

May 13, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council convened in the Borough Hall at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Stemberger presiding.

FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION:

Invocation was given by Mayor Stemberger, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Stemberger noted that PURSUANT TO THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING, AS REQUIRED BY SAID ACT, HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY CONTACTING EACH COUNCIL MEMBER, POSTING SCHEDULED MEETING ON THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING BULLETIN BOARD, EMAILED TO the *ELMER TIMES* and *SOUTH JERSEY TIMES* AND FILED WITH THE BOROUGH CLERK ON JANUARY 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL:

President Schneider, Councilpersons Davis, Richards, Schalick, and Mayor Joseph P. Stemberger answered to the roll call. Absent –Nolan and Zee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Davis, seconded Richards to approve minutes from Elmer Borough Council Meeting on April 8, 2015 and that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. Motion carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Schneider, Davis, Richards and Schalick, Nays – None. Motion carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

.Motion Davis, seconded Schneider to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried.

Roy Duffield asked if Council had any questions regarding the letter he had given Council regarding Tax Appeals.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion Davis, seconded Richards to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The following resolutions were presented by the Clerk by title only:

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE # 37

Number 35-15

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, County of Salem, and State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Borough Chief Financial Officer be authorized to execute a Bond Anticipation Note, which Note shall be designated as Bond Anticipation Note No. 37 and that the monies be borrowed thereon from Pennsville National Bank, in the sum of One Hundred Seventy

Two Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$172,500.00) and shall bear interest at the rate of .92 per cent per annum, which money shall be used to pay for the refurbishment of the exterior of the Elmer Borough Hall. The said Note would be made payable within a period of one (1) year.

**RESOLUTION
ACCEPTING BEQUEST AND AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN
REFUNDING BOND AND RELEASE
FROM THE WILLIAM HALUSZKA ESTATE**

Number 36-15

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, County of Salem and State of New Jersey, that the Borough graciously accepts the bequest and authorizes the Mayor to execute the Refunding Bond and Release from the William Haluszka Estate in the amount of \$100,000.00.

RESOLUTION

Number 37-15

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING EVAN JESSE PIKE ON ATTAING THE DESIGNATION OF
EAGLE SCOUT, SCOUTING’S HIGHEST AWARD**

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2015, Evan Jesse Pike, who has completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review and obtained the rank of Eagle Scout will be presented with the coveted Eagle Scout Award at the Eagle Court of Honor and is well deserving of this recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout must advance through five ranks, starting with Tenderfoot, then moving to Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and then Eagle. A scout must earn 21 merit badges, and in addition to other requirements he must complete a service project that benefits a non-profit organization within the community; and

WHEREAS, Evan Jesse Pike, a valued member of Boy Scout Troop 1058, is a dedicated young man who has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow scouts through his active participation in the many programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, he has truly exhibited a commitment to the scouting principals of honesty, fairness, and service to the community and has consistently conducted himself in a manner becoming an Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Elmer, recognizes Evan Jesse Pike for his diligence, determination, and dedication in pursuing the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America and congratulate him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF ELMER, SALEM COUNTY:**

Section 1. The Mayor and Borough Council hereby goes on record as recognizing Evan Jesse Pike on attaining the designation of Eagle Scout, Scouting’s highest award.

Section 2. The Borough Clerk is directed to prepare a copy of this Resolution to be presented to Evan Jesse Pike.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Municipal Government of Elmer, Salem County requiring it.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF ENERGY TAXES TO MUNICIPALITIES

Number 38-15

WHEREAS, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

WHEREAS, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties and other entities; the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, for years, though, State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

WHEREAS, while the State may need to have the right to over-ride the statutory dedication of these revenues to local governments, in order to deal with emergencies and crises that may occur; current State policy makers should not exercise that right automatically; and

