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**Council Room Borough of Neptune City**  
**April 11, 2016**

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The Regular Council Meeting of the Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Robert Brown at 7:00 pm.

The Mayor asked everyone to join in on the Flag Salute.

Council Present: C/Pryor, C/Zajack, C/More, C/Renee, C/Wardell, C/Shafer, Mayor Brown  
Absent: none

Mayor Brown announced that the Notice Requirements of Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 have been satisfied by the publication of said notice in the Asbury Park Press, and Coaster and by filing a copy with the Municipal Clerk.

Moved and seconded (Zajack/Pryor) to receive and file February 2016 monthly report for the Neptune City Police Department.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Cliff More from Monmouth County Tax Board is here to explain to the governing body the new model for the new tax program that the county's using. Some of the facts about this assessment demonstration program. Council members, you have a packet in front of you that's about 77 pages. What I'm going to be talking about today, what are the facts and figures supporting evidence for what I'm about to talk about is before you.

Monmouth County has a demonstration program that started three years ago. Before you can understand the demonstration program, I think it's important you understand the old program and how the two compare. Under the old program, prior to the three years, and I need to back up one step. New Jersey we all know is number one in property tax in the entire country. New Jersey is one of a handful of states that still does the ten year re-eval model, which is what the old system was. In the top ten, four of them are still doing the ten year remodel, ten year re-eval. Most states, 38 states do it in five years or less. The difference between the others do a reassessment every single year. From my point of view is, hey, if we're one of the few that are doing the ten year model and the only thing that's similar to the ones in the top ten in the country have to be part of it has to be in your model. It gets a little bit deeper than that. Let me explain the model to you.

In 1972, the state of New Jersey passed a law called Chapter 123. Remember 1972, we didn't have the computers we have today, we didn't have the communication we have today. In 1972, because we were doing re-evals every ten years, what they did is they built into it a bumper. What they did is they said, "Okay, the home is assessed at this. We will allow the assessment to be fifteen percent higher or fifteen percent lower." That means there was a thirty percent margin of error that's accepted by law.

Okay and maybe that sort of makes sense. In 72', if home values were going up one and a half or two percent every year, you'd think ten years would take ten years and it comes out to roughly that fifteen percent. It made sense in 1972.

You would receive an assessment card every single year, that card that's mailed to your house. That card after re-eval would have a number on it. For the purpose of tonight's discussion, I'm going to use five hundred thousand dollars as a benchmark. You got a card that says your home was assessed at five hundred thousand dollars. That's true maybe the year they did the re-eval, but the bottom of the year, we know property values go up and down. The other thing that it didn't tell you is that five hundred thousand dollars, that meant if you had a problem with what you were assessed, you needed to come up with a tax board and that range of accuracy is four hundred and fifty-five thousand to five hundred and forty-five thousand. If your house was five hundred thousand and they assessed you at five hundred forty-five thousand, you couldn't win a tax appeal. You couldn't beat that.

As time goes on the further years you got away from that re-eval, the less accurate your assessment was. What the state did to fix that is they came up with a formula, they came up with a ratio. What the formula of taxation would do, is every year, they would assign every municipality in the state of New Jersey a percentage. The idea of that percentage was to rise everybody up to that hundred percent.

Remember what I told you. For ten years you got the same card saying five hundred thousand dollars. They added a ratio to it which was really increasing a five hundred thousand dollars but you didn't know anything about it. You were actually paying taxes on was a different number than was on that card. That's the untold truth about property taxes in New Jersey. No one ever shared that.

Now what happens when that ratio goes up and down? Here's the problem with the ratio going up and down, Neptune City wasn't waterfront properties. You've got some properties that are within the city. You've got some commercial properties all along the road. When that ratio goes in, it ranks everybody's property assessment up and down. It didn't matter whether you were a single home. Doesn't matter whether you're a multi-family. Doesn't matter whether you're a gas station. Doesn't matter if you're overlooking the water. It didn't matter. The further again you got away from that first year re-eval, the less accurate it was. The only way you were able to win something is you needed to go to tax board and prove that.

