

**REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
December 23, 2020**

Meeting called to order via ZOOM at 7:00 p.m. by President McGuigan with a salute to the flag.

Roll call was recorded as follows:

Present: Johnston, D’Adamo, Toto, Owen, Gerety, McGuigan

Absent: Dill

Also Present: Mayor Glasser, Administrator Swain, Assistant City Administrator Frost, City Clerk Samuelson, Deputy City Clerk Heath, City Solicitor Thomas Smith, Engineer Greg Schneider

Open Public Meetings Act:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided. Agenda for this meeting has been provided to two local newspapers and posted in the City Clerk’s Office and on the City’s website, somerspointgov.org. The meeting was held via ZOOM platform due to the pandemic of COVID-19. Council President McGuigan announced the instructions for joining the meeting electronically.

Communications:

None

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Glasser thanked Council President McGuigan for all his hard work this year, especially for his help with putting together this years Holiday Parade where Parade Grand Co-Marshall Administrator Wes Swain was honored. Mayor Glasser stated that this event was needed by the residents after a tough year. He reported that he seen many smiles on the faces of the many parents and children that watched the parade. Mayor Glasser thanked Councilmen D’Adamo, Gerety and Toto for their many years of service to the City. He wished the Councilmen the best of luck in their future endeavors. Mayor Glasser reported that Police Captain Michael Sweeney has retired from the Police Department. He wished Captain Sweeney the best of luck in his retirement. Mayor Glasser also informed City Council that on Tuesday, 12/29/20 Police Lieutenant Jack Sementa and Police Sergeant Rick Dill will be sworn in and encouraged members of Council to attend. Mayor Glasser wished everyone Happy Holidays and hopes for a happy and healthy New Year.

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Administrator's Report:

City Administrator Swain reported that he was asked to serve as Co Grand Marshall of the Holiday Parade. He stated that he got to know Santa better, and it was heartwarming to see the reaction of the people and to know they were having a little fun during this year of strife. He appreciates the opportunity and had quite a bit of fun.

Solicitors Report:

Solicitor Smith thanked everyone on City Council and City employees for the work they have done with him this year and hopes everyone has a nice holiday.

Committee Reports:

None

Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Councilman Toto, seconded of Councilman Owen and carried to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 5/28/20, 9/24/20 and 12/10/2020 were approved.

Resolutions:

Council President McGuigan read by title only the list of resolutions.

The meeting was duly opened to the public. Hearing nothing further from the public, this portion was duly closed.

Resolution No. 205 of 2020

M/S- Toto/Johnston

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

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Councilman Toto thanked the Garden Club not only for the wreaths but also for all the other work they do for the City throughout the year. He stated that they do a really nice job and add flavor to the City.

Council President McGuigan conveyed his agreement with Councilman Toto and stated that the Garden Club are a very strong and active club and a great asset to the community.

No. 205 of 2020

Subject: Thanking the Green Thumb Garden Club of Somers Point

Introduced by: Councilman Toto

WHEREAS, The Green Thumb Garden Club is an iconic institution in Somers Point, providing various landscaping activities and ideas for many members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the club has had many landscaping and garden contests throughout the years, which have increased the awareness of the horticultural arts and encourage homeowners to continue to beautify their homes; and

WHEREAS, the club was gracious in donating two hand-made Christmas wreaths, which will adorn the front doors of City Hall that will add to the magic of the season for all those who enter;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the work of the Green Thumb Garden Club has had a positive impact over many decades in the City of Somers Point.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the City Council conveys their gratitude to The Club for the beautiful wreathes on behalf of the city employees and visitors to City Hall.

ALSO BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the City Council wishes the Garden Club a festive and happy holiday season.