WHEREAS, while that right should be the exception, it has become the rule; and **WHEREAS**, by using tactics such as reducing CMPTRA, which is also comprised of revenues that should be returned to municipalities, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, from \$72 million in State Fiscal Year 2005, to \$505 million in State Fiscal Year 2011, the State's diversion of Energy Taxes has continued to grow; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 2009 and 2010 (SFY 2009, 2010 and 2011), funding for municipal revenue replacement was slashed by about \$26 million in 2008 and \$32 million in 2009, followed by losses of about \$271 million in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use for these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services;

NOW THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Governing Body of the Borough of Elmer, that we join with the League of Municipalities in calling for the immediate restoration of funding diverted from Energy Taxes intended for local use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, respectfully, call on State policy makers to end the diversion of our municipal resources to cover State spending and to provide us with this important tool to relieve the worst-in-the-nation property tax burden borne, for too long, by the people of New Jersey; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, our State Legislators and the League of Municipalities.

RESOLUTION of the BOROUGH OF ELMER

Number 39-15

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE
THE MAILING OF 2015 THIRD QUARTER ESTIMATED TAX BILLS**

WHEREAS, all the annual budgets needed for **2015** total tax rate for the Borough of Elmer have not been finally set; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Elmer has therefore determined that the Tax Collector will be unable to complete the mailing and delivery of municipal tax bills by **June 30, 2015**; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3 provides the authority and procedures by which an estimated and reconciled tax bill can be set and mailed by a municipality in such case made, by June 30th of the said year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmer as follows:

1. The Tax Collector in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of the Borough of Elmer shall compute an estimated annual tax levy range for the County and each taxing district whose tax levy has not yet been certified by the County Board of Taxation, which as of this date; such levies have not been so certified.
2. The range may be within the lower and upper amounts calculated by multiplying the levy of the County and each such taxing district for the previous calendar year by 0.95 and 1.05.
3. The City CFO has prepared, delivered, and recommends to the governing body a Certification of the previous calendar fiscal year's annual tax levy with a multiplier of 1.05 to determine an estimated annual tax levy for the County and each such taxing district for the current year.
4. The governing body hereby authorizes the CFO, working in conjunction with the Tax Collector, by **June 30, 2015** to prepare and deliver estimated annual tax levy bills for the County and each such taxing district computed by utilizing the multiplier of 1.05 of the previous calendar fiscal year annual tax levy, and thereafter, to be administered in accordance with the procedures and standards as established by N.J.S.A 54: 4-66.3.

Motion Davis, seconded Richards to adopt resolution 33-15 – 39-15. Motion carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Schneider, Davis, Richards and Schalick, Nays – None. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Nolan arrived at the meeting.

The following ordinance was introduced by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-11

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ELMER,
SALEM COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2011-7
ADOPTED ON APRIL 13, 2011**

Motion Nolan, seconded Davis to approve all the above.

Roll Call: Ayes: Schneider, Nolan, Richards and Schalick, Nays – None. Motion carried.

Tax Collector report was presented for April 2015. Motion Davis, seconded Nolan that the report be received and filed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports for the month of April 2015 were presented and read.

Motion Richards, seconded Davis that the reports be received, filed and spread full upon the minutes. Motion carried.

(Treasurer's Reports – See Pages 28 a in Minute Book)

The following bills were presented and read: (See pages 28 b in Minute Book)

Moved Davis, seconded Nolan that the bills be paid and charged to their respective accounts. Ayes –Schneider, Davis, Nolan, Richards, and Schalick. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Clerk and Mayor's mail for the month of May 2015, were presented and read.

Motion Davis, seconded Nolan that the correspondence be received and filed. Motion carried.

DISCUSSIONS/MOTIONS:

The following items were discussed by Mayor and Council:

1. Trash & Recycling non pick-up. (Borough Solicitor Brian Duffield was asked to send a letter to Waste Management documenting the lack of service.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee reports were made at this time: Finance, Streets, Borough Hall/Public Property and Trash/Recycling/Parks & Playgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion Schalick, seconded Richards that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried.

May 13, 2015

Beverly S. Richards, Borough Clerk