What happens? Ten years ago, this didn't just happen the last couple of years. This program has been in the works for ten years. Basically what some very smart people did is they went out and they said, "Okay let's get the best of what's happening in the rest of the country." More importantly than that, Somerset County has been running a program like this for the last twenty to twenty-five years. You take the best of all that and then ADP came about. When the ADP came about three years ago, Governor Christie signed the bill off and said, "This is what's going to happen to all municipalities in Monmouth County period." It wasn't the tax board that told everybody they had to do this. This was a law. The reason they wanted to do everybody in Monmouth County is because the amount of money that gets appropriated to the county, or the value of the entire county, we want it to be the same.

What happened for about the first year, year and a half is the tax board was defending the program, was defending the law. The reason we were defending it was because we know all the work and effort that had gone into that. All of a sudden, people are very upset about a number of things. People would win a tax appeal and under the old system, if you got a judgement from the tax board or from the tax court, your property value was frozen for three years. That year, two years after that, you think that's good. It wasn't good because if that freeze was wrong, there was no way to correct it. You were stuck with it for three years. That was one of the problems. One of the problems was people were winning appeals and the following year, because it's a reassessment, the freeze doesn't work. The freeze is a part of that. People's values would go up and down. We said, "Look, we need to do something." I own a bunch of businesses. If I have an employee who doesn't want to work for me, what do I do? I tell him to go find another job. Same thing here. As people were pushing back and the more we learned about the program, we finally

realized, Wait a minute. This is a law. We may or may not have powers at tax board because our jobs were appointed by the state is to enforce the law. Wait a minute. Let's do what Somerset County did.

At Somerset County they have two systems. They have the old system running parallel to what I'm describing to you now. The difference is this. When they did that twenty, twenty-two years ago, they started at one town and people were able to pop in. You have all the statistics of all the studies in the booklet I gave you. Over time there were more people in the program than out of the program. In Monmouth County, nobody had a choice. Everybody was in.

Because we were getting so much push-back, the freeholder calls, the calls for this, the calls for that and it's in there. I in a public meeting similar to this came up with a brilliant idea. I said, "Look, if people don't want to be in this, why don't we let them opt out?" Somerset does it, however, we don't know if the tax board has the authority to do that or not. We did it anyway.

The reason we did it and I'm very happy we did it, is it forced a lot of conversation and it forced a lot of change. Now, as soon as we did that, within two weeks, we had two, three, four municipalities automatically opt out. For whatever reason, they opted out. They had the ability to do that. Some of it I think is politically motivated. That's beside the case. What happens is, we started doing our homework. We said, "Hey look, we can't change the law. Governor Christie said this is a five year pilot program. He said we knew there were going to be problems, that's why it's a pilot program. The tax board will deal with it." So, we dealt with it.

We sat down with Assemblyman O'Scanlon who was one of the creators of the original bill. That was the number one problem towns had. It made sense, the volatility. I win this year, I lose it. I don't want to go before appeal every single year because our program was intended to eliminate appeals, not create appeals.

What we did is we made an administrative change. In that administrative change, if you win a judgement by the tax board or tax court, the following years, your assessment cannot go up or down, with the exception of the percentage of the neighborhood goes up or down. That has to be proven by the Assessor that that happened. It does, it keeps everyone on an equal playing field. Remember what I told you before? If you've got the freeze and values went down, it didn't matter, you were stuck with that. It gave them opportunity.

Now, we're into the ADP program and people don't understand. Under the old program, they were paying higher taxes than were on the card, didn't know that, never complained about it because they didn't know. Now with the new program you get a number and the next thing you know, everybody's going crazy. How did this all happen when everything evolved?

Under the old program, there's fifty-three communities in the Monmouth County. If you did every ten years, roughly that would mean five towns a year did a re-eval. Let's say, Neptune did it, It doesn't matter. Those five towns had people complaining. Those five towns are spread all over the county. You didn't have the hoopla that when forty-three towns had it happen, there was a lot of angst, right, a lot of people complaining. That's what happened there.

Now, under the new system, the way the rules have changed and under the old system, if the assessor had a mistake, the assessor could not correct the mistake. They could know there's something wrong, but legally they couldn't make a change. Under the new system, we want them to look at every single property every year and adjust it if the market value changes. What's that mean to me? To me that sounds a little bit better than the old way. They can make the changes. They can make the adjustments and things got a lot easier when that started happening.

