooper stated that over 30 families participated online for Earth Day and Arbor Day events. He stated that due to the pandemic, they are trying to get more activities online. He stated that the Parks Department has continued to disinfect City buildings. He continued that they will continue to clean parks and other city owned properties. Commissioner Cooper stated that there will be a Cinco De Mayo celebration tonight on the City website. He announced the "Lights for Health and Peace" decorating contest whereas the top 4 contestants will receive a \$25.00 gift card to a local Millville business.

Commissioner Pepitone

Commissioner Pepitone discussed the Ordinance on for 1st Reading for a part time Investigator for the Police Department.

Commissioner Udalovas

Commissioner Udalovas gave information regarding a COVID-19 Grant from CDBG. She gave breakdown of the funds being used.

Commissioner Udalovas spoke of error involving the NPP Resolution Item on the Consent Agenda and Resolution #5 on the Regular Agenda Item. She asked that these items be tabled to May 19, 2020.

Commissioner Udalovas made a motion to table Consent Agenda Item #3 and Resolution #5 and be moved to the May 19, 2020 Commission Meeting. Vice Mayor Parent seconded the motion which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago. Abstain: Commissioner Pepitone.

Vice Mayor Parent

Vice Mayor Parent made a motion to receive and file the Annual Report of Taxes Not Collected. Commissioner Pepitone seconded the motion which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Mayor Santiago

Mayor Santiago read stats from the Streets and Roads Report.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to receive and file the Streets and Roads Report for the month of April 2020. Commissioner Udalovas seconded the motion which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Ordinances on 2nd Reading

City Clerk read Ordinance No. 9-2020 on second reading amending the City of Millville Municipal Code Chapter 11 Bureau of Permits and Inspections repealing Article II, Article IV, and Article V in their entirety and replace and supercede them with Article II- Property Maintenance Code; Article IV- Abandoned Property and Buildings Unfit for Habitation, Occupancy or Use; Article V- Vacant Property Registration and Maintenance Requirements.

Mayor Santiago opened the meeting for a public hearing on this ordinance only. Seeing nobody come forward, the public hearing was deemed closed.

Commissioner Udalovas made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Cooper. The motion was carried by the following vote: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Ordinances on 1st Reading

City Clerk read the following ordinance on first reading:

Ordinance to approve the application and agreement submitted by Vineland Delsea Drive LLC for a five year exemption or abatement from taxation pursuant to Article I of Chapter 65 of the Municipal Code for the project known as Aldi Grocery Store located at 3850 S. Delsea Drive.

Vice Mayor Parent made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Pepitone.

Commissioner Udalovas clarified in detail that this is routine and consistent with recommendation of Tax Assessor, Brian Rosenberger and Tax Collector, Tracey Gregoire.

The motion carried by the following vote of Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

City Clerk read the following ordinance on first reading:

Ordinance amending the Section 2-69 of the City Code to add a new title and salary range for Investigator Police Department (part time) with a Minimum of \$25.00 per hour and a Maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

Commissioner Pepitone made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor Parent. The motion carried by the following vote of Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Consent Agenda

City Clerk read the following resolutions on the consent agenda which will be approved on one motion rather than individually:

Resolution No. 125-2020 authorizing adjustments in the tax and utility records.

Resolution No. 126-2020 authorizing Special Assessment of Municipal Liens for certain properties due to expenses incurred by the City of Millville relating to Board and Secure plus administrative fees in accordance with Chapter 11, Article I, Subsection 11-6 of the Municipal Code.

Commissioner Udalovas made a motion approve all items on the Consent Agenda which was seconded by Commissioner Cooper. The motion carried by the following vote of Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Resolutions

City Clerk read the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 127-2020 approving substantial amended FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan in response to COVID-19 Pandemic. Commissioner Udalovas moved for the adoption of this resolution. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Resolution No. 128-2020 approving the FY- 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan for the City of Millville. Commissioner Udalovas moved for the adoption of this resolution. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Resolution No. 129-2020 authorizing award of professional service contract through a fair and open process to EMS Consulting Services to act as Medical Director of EMS for the City of Millville in an amount not to exceed \$13,750.00. Vice Mayor Parent moved for the adoption of this resolution, stating he is in receipt of the proper certification of funds. Commissioner Pepitone seconded the motion which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Resolution No. 130-2020 authorizing award of contract through a fair and open process to Action Uniform Company, LLC to supply City of Millville Emergency Medical Technicians' Uniforms in the amount of \$9,450.00. Commissioner Pepitone moved for the adoption of this resolution, stating he is in receipt of the proper certification of funds. Vice Mayor Parent seconded the motion which was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Resolution No. terminating Professional Services Contract of Grace Marmero & Associates, LLP awarded on January 2, 2020 by Resolution 18-2020. Vice Mayor Parent moved for the adoption of this resolution.

