

MINUTES FROM THE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017 MEETING:

6:00 PRESIDENT CARTER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

ADAM BLYTHE- PRESENT

CARRIE FOX- PRESENT

ERIC CARTER- PRESENT

ERIKA JOSEFOSKI- PRESENT

GREG SCHMITT- ABSENT

RHONDA DZUGAN- PRESENT

TIM CORNUET- PRESENT

MAYOR CARL MAGNETTA- PRESENT

SOLICITOR DAVE REGOLI- PRESENT

CHRIS FABEC (STANDING IN FOR POLICE CHIEF)- PRESENT

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. GEORGE EMERICK- 323 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE- INQUIRED AS TO WHY MIKE GUTONSKI IS NO LONGER EMPLOYED WITH THE BOROUGH. SOLICITOR REGOLI RESPONDED THAT IT'S A PERSONNEL ISSUE AND COUNCIL ISN'T PERMITTED TO COMMENT.
2. GEORGIE BLACKBURN- CONSTITUTION STREET- INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER OR NOT MIKE GUTONSKI IS PERMITTED TO COMMENT ON HIS SEPARATION FROM THE BOROUGH AND WANTS CLARIFICATION ON HIS RIGHT TO PRIVACY. REGOLI STATED THAT MIKE IS ALLOWED TO COMMENT.
3. JIM BOWSER- 314 WEST 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- "WANTS IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON". AGAIN, REGOLI RESPONDED THAT IT'S A PERSONNEL ISSUE.

4. GINA LANDA- 512 EAST 6<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- INQUIRED AS TO WHAT'S INCLUDED IN MIKE'S SEVERENCE PACKAGE. REGOLI RESPONDED THAT IT'S A PERSONNEL MATTER BUT DID SAY THAT IT IS FOR 5 MONTHS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNCIL MET IN EXEC SESSION ON 9/1/17 FOR 1.5 HOURS FOR PERSONNEL REASONS.

COUNCIL MET IN EXEC SESSION ON 9/8/17 FOR 1.5 HOURS FOR PERSONNEL REASONS.

AGENDA: (READ BY DAVE REGOLI)

1. MOTION BY CARRIE FOX TO RATIFY THE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY OF MIKE GUTONSKI FROM THE POSITION OF BOROUGH MANAGER ON 9/1/17, SECONDED BY ERIKA JOSEFOSKI. ROLL CALL VOTE 6 YEA, 1 ABSENT, 0 NAY. MOTION PASSED.
2. MOTION BY CARRIE FOX TO APPROVE THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM MIKE GUTONSKI THAT HE SEPARATED HIS EMPLOYMENT AS AN AT-WILL EMPLOYEE EFFECTIVE 9/13/17, SECONDED BY ADAM BLYTHE. ROLL CALL VOTE 6 YEA, 1 ABSENT, 0 NAY. MOTION PASSED.
3. MOTION BY CARRIE FOX TO APPROVE THE SEVERENCE AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE OF CLAIMS BETWEEN MIKE GUTONSKI AND THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, SECONDED BY ADAM BLYTHE. ROLL CALL VOTE 6 YEA, 1 ABSENT, 0 NAY. MOTION PASSED.
4. MOTION BY CARRIE FOX TO RATIFY THE TWO-WEEK SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY OF ROBERT BETTS EFFECTIVE 9/11/17, SECONDED BY ADAM BLYTHE. ROLL CALL VOTE 6 YEA, 1 ABSENT, 0 NAY. MOTION PASSED.
5. MOTION BY ADAM BLYTHE TO AUTHORIZE COUNCIL TO ADVERTISE FOR THE POSITION OF BOROUGH MANAGER, SECONDED BY CARRIE FOX. ROLL CALL VOTE 6 YEA, 1 ABSENT, 0 NAY. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. GINA LANDA- 512 EAST 6<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO IS RUNNING THE BOROUGH OPERATIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF A BOROUGH MANAGER. SOLICITOR REGOLI RESPONDED THAT THE OFFICE STAFF IS TAKING ON EXTRA WORK AND COUNCIL IS WORKING WITH THEIR COMMITTEES.
2. LARRY TROUTMAN- 333 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE- INQUIRED AS TO WHY THIS COUNCIL MEETING TOOK SO LONG TO TAKE PLACE. SOLICITOR REGOLI STATED THAT WE HAD TO WAIT FOR THE SEVEN-DAY EXPIRATION OF THE SEVERENCE AGREEMENT, WHICH EXPIRED THURSDAY, 9/21/17.
3. CHARLES BLACKBURN- CONSTITUTION STREET- WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF TARENTUM HAS SUFFERED A FINANCIAL LOSS DUE TO THE ACTIONS THAT PRECEDED THIS ACTION. REGOLI RESPONDED THAT ANSWERING THAT QUESTION WOULD VIOLATE MIKE'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY.