Now, we've got the new system in place. The new system, we just finished our third year. How do we know its working? Number one our appeals are down. Neptune City didn't have a lot of appeals I think in 2015 you had thirty-seven. This year you had twenty-nine. You don't really get a lot. Some of the towns had three or four hundred less appeals this year. Pretty significant, that was pretty important.

What happened under the old system is the old system you're municipalities for a re eval, which you just went through. That re eval costs, let's see, roughly \$110,000.00.

A hundred and ten thousand dollars, what happened is for every property that gets inspected and there's sixteen hundred, seventeen hundred line items. The township has to pay seventy dollars every extension. Under the new program, it's an average of twenty-one dollars a visit. Over two years that's only forty-two dollars. The difference of that twenty-eight dollars times that sixteen hundred seventy-two, means the municipalities save forty-eight thousand twenty dollars over the course of ten years. What did it do? It gave people better assessments. It gave fairer assessments. The town is equalized a little bit more and if there are any mistakes, they get corrected as they go along.

Now, I don't know Neptune City well enough to say, but there are some towns in Monmouth County that the commercial has gone down so much that all that burn has shifted over to the residential. It's going to be very difficult to get that back. Under the old programs you would be stuck with that for ten years. Under the old program you could only over pay, under pay for one year. It makes a lot more sense for this program to be going forward the way it's going now.

I told you about the postcard. Internal sections under the old rules, what happens is people don't understand this. They get a card or they get a letter that says, they want to inspect your house. First thing we say, no one's coming into my house.

That's the worst thing you can do. Let them come in and look at your house because the information's going to be more accurate. The reason that it's important is, with most practices is if someone doesn't allow them in your house, the assessor or the inspector will obviously bump the number up a little bit to force them to go in the house. The reason they're doing that is not necessarily punitive, the reason they're doing that is they're protecting everybody else. We've all known people that had things done in their house they didn't get permits for. We all know people that didn't allow an inspector in. If they don't get inspected in that ten years, they didn't get inspected the next ten years, there were some homes that didn't have an internal inspection for twenty years. How is that fair to everybody else?

Under the new system, and we don't get paid, it's up to the assessor and the governing body, which section of the town or which twenty percent they're going to do. Now, I understand this town just went through a re-eval. Our standard rule is you need to do twenty percent for five years for a hundred percent. What if it doesn't really work that way? If your assessor wants to do five percent this year because something happened in this part of town and wants to do thirty percent. As long as at the end of five years a hundred percent of the homes were inspected on the inside, that's all we really care about. As long as they're communicating with the tax board so we're aware of what's going on.

The assessment accuracy is so much better under the new program because when we do these coefficients, we know, but doing coefficients, how close you were to a hundred percent and how good your assessor is doing their job. What's happening right after this tax season is you will be able to go right on the Monmouth County portal and you will be able to see every single town, every municipality in Monmouth County. It's almost like a report card on how well your assessor did. It's not to call anybody out, but the idea is to get everybody at a hundred percent. There's been some push-back with certain assessors do this this way that that way and the worst work and educating them better.

Assessors are legally, have to make a look at every single piece of property. I can't stress that enough. It changes from year to year. We're talking about the appeal for two years. What this has done, this has saved under the old program you used to have to make your appeal by April 1st. As you know, we moved the calendar. As we moved the calendar, we have a lot of residents who are very upset. Now your date is January 15th. What's happening is everybody is complaining. You know with the holidays they did this on purpose so we can't appeal. That is the furthest from the truth. If it's wrong, we want you to fix it. Your assessor does not get a bonus if you get over taxed. The attorney isn't even representing the town. They don't pay any more if they save money. The tax board doesn't get anything whether they're right or wrong. We just want it to be fair.

The point that I'm trying to make is this system is very transparent. You'll be able to see everything that's there. Monmouth County is the only system in the state that has everything there. There's so many things that you can do there. What happened under the old calendar is the governed body would come up with a budget. You'd go through tax appeals. People would win tax appeals and guess what? That wasn't figured anywhere in the budget was it? What happens now is you either have to go to your surplus or you had a bond to make up the difference.

Under the new program because the appeal season is over before the budgetary process, that went away. In two years, the municipalities if they would have had a bond for the money in your surplus saved over twelve million dollars. In two weeks when we're done with Wall Township, we think that that number's going to come close to sixteen million dollars in three years. Now this was not a tax reform. The paper handed to the tax reform, it has nothing to do with taxes. Our board should be changed. First of all it's the county tax board. I don't get paid by the county. I get paid by the state, number one. Number two I have nothing to do with taxes. I only have to do with your assessments.

To me it doesn't make any sense. If we change anything a lot of those problems will go away. The point is we're saving a lot of money for the townships. The fact that the towns aren't spending twelve million dollars means that money can be spent someplace else. That makes a lot of sense. We're down about seventeen, eighteen percent on our appeals. People, when they come in, I think I have this in your folder too. A lot of people think they have to get an attorney to appeal or they think if they don't have an attorney they can't win. Statistically in 2015, sixty-three percent of pro-say appellants won, people who represented themselves, sixty-three percent, lawyers fifty-five percent. Now, I'm going to defend those lawyers and say they probably had the more complicated ones. The point I'm trying to make here though is that anyone can win a tax appeal if it's done properly.

The second thing and this is statistic as well. Four hundred and sixty-four tax appeals were filed by attorneys that withdrew before the hearing date. What does that mean? That meant by the time they did all their homework, guess what? They realized that there wasn't any low-hanging proof and they withdrew the case. The point that I'm trying to make is the information's out there.

Our board is a very proactive board. The old system is reactive. We're proactive. We are creating tools that you the homeowner can do things and take pictures and put them up on the web so when you come before, we have all the information there. The last thing I want to do as a commissioner is have you come up before me and not be able to present your case because you know what? Of the five comparable sales you gave me you can't even use, that's not fair to you. Come before us with pictures. Describe your house. What we want to do is we want to make sure everyone's assessment is fair. It's one thing to be paying high taxes. It's another to be paying high taxes because someone is paying less.

Think of it this way. Your budget is struck. You need a hundred thousand dollars. It's going to come from

somebody. Everyone is overpaying, there's somebody's underpaying. The idea here is to get the two to come close together. That's the objective. I just have one more point to drive home and then I'll take questions.

Remember I told you that fifteen percent above and the fifteen percent below, that Chapter 123? Well, what happens unfortunately, is over the course of years ... I'm going to be politically incorrect here. I apologize. Certain governing bodies wanted to protect certain areas in the town. That was always the area that was fifteen percent low. A lot of times it might be a senior area. You know, they're a fixed income. It sort of makes sense they should pay less. At the end of the day, what difference does it make if this house, I own it, you own it or somebody seventy-seven years old owns it. It's got the same value. We shouldn't be putting in people, making assessments based on what people are able to pay and not pay. Whatever they don't pay, somebody else does.

At the end of the day, we think we're giving a fair system. We're definitely giving a more cost effective system. We know we're creating more opportunities for homeowners if they think something's wrong, to have it fixed before they even come before the board. You can meet with your assessor and you can say, "Hey Cliff, this doesn't make sense to me. When I measure my house its blah, blah, blah." You know, they'll come out and measure. If you're right they can fix it without you even making an appeal. Under the old law, that couldn't happen, an appeal had to be made. It had to come before the board.

Those are just some of the significant things that happen. I can assure you, we're changing it as we need to change it. We have all the support from the assembly. We venture they may change the law. It was a five year program. We are here in three. We are very happy with the success we've had so far, sir mayor.

Mayor Brown stated at this time I just want to stress one thing, also about the hundred thousand and somebody paying more and somebody paying less. After a reveal and after all this is done, the town does not collect anymore taxes from the residents. There's no more taxes to the Borough, it's just more evenly dispersed as Mr. Moore said. At this time, if the council has questions about the model and that is, we have a certain date that Neptune City has to decide whether we want to be part of the program or kind of be on our old system. That's why I asked him, the county tax board to come and explain so the governing body knows exactly what you're voting for in the best interests of the residents. Mr. Moore stated what we're more than likely going to unofficially do, is we're probably going to extend it to May 31st. What will happen is, if the vision of taxation doesn't give us an answer, we are moving forward with the opt out option. The only thing that's different is this governing body that came up with the resolution, we're going to give you the model resolution that you