Commissioner Pepitone stated that he wrestled with this and spoke of former Commissioner Joe Sooy's remarks from Public Comment. Commissioner Pepitone explained that they have met their obligations to the City. He stated that he spoke with Administrator, Regina Burke about have James Grace possibly step in. Commissioner Pepitone stated that Grace and Marmero would match or be lower than the amount for Gruccio, Pepper. Commissioner Pepitone explained that when a Municipality changes attorney there is a cost to do so.

Vice Mayor Parent stated that Grace and Marmero are at \$125.00 per hour and came down to \$125.00 per hour which matches Gruccio Pepper.

Commissioner Udalovas deferred to Administrator, Regina Burke and City Solicitor, Brock Russell on Professional Services Contract on their thought process of selecting in January, 2020 to present. Ms. Burke explained that contracts are being negotiated.

Commissioner Cooper stated that he agrees with former Commissioner Sooy that he sees no need to change counsel at this time because he is comfortable with the firm. He continued that he is confident with who is on board with the Grace and Marmero firm.

Mayor Santiago stated that a decision needs to be made. He stated that he is also highly impressed with the services so far provided by Grace and Marmero. He added that we are "jumping the gun" on this.

Commissioner Udalovas seconded the motion which **FAILED** by the following vote: Yeas:, Vice Mayor Parent and Commissioner Udalovas. Nays: Commissioner Pepitone, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Resolution No. awarding Professional Services Contract to Gruccio, Pepper, DeSanto & Ruth, PA through the Fair and Open Process for labor counsel services on behalf of the City of Millville commencing May 6, 2020 through December 31, 2020 at a rate of \$125.00 per hour in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00. Due to the failure of Resolution #6, this Resolution was considered **MOOT**.

New Business

Commissioner Pepitone moved, seconded by Commissioner Udalovas to authorize the City Clerk to advertise for bids for the project known as “Furnishing Chemical Supplies for the City of Millville – CY 2020 & 2021”. Bids must be sent by US Mail or Delivery Service to the City of Millville Purchasing Board, 12 S. High Street, Millville, NJ 08332 and must be received on or before May 21, 2020, 10:00 a.m and will be opened at that time via the ZOOM platform.

The motion was carried by the following vote: Yeas: Commissioner Pepitone, Vice Mayor Parent, Commissioner Udalovas, Commissioner Cooper and Mayor Santiago.

Public Comment

Mayor Santiago stated that this is the time for any Public Comment portion of the meeting if anyone wishes to be heard. He asked for comments to be limited to approximately 5 minutes. City Clerk, Jeanne Hitchner called the names of residents in order of attendance that was taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Betty Monteleone of Millville asked if it was true that City employees are only working 3 days but being paid for 5. Ms. Monteleone stated she thought that former Commissioner Joe Sooy was being sarcastic with his earlier comments. She stated that her experience with law firms is to consider their integrity. She asked for an explanation as to the new part time hire.

Tim Carty of Millville asked when the introduction of the budget will be. He asked questions regarding alerts on agenda changes and brush pick up. He stated that he has not received notifications regarding the brush pick up.

Kirk Hewitt of Millville requested that the Commission Meetings be switched to Video Conferencing as he keeps getting disconnected from the call. Mr. Hewitt stated that Doug Long financed every one of the Commissioners campaigns. He continued that there are massive ethics violations and gave specifics such as Commissioner Pepitone stating “I love Doug Long”. Mr. Hewitt stated that Mr. Long gave a guilty plea acceptance which is scheduled for September 11, 2020. He thanked Vice Mayor Parent and Commissioner Udalovas for being ethical and doing what was right.

Yvonne Leone of Millville explained that due to an Executive Order regarding property taxes that the Commissioners can pass a Resolution making taxes due June 1st. She continued that given the current circumstances and having to assist other family members, giving residents a few extra days is not asking for very much at this time.