4. GEORGIE BLACKBURN- CONSTITUTION STREET- INQUIRED AS TO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE HADN'T APPROVED THE SEVERENCE PACKAGE. REGOLI STATED THAT WE DID APPROVE IT, AND IF WE HADN'T, MIKE WOULDN'T HAVE RECEIVED IT.
5. JIM BOWSER- 314 WEST 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- STATES THAT HE'S BEEN ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR SEVEN YEARS AND THAT COUNCIL HAD SEEMED TO BE GETTING BETTER, AND NOW "THINGS AREN'T RIGHT".
6. GEORGE EMERICK- 323 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE- ASKED IF MIKE'S POSITION HAS BEEN ADVERTISED YET. HE STATED THAT HE HAS CONTACTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND LOOKS FORWARD TO A MEETING. HE STATED THAT HE'S PAYING OUR SALARIES, HE HAS THE FLOOR, AND HE WOULD LIKE THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TO RESIGN. HE STATED HIS DISTASTE FOR THE DECISION OF COUNCILWOMAN JOSEFOSKI TO MAKE FABEC A PART TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. JOSEFOSKI ANSWERED THAT FABEC IS A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.
7. LARRY TROUTMAN- 333 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE- ASKED IF THERE WILL BE AN INVESTIGATION. SOLICITOR REGOLI STATED THAT THERE WILL NOT BE.
8. JIM BOWSER- 314 WEST 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- ASKED IF THE COUNTY OR DA WAS BROUGHT IN TO INVESTIGATE. REGOLI STATED THAT NO OUTSIDE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CALLED IN TO INVESTIGATE.
9. LARRY TROUTMAN- 333 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE- ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY "ILL HAPPENINGS" AND ASKED IF WE HAD CONTACTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. REGOLI STATED THAT WE CANNOT COMMENT ON PERSONNEL ISSUES AND THAT WE HAVEN'T CONTACTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.
10. 10. GEORGIE BLACKBURN- CONSTITUTION STREET- STATED THAT TRANSPARENCY IS BEST, AND NOTED THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PERSONNEL MATTER AND A CRIMINAL MATTER, AND ASKED IF THIS IS A CRIMINAL MATTER. SOLICITOR REGOLI STATED THAT IT ISN'T A CRIMINAL MATTER.
11. LARRY TROUTMAN- 333 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE- ASKED IF ANYONE HAD ASKED FOR A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. REGOLI RESPONDED THAT WE DIDN'T REQUEST A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.
12. COUNCILMAN TIM CORNUET- STATED FOR THE RECORD (DIRECTED AT JIM BOWSER) THAT HE (CORNUET) ISN'T LAUGHING AND HE ISN'T HAPPY ABOUT THIS SITUATION.
13. JIM BOWSER- 314 WEST 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- STATED THAT COUNCILMAN CORNUET SHOULDN'T HAVE RETURNED TO COUNCIL, AND ASKED WHAT BROUGHT ALL OF THIS ON. REGOLI STATED THAT WE AREN'T ALLOWED TO COMMENT ON PERSONNEL ISSUES.
14. CINDY HOMBURG- 530 EAST 10<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- ASKED WHERE WE WILL BE ADVERTISING THE BOROUGH MANAGER POSITION. COUNCILWOMAN JOSEFOSKI ANSWERED THAT WE WILL BE ADVERTISING WITH THE PSAB.
15. JIM BOWSER- 314 WEST 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- ASKED IF A COUNCILPERSON WILL BE TAKING OVER THE POSITION OF BOROUGH MANAGER. REGOLI ANSWERED THAT WE WILL NOT BE.
16. MAYOR CARL MAGNETTA- STATED THAT HE AGREES WITH THE COMMENTS MADE BY GEORGE EMERICK "100%" AND ADDED THAT COUNCIL ISN'T ALLOWED TO COMMENT ON THIS MATTER.
17. JIM BOWSER 314 WEST 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE- STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE TARENTUM.

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY TIM CORNUET, SECONDED BY ERIKA JOSEFOSKI.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AFTER APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR.