

**MINUTES OF THE WORKING SESSION OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW
JERSEY, HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2015 IN THE ANNEX BUILDING AT 7:00 PM.**

A working session meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park was convened in the Annex Building, 504 Road A, Audubon Park, NJ on Monday, February 16, 2015, at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Pennock requested all stand for the flag salute.

Mayor Pennock announced that Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 requires adequate notice of this meeting be provided. This was done by placing Annual Notice in the Courier-Post and Retrospect Newspapers and by posting on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Carpinelli, Councilman Delengowski, Councilwoman Jones, and Councilwoman Lewis were present. Councilwoman DiPasquale (excused) and Councilwoman Hook (excused) were absent.

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION #2015:25
BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK
COUNTY OF CAMDEN**

Municipal Support for Responsible Pet Ownership Programs in the Community

RECOGNIZING that cats and dogs are an integral and valuable part of all communities, and contribute to the well-being of humans, whether as companions, service animals, or therapy pets, and

UNDERSTANDING that municipalities have an important role in ensuring the well-being of animals while balancing the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners.

WHEREAS legislators and municipal officials report that the number of calls from citizens about animal related issues rival any other issue(s);

WHEREAS there are approximately 2.2 million owned dogs and 2.5 million owned cats in New Jersey;

WHEREAS New Jersey was the first state in the nation to develop an innovative state-wide spay/neuter program and all proceeds from the sale of Animal Friendly License Plates are used to reimburse participating veterinarians for spaying and neutering surgeries;

WHEREAS State responsibility for promoting responsible pet care and ensuring that pets do not suffer due to abuse, neglect, or lack of proper care in kennels, pet shops, shelters, and pounds (animal facilities) is vested in the Office of Animal Welfare within the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services;

WHEREAS The New Jersey Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) and municipal Animal Cruelty Investigators (ACIs) are responsible for investigating and acting as officers for the detection, apprehension, and arrest of offenders against the animal cruelty laws;

WHEREAS New Jersey mandates training requirements for animal control officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators;

WHEREAS New Jersey impounds over 100,000 animals per year in animal shelters and impoundment facilities;

WHEREAS approximately 37% of the animals that enter New Jersey's impoundment facilities are euthanized, at a rate of around 3000 every month;

WHEREAS free-roaming unvaccinated cats and dogs present a potential health threat to humans through the spread of such zoonotic diseases as rabies, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, roundworms, animal bites, and environmental contamination from animal feces;

WHEREAS stray and unwanted pets place an enormous financial burden on municipalities and non-profit humane agencies organized to care for these animals; WHEREAS it is more humane and cost-effective to reduce the number of unwanted animals than it is to impound and euthanize unwanted or unclaimed dogs and cats;

WHEREAS all dogs are required to be licensed in the municipality where they are housed and the majority of municipalities also require licensure of cats.

WHEREAS all municipalities are required to canvass their residents to locate unlicensed dogs;

NOW THEREFORE, we the municipality of Audubon Park, resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal responsibilities with the intent of making Audubon Park a truly sustainable community.

It is our intent to do our utmost, within the bounds of our jurisdiction, to ensure that companion animals are treated humanely, respectfully, and responsibly through public education and through exercise of powers vested within New Jersey municipalities as follows:

Authority of municipalities:

Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes, all municipalities must appoint a certified animal control officer who shall be responsible for animal control within the jurisdiction of the municipality, including providing emergency veterinary care for injured stray animals and coverage outside of normal working hours;

The municipality in which an animal facility is located is responsible for issuing the license for that facility to operate;

The NJ Vicious Dog Law establishes a state-wide standard for municipalities to effectively address situations of vicious or potentially dangerous dogs, regardless of breed;

The Animal Population Control Program provides for low-cost spaying and neutering for pet owners adopting dogs and cats from New Jersey shelters, pounds, and animal adoption referral agencies and pet owners participating in one of several Public Assistance Programs.

The Municipality pledges to:

- Enforce all animal and rabies control statutes and regulations, including the requirement to pick up and impound all stray dogs and cats, excepting stray and feral cats in managed TNR programs.
- Work to improve the enforcement of animal cruelty statutes.
- Educate our community, including school children, about their responsibilities towards the pet animals they chose to keep.
- Institute, as appropriate, cat licensing ordinances and increase the percentage of licensed dogs and cats through ease of licensing and licensing enforcement measures.
- Identify and work to implement best practices to prevent unwanted breeding through effective animal control, availability of low-cost pet spaying and neutering services, public education, and pet-friendly rental and senior housing.

- Identify alternatives to euthanasia of adoptable companion animals, including utilizing foster homes, adoption networks and providing remedial behavior training services to existing and future owners.
- Assist in identifying resources to improve the conditions and increase the capacity of animal shelters and impoundment facilities and animal control services.