Angeline Broomhall of Millville stated that she didn’t know where to begin. She stated that she is glad that everyone is here and healthy. She thanked Vice Mayor Parent and Commissioner Udalovas for their votes. Ms. Broomhall stated that Grace and Marmero are “doing a good job” are shameful excuses. She stated that this is the same law firm that already plead guilty by consent for ethical violations. She added that this goes back before 2012. Ms. Broomhall stated that we already know that Doug Long ripped off other towns and now the Commissioners are allowing him to ruin their neighbors. Ms. Broomhall explained that the firm itself has participated in ethical violations. Ms. Broomhall stated that the Commissioners are supposed to lead residents, not rule them. She continued that the Commissioners are setting an example of immoral and improper behavior. She also stated that there needs to be changes to the handling of the meetings.

Lynne Compari of Millville stated that she is at a loss for words with the Commissioners choosing to keep a law firm who has been found guilty of tax fraud. Ms. Compari stated that they are also taking advice from unethical people. She suggested that the tax appeal contract could be an easy and logical transition to Brock. She stated that the \$.05 increase to taxes is unacceptable. Ms. Compari asked if employees were working 3 days and being paid 5. She stated that there are many options to help taxpayers and stated that the Commissioners need to consider the citizens.

Joseph Sooy of Millville gave the definition of “Sarcasm” being “the use of irony to mock or convey contempt”. He thanked Commissioner Udalovas and Vice Mayor Parent for their votes. He continued that there is no limit to what the other Commissioners will do for themselves. He added that he cannot believe that they know all.

Seeing nobody else come forth, Mayor Santiago deemed the public comments portion closed.

Comments by Commissioners

Commissioner Cooper thanked all employees for the way they have conducted themselves during this pandemic. He also thanked first responders.

Commissioner Pepitone explained that the part time Investigator position will review body worn cameras and the pay is based on experience. Commissioner Pepitone stated that he knew Doug Long pretty well. He continued that Doug Long is not representing the City. He stated that we are paying for the job that he has done. He continued that James Grace and Regina Burke work well together as well as the female attorney. He added that they have done a great job. Commissioner Pepitone stated that he is not going to focus on this because it is politically based. He added that he made the decision based on the work that has been completed with the City.

Commissioner Udalovas deferred to Administrator Regina Burke regarding employees 3 day / 5-day work schedules. Ms. Burke explained that she received guidance from the County and State. She explained that employees were able to work from home. She added that clerically this was not a problem. Ms. Burke stated that Public Works employees are on call and have been for the past 4 weeks. Ms. Burke discussed bringing everyone back to a full schedule next Monday. She also explained the unemployment trust fund. Ms. Burke stated that with the addition of the CARES Act, employees using childcare leave are being paid at 66% of their pay which is reimbursable to the City.

Commissioner Udalovas spoke to Mr. Carty regarding his question of Budget Introduction. She answered that the Budget was introduced at the last meeting and gave instructions to view presentation on the City website.

Commissioner Udalovas deferred to City Clerk, Jeanne Hitchner regarding notification of changes to the agenda. She also agreed that the phone conferences are not the best.

Commissioner Udalovas stated that she has spoken with CFO, Marcella Shepard regarding a grace period for taxes and respected her opinion. She stated that she is looking forward to seeing how the City will respond to this with the economy and the City not extending the June 1st deadline.

Commissioner Udalovas acknowledged Dr. Porecca Compari's comments from Public Comment. She stated that she had a conversation this week with City Administrator, Regina Burke and is looking into a contract change for tax appeals which would take a vote of majority of the Commission.

Commissioner Udalovas gave email contact information for residents to reach out to her.

Vice Mayor Parent stated that he has a deep appreciation for staff and the work that they are doing. He stated that Municipal employees are heroes and explained that residents don't get to see what Commissioners do. He continued that a lot of work is being done at home by employees to help provide the same services to the citizens. He also acknowledged Regina Buke for her efforts.

Vice Mayor Parent acknowledged Mr. Carty's questions regarding the budget. He stated that the budget is now at the State level and cannot be adopted until the State approves it. He added that the Commission is looking to adopt the budget at the May 19, 2020 Commission Meeting.

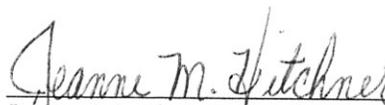
Vice Mayor Parent encouraged residents to make phone calls and/or emails.

Mayor Santiago announced that brush pick-up will be May 11 throughout the entire City. Mayor Santiago spoke of the statistic numbers regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that at the last meeting there were less than 100 cases, whereas today there are more than 186 cases.