Resolution No. 206 of 2020

M/S- Owen/Toto

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

No. 206 of 2020

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Subject: Fixing the Date of the Annual Organization Meeting of the Somers Point City Council

Introduced By:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40-45A-1 provides that a municipality in which any of the members of the governing body are elected for terms commencing on January 1 may, by ordinance, fix the date and time of its annual reorganization meeting at a specified day and hour during the first week of January; and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 5 of 1988 which has been codified as Section A266-2 in the Somers Point Municipal Code as supplemented and amended by Ordinance No. 32 of 2014, the annual organization meeting of the City Council is to be held commencing at 7:00 p.m. on a weeknight during the first week in January.

Now, therefore, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that the 2021 Organization Meeting of the Somers Point City Council shall be held on January 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the meeting will be held via ZOOM platform.

It is further, **RESOLVED** that the City Clerk shall cause a public notice of the Organization Meeting to be posted and published in compliance with the requirements of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

Resolution No. 207 of 2020

M/S- Toto/D'Adamo

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

Mayor Glasser stated that Mr.Gogol is a long time employee of the City of Somers Point. He stated that there were many nights that Ted went above and beyond, and he will be greatly missed.

Councilman D'Adamo stated that Mr. Gogol is a great person, employee and friend to all and he appreciates his service to the City of Somers Point.

Council President McGuigan stated that over the years he has received many phone calls from residents stating their experience with the Sewer Department was great. He stated Mr. Gogol always came to work with his best foot forward and that he will be severely missed.

City Administrator, Wes Swain, echoed what has been said about Mr. Gogol by the other Councilmen. He stated that Ted is a special employee and has always had the best interest of the

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sewer system and the people of the City of Somers Point at heart. He stated that Mr. Gogol has done an excellent job.

Councilman Owen wished Mr. Gogol the best of luck in his future endeavors and hopes Mr. Gogol enjoys his retirement.

Mr. Gogol was very appreciative of all the comments and was honored and happy to serve the City.

No. 207 of 2020

Saluting Theodore Gogol

WHEREAS, Theodore Gogol began his career with Somers Point Sewage Authority in December of 1997; and

WHEREAS, during the years Ted rose through the ranks to lead the department; and

WHEREAS, Ted brought an unparalleled passion for his work to the job and was a real asset to the City, formulating a long-range maintenance program for the extensive sewer system; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his dedication to his profession, Ted also served the children of Somers Point as a volunteer coach for a number of years for several of the youth programs in the City; and

Now therefore, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council recognize and thank Theodore Gogol for his dedication and service to the City of Somers Point; and

It is further **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the City Council, on behalf of the Citizens of Somers Point, convey their gratitude and best wishes to Ted in his retirement years of Somers Point.

Resolution No. 208 of 2020

M/S-Gerety/Owen

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

Mayor Glasser stated that Mr. Somers has done a great job. He added that he will always picture him driving the street sweeper around the City. He mentioned that Mr. Somers is another employee who always put their best forward. Mayor Glasser wished Mr. Somers the best in his retirement.

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Councilman Toto stated that Mr. Somers is an extraordinary man for what he has done for the City. Councilman Toto appreciated Mr. Somer's time here and thanked him for his dedication to the City. He mentioned that Mr. Somers will be genuinely missed. Councilman Toto also thanked Mr. Gogol for his years of service. Councilman Toto thanked both Mr. Gogol and Mr. Somers for always representing the City in the most professional matter.

Councilman D'Adamo reiterated Councilman Toto's remarks. Council D'Adamo recalled the many Veteran's events he has attended in the past. Mr. Somers was always at these events. Councilman D'Adamo stated that Mr. Somers is a great person to be around.

City Administrator, Wes Swain, stated that it is mind boggling to think about working the same job for nearly 50 years. Administrator Swain stated that Mr. Somers is a great guy and wished him well in his retirement.

Council President McGuigan stated that every interaction he has had with Mr. Somers has been very pleasant. He mentioned that Mr. Somers did his job well and he earned his retirement.

Mr. Somers conveyed his appreciation to Mayor and City Council. He indicated that he has enjoyed his time working for the City.

No. 208 of 2020

Saluting Leon "Bruce" Somers

WHEREAS, Leon "Bruce" Somers is a long-time resident of the city of Somers Point; and

WHEREAS, Bruce started with the City of Somers Point's Department of Public Works on December 16, 1971; and

WHEREAS, for the next nearly fifty years Bruce showed up for work to do his job and do it well; and

WHEREAS, without failure, Bruce had a smile on his face and a sunny disposition when he checked in each day; and

WHEREAS, Bruce, who is closing in on his 70th birthday and looking forward to spending more time with his beautiful wife Eleanor, has decided to retire; and

Now therefore, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council recognize and thank Leon "Bruce" Somers for unwavering dedication and service to the City of Somers Point; and

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It is further **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the City Council, on behalf of the Citizens of Somers Point, convey their gratitude and best wishes to Bruce in his retirement years of Somers Point.

Resolution No. 209 of 2020

M/S- Dill/D'Adamo

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

Mayor Glasser stated that since he was first elected, Mr. Swain has always been the corner stone of this town. Mayor Glasser stated that Wes has been a mentor and Somers Point is a better place because Wes worked here. On behalf of a grateful City, Mayor Glasser wished Mr. Swain well in his retirement.

Councilman Toto thanked Mr. Swain for his guidance, advise, history of Somers Point, his humor and friendship. Councilman Toto stated that Mr. Swain will be dearly missed.

Councilman D'Adamo reiterated Councilman Toto's remarks and thanked Mr. Swain for his years of service to the City.

Councilwoman Johnston thanked Mr. Swain for the help he provided to her as a new Council Member. Councilwoman Johnston wished Mr. Swain well in his retirement.

Councilman Owen stated that over the past few decades, Mr. Swain has led the City to what it is. He stated that Mr. Swain will be greatly missed and wished him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Councilman Gerety stated that the Mr. Swain and himself had a great working relationship and he wishes him well in the future.

Council President McGuigan expressed his appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Swain's years of service. Council President McGuigan stated that he hopes Wes enjoys his retirement and wishes his family well. Council President McGuigan mentioned that Mr. Swain will always hold a special place in his heart.

Administrator Wes Swain stated that he is glad this resolution passed. He thanked the Mayors, Members of Council and professionals that he has served with over the past 26 years. He especially thanked the employees of the City. He believes that the City has a great team that will carry on without him; however, he will miss working with them.

No. 209 of 2020

Saluting William "Wes" Swain

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WHEREAS, William “Wes” Swain is a long-time resident of the City of Somers Point;
and

WHEREAS, Wes has served as the City Administrator for the City for more than a quarter century; and

WHEREAS, Wes previously served as an elected official and City Council President; and

WHEREAS, Wes has been an active football coach with Somers Point Sharks for many decades, imparting the special techniques of offensive line play to several generations of children; and

WHEREAS, Wes brought an encyclopedia’s worth of knowledge and an intellect unrivaled to the job; and

WHEREAS, many Council Members benefited from Wes’s wise counsel; and

WHEREAS, after all these years, Wes has decided to retire to spend more time with his family and to pursue a myriad of other interests; and

Now therefore, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council recognize and thank William “Wes” Swain for his many years of service and dedication to the City of Somers Point; and

It is further **RESOLVED** that the City Council of Somers Point wish that the wind always be at Wes’s back and the sun upon his face.

Resolution No. 210 of 2020

M/S- Owen/Toto

This resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

On the motion of Councilman Toto, seconded by Councilman D’Adamo and carried to amend the Resolution to read “Calendar Year 2021.”

No. 210 of 2020

Subject: **Resolution Authorizing the City of Somers Point Police Department to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program to Enable the Somers Point Police Department to Request and Acquire Excess Department of Defense Equipment**

Introduced By: **Council President McGuigan and Councilman Dill**

Whereas, the United States Congress authorized the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) 1033 Program to make use of excess Department of

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Defense personal property by making that personal property available to municipal, county and State law enforcement agencies (LEAs); and

Whereas, DLA rules mandate that all equipment acquired through the 1033 Program remain under the control of the requesting LEA; and

Whereas, participation in the 1033 Program allows municipal and County LEAs to obtain property they might not otherwise be able to afford in order to enhance community preparedness, response, and resiliency; and

Whereas, although property is provided through the 1033 Program at no cost to municipal and county LEAs, these entities are responsible for the costs associated with delivery, maintenance, fueling, and upkeep of the property, and for specialized training on the operation of any acquired property; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A.40A:5-30.2 requires that the Governing Body of the municipality or county approve, by a majority of the full membership, both enrollment in, and the acquisition of any property through, the 1033 Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the Police Department is hereby authorized to enroll in the 1033 Program for no more than a one-year period, with authorization to participate, terminating on December 31 of the current calendar year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somers Point Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire items of non-controlled property designated “DEMIL A,” which may include office supplies, office furniture, computers, electronic equipment, generators, field packs, non-military vehicles, clothing, traffic and transit signal systems, exercise equipment, farming and moving equipment, storage devices and containers, tools, medical and first aid equipment and supplies, beds and sleeping mats, wet and cold weather equipment and supplies, respirators, binoculars and any other supplies or equipment of non-military nature identified by the LEA, if it shall become available in the period of time for which this resolution authorizes, based on the needs of the Somers Point Police Department without restriction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Somers Point Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire the following “DEMIL B through Q” property, if it shall become available in the period of time for which this resolution authorizes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the “DEMIL B through Q” controlled 3-page property list in its entirety is hereby approved and hereto attached to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Somers Point Police Department shall develop and implement a full training plan and policy for the maintenance and use of the acquired property.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Somers Point Police Department shall provide a quarterly accounting of all property obtained through the 1033 Program which shall be available to the public upon request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately and shall be valid to authorize requests to acquire “DEMIL A” property and “DEMIL B through Q” property that may be made available through the 1033 Program during the period of time which this resolution authorizes; with Program participation and all property request authorization terminating on December 31st of the 2021 calendar year.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Somers Point Logo: City Council concurred to proceed with reregistering the City of Somers Point trademark.

Discussion of Bills:

Administrator Swain reported a Record of Payments dated 12/16/20 in the amount of \$26,254.53, a Record of Payments dated 12/21/20 in the amount of \$876,244.70, a Record of Payments dated 12/21/20 in the amount of \$1,618.73, and a Bill List dated 12/21/20 in the amount of \$652,501.18.

Councilman Owen questioned a line item on the bill list. Administrator Swain explained it is for the purchase of a 2020 Ford F450 Dump Truck.

Public Portion:

The meeting was duly opened to the public. Hearing nothing further from the public, this portion was duly closed.

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Payment of Bills:

M/S – Owen/Toto

The Bill List was approved by a unanimous vote of those present. A complete list of bills is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Adjournment:

Councilman Owen and Mayor Glasser wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Gerety thanked the employees of the City of Somers Point. He stated that he has enjoyed his tenure here as City Councilman and hopes to see everyone around. He wished Jason Frost the best of luck in his new position.

Councilman Toto thanked Council President McGuigan for his leadership on Council this year. He thanked the Mayor, Council Members and all the Departments of the City. He thanked the citizens for allowing him to serve on City Council.

Assistant Administrator Frost thanked the outgoing City Council Members, and the employees who are retiring. Additionally, he thanked Mr. Swain for his mentorship and guidance throughout the years.

Councilman D'Adamo thanked everyone elected him and thanked the people he served with for making it a pleasure.

Council President McGuigan thanked the outgoing Council Members. He stated that he knows it is not always easy to serve the community, and he appreciates their service as a citizen and a fellow Council Member. He stated that he will miss each of them. Council President McGuigan stated that he hopes everyone stays healthy, has a happy holiday season and looks forward to the New Year.

There being no further business to come before City Council, Councilman Toto moved, Councilman D'Adamo seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy R. Samuelsen, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Approved: 1/14/2021