**RESOLUTION #2015:26
CREATING THE AUDUBON PARK GREEN TEAM**

WHEREAS, the Mayors' Committee for a Green Future of the New Jersey League of Municipalities has promulgated a municipal certification program and organization called Sustainable Jersey ("Sustainable Jersey"); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Sustainable Jersey is to enlist municipalities in a concerted and organized state-wide effort to improve the environment and promote sustainability; and

WHEREAS, a municipality can achieve certification by Sustainable Jersey if it legitimately pursues sufficient "actions" delineated in the program to accumulate 100 points; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Audubon Park has completed the first precondition action toward certification by registering with the program, accomplished by Resolution # 2013:48 dated August 5, 2013, and other "actions" toward certification: and

WHEREAS, Sustainable Jersey has been linked to financial incentives provided by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the Department of Environmental Protection, and also to grants by Walmart, Inc.: and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of Sustainable Jersey state that "IT IS MANDATORY THAT ALL COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY PROGRAM ESTABLISH A GREEN TEAM"; and

WHEREAS, as part of its initial registration, the Borough of Audubon Park indicated that it will establish a Green Team: and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Audubon Park does not wish to have a redundancy in its official organizations and personnel and already has an municipal official spearheading environmental initiatives as Clean Communities Coordinator and Recycling Coordinator, Barbara Prince: and

WHEREAS, the Borough designates Sandra Hook to perform the executive functions for the Sustainable Jersey Program with the support of the Mayor and Borough Council as part of the "team";

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, by the Borough of Audubon Park, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Borough of Audubon Park wishes to pursue certification by Sustainable Jersey and establish the required Green Team.
2. The governing body, interested private citizens shall become the members of the Green Team.
3. The full membership of the Green Team shall be opened so as to be inclusive, and shall be drawn from the list of suggested persons and organizations set forth by Sustainable Jersey.
4. It shall be the goal of the Audubon Park Green Team to assure that the Borough's "community is working together in a coordinated fashion to create a more sustainable set of goals, policies, and actions," as provided by the Sustainable Jersey program.

RESOLUTION 2015:27

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY CALLING ON THE LEGISLATURE TO FIX THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND AND UNFREEZE FUNDING TO MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has suspended local transportation aid to municipalities where the importance of fully functioning, safe infrastructure is paramount; and

WHEREAS, fixing the Transportation Trust Fund will not only improve infrastructure, but it will take the burden off local taxpayers and local budgets, that couldn't possibly afford to undertake the costs of road reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, in addition to freezing these funds, the DOT will begin to inspect almost 300 of New Jersey's structurally deficient bridges, with the implication of being that any bridge deemed unsafe for public use will be closed to traffic immediately; and

WHEREAS, the crippling impact on communities when there are closures will only be avoided if our leaders in Trenton take action now to fix the Transportation Trust Fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park strongly urge the Legislature to fix the Transportation Trust Fund and unfreeze funding to municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this duly adopted resolution be forwarded to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Assemblyman Angel Fuentes, Assemblyman Gilbert Wilson, Governor Chris Christie, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

The above-resolutions were approved by consent agenda with a motion made by Councilman Delengowski, seconded by Councilman Carpinelli. Roll call vote: Councilman Carpinelli-yes, Councilman Delengowski-yes, Councilwoman Jones, and Councilwoman Lewis-yes.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The following topics were discussed by Mayor and Borough Council:

- Salary for part-time librarian – *motion was made by Councilwoman Lewis to pay the librarian \$10.00 per hour, seconded by Councilman Delengowski. Roll call vote: Councilman Carpinelli-yes, Councilman Delengowski-yes, Councilwoman Jones-no, and Councilwoman Lewis-yes.*
- Salary for part-time office help – *motion made by Councilman Carpinelli to pay the part-time office help \$14.00 per hour, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis. Roll call vote:*

Councilman Carpinelli-yes, Councilman Delengowski-yes, Councilwoman Jones-no, and Councilwoman Hook-yes.

- Revenues vs. Appropriations for the MPB – the clerk reported that receipts for the rental building totaled \$13,570.00 with disbursements totaling 16,796.03 meaning a loss of **\$3,226.03**. The Borough anticipated \$10,000 in revenue in the 2014 Municipal Budget for the rental building and collected only \$9,000. Therefore, only \$9,000 can be anticipated in revenue in the 2015 budget.
- Tippie Toes Update – the Mayor informed the Borough Council that the Court Case will be heard on February 26th at 8:45 AM.
- Ball Field/Compost Update – The Borough Council requested that the Borough Solicitor move forward with the Ball Field/Compost Area action even though the Board of Trustees have agreed to let recreational vehicles stay in town.
- Draft Dog Ordinance – the Clerk informs the Mayor and Borough Council that CherylLynn Walters, Esquire has requested that they review the Draft Dog Ordinance and get back to her with any comments or changes.
- Dedication of YR 37 CDBG Funds – the Mayor informed the Borough Council that the Ball Field would be a good project for the YR 37 CDBG Funds and that determination would need to be made by March 2nd so that the paperwork can be returned to CDBG by March 11, 2015. The amount of the award is \$24,100.00.

NO PUBLIC PRESENT

Councilman Carpinelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM, seconded by Councilman Delengowski. All ayes.

DAWN M. PENNOCK, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK