

New Providence, New Jersey  
March 28, 2009

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of New Providence, County of Union and State of New Jersey was held on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the Municipal Center. Mayor John A. Thoms called the meeting to order.

Present On Roll Call: Mayor Thoms, Councilman Galluccio, Councilman Gennaro, Councilman Hern, Councilman Vyzas

Absent: Councilman Cucco, Council President MacDermott,

Also Present: None

Also Present: Borough Administrator Marvin, Borough Clerk Barry, Chief Financial Officer DeRoberts

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Notice

Mayor Thoms stated this is a public meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of New Providence, County of Union and State of New Jersey. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, in that an annual notice or revision was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

Agenda Items:

1. 2009 Municipal Budget: Gennaro/DeRoberts/Marvin

Mayor Thoms reviewed the work of the finance committee and the budget process.

Councilman Gennaro, Finance Committee Chairman spoke about the budget process and budget decisions which have to be addressed. Councilman Gennaro noted that if Council made no reductions to appropriation requests the borough would have a double digit percent increase over last years budget and well as appropriations would also exceed the cap limit.

Councilman Gennaro and Chief Financial Officer DeRoberts outlined one option being considered by Council which would result in a 3.7% increase this option included the following budget impacts:

- Furloughs for non-union employees
- Reduction of staff in the Public Works Department and Police Department
- Elimination of longevity payments for non-union employees

Only purchase one police car

Council continued to discuss various components of the budget.

Councilman Hern requested copies of the budget work sheets.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

This is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues that are not separate topics scheduled for public hearings tonight. To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to five (5) minutes, and may only speak once on any one topic.

Mayor Thoms opened the meeting for public comments.

Dan Henn – Questioned Council on the following items:

Does the Borough impose a hotel occupancy tax?

Has Council considered sale of consumption liquor licenses?

What are the big expense items?

How can Summit increase their budget?

How much of a reduction to Public Works and Police is being considered?

Anthony Buccelli – commented that the Police Department budget has been flat for the last 4 years, and questioned how much surplus is being anticipated in this budget.

Keith Lynch – commented that the Construction and Zoning Department budgets have also been flat for the past 4 years. Mr. Lynch also noted that the unions have not felt the same impact as the non-union employees noting that last year non-union employees received 2% increase and this year no increase and possible furloughs and loss of longevity.

Nancy Pasquale – questioned what type of savings is being realized as a result of the re-organization of the Engineering Department.

Susan DeLuise – Asked Council if things will get better next year for the employees.

Maxine Hirsch – Asked Council to hire someone for a few hours to replace some of the hours lost with the resignation of Diane McAneny, noting that this represents a 40% reduction to services. Ms. Hirsch also questioned if Council has investigated plowing and collecting leaves on county roads and charging the county for the service.

Dan Henn – asked the Council for more clarification on the use of surplus in the budget.

Susan DeLuise – asked Council how long the employee benefit reductions were for.

Joan Buday – asked Council if longevity payments would be restored next year.

Peggy Brodeur – asked if the part-time employees would be impacted, noting how the reductions would affect the seniors.

Keith Lynch – commented on fee enhancements proposed by his department that have been rejected by Council.

Nancy Pasquale – Spoke about imposing a residential sewer user fee and asked whether this would work against the cap.

Chief Buccelli – Questioned the reasoning of deferring equipment purchase noting the impact the deferral would have in future year's. Chief Buccelli asked whether this budget addressed the replacement of Captain Catallo (retired). Chief Buccelli asked for a Public Safety Committee meeting ASAP to address the impact on operations.

Donna Sarna –indicated that while staff pay would be cut, property taxes will still increase and the employees will still hear complaints from the public about their tax bill.

Bea Reinacher – wanted to know what the school is doing about their budget increases and whether anyone has asked their unions for concessions? Ms. Reinacher indicated that she would rather see a furlough than layoffs.

Keith Lynch – Questioned whether a revaluation of property taxes would be appropriate at this time.

Chief Buccelli – Stated that his budget has been flat for the past four years. He further stated that he would like to consider a shared dispatch within the old rescue squad building where New Providence would provide the service for Summit and Berkeley heights and charge them for the service.

Mayor Thoms closed the public comment portion of the meeting and thanked everyone for their comments.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Resolution 2009-5a “Resolution Establishing March 28, 2009 As The Date, and 10:45 A.M. As The Time, And The Municipal Center As The Place, For The Holding Of A Special Meeting Of The Mayor And Council Of The Borough Of New Providence, To Discuss Personnel Matters, At Which Time The Public Will Be Excluded”

Councilman Gennaro moved passage or Resolution 2009-5a “Resolution Establishing March 28, 2009 As The Date, and 10:45 A.M. As The Time, And The Municipal Center As The Place, For The Holding Of A Special Meeting Of The Mayor And Council Of The Borough Of New Providence, To Discuss Personnel Matters, At Which Time The Public Will Be Excluded”. Seconded by Councilman Galluccio and on Roll Call:

Councilman Gennaro, Councilman Galluccio,  
Councilman Hern and Councilman Vyzas voted “aye”.  
Carried on Roll Call.

On motion by Councilman Gennaro, seconded by  
Councilman Galluccio the meeting was reopened to  
the public.

Council decided the next budget session would be April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Budget workbooks would be distributed to all members.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Hern, seconded by Councilman Vyzas the meeting was  
adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi B. Barry, Borough Clerk

Douglas R. Marvin, Borough Administrator

These minutes have not been officially approved.