Adjournment

There being no further comments the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Pepitone and seconded by Commissioner Udalovas subject to the call of the chair. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne M. Hitchner, RMC
City Clerk

BILL LIST
CITY OF MILLVILLE
MEETING OF MAY 5, 2020

ALL SIGNED BY CMFO MARCELLA SHEPARD (DUE TO COVID-19)

A-1 TOWING, INC.	275.00
ACE PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL	151.77
ACMJIF	194,752.00
ANIMAL CLINIC OF MILLVILLE	103.00
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, INC.	1,238.23
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC	35,507.33
ATLANTIC PLUMBING SUPPLY CORP.	1,391.73
ATLANTIC TACTICAL	6,829.20
BENECARD SERVICES, INC.	62,340.10
BEYER FORD LLC	80,606.00
BURLINGTON CTY BD OF CHOSEN	9,918.78
CITY OF MILLVILLE UTILITY	1,779.00
COMCAST, INC.	2,351.35
CORBI PRINTING CO., INC.	586.00
CUMBERLAND CO CLERK'S OFFICE	2,369.00
CCIA	57,533.69
CUMBERLAND FIRE PROTECTION	81.50
CUMBERLAND VALVE INC	147.04
DEERFIELD ELECTRIC CONST.,INC.	3,444.00
DISPLAY SALES, INC.	1,681.80
EARTH TECH CONTRACTING, INC.	2,690.89
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE &	1,747.26
FASTENAL COMPANY	33.83
FEDEX	60.85
FLASTER GREENBERG PC	45,562.45
GARDEN STATE LABORATORIES, INC	2,385.00
GENSERVE, INC.	600.00
GENTILINI FORD, INC.	1,105.53
GRACE AND MARMERO, LLP	25,148.55
HEALTH MATS CO	29.90
HERITAGE BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC	134.40
HOFFMAN EQUIPMENT CO.	36.99
GREG L. ERBER, SR.	508.32
INSPIRA HLTH NTRWK URGENT CARE	154.00
KEEN COMPRESSED GAS CO., INC.	973.43
KEYSTONE DIGITAL IMAGINE INC.	267.87
KYOCERA DOC SOLUTIONS AMER,INC	131.04
LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES	13.60
LAUREL LAWNMOWER INC	377.53
LAWMEN SUPPLY CO, INC.	1,258.00
LILLISTON CHRYSLER/PLYM., INC.	17.24
LINWOOD PET HOSPITAL	298.12
LOWE'S CO., INC.	2,846.73
SHANNA MCCANN, ESQ	1,200.00
MGL PRINTING SOLUTIONS	1,234.00
MILLVILLE NAPA AUTO PARTS	3,642.52
QUADIENT FINANCE, USA	985.35
VERIZON	246.21
TREASURER, STATE OF NJ	1,015.00
TREASURER, STATE OF NJ	200.00
NJ DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES	60.00
NJ DEPT. OF TRRANSPORTATION	230.00
PRINT O STAT, INC.	905.86
PROTECTION ONE	1,562.16
V.E. RALPH & SON, INC.	38.00
RIGGINS, INC.	13,838.94
ROUX ASSOCIATES INC.	1,428.00
BROCK D. RUSSELL, LLC	13,500.00
SERVICE TIRE TRUCK CENTER, INC	245.01
SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP	49,109.61

SHOPRITE OF MILLVILLE	3,200.00
CUMBERLAND COUNTY TREASURER	4,600,112.14
SJ GAS COMPANY	4,567.34
SOUTH JERSEY PICKUP TRUCK, INC	849.00
SOUTH JERSEY REG ANIMAL SHELTR	11,513.75
SPECTRUM COMMUNICATIONS	411.80
JOSEPH SUTHERLAND	1,200.00
TEPS POWER EQUIPMENT	632.47
TREASURER, STATE OF NJ	632.00
TRIAD ASSOCIATES, INC.	18,562.50
VERIZON WIRELESS	90.40
VINELAND AUTO ELECTRIC, INC.	146.70
VITAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	100.00
W. B. MASON COMPANY, INC.	361.95
TOTAL BILLS FOR 05.05.20 MEETING	5,281,288.76
CITY OF MILLVILLE PAYROLL DED ACC (W)	207,458.99
CITY OF MILLVILLE PAYROLL DED ACC (W)	36,256.22
CITY OF MILLVILLE SALARY ACCOUNT (W)	509,965.55
TOTAL WIRES FOR 05.05.20 MEETING	753,680.76
TOTAL BILLS & WIRES FOR 05.05.20 MTG	6,034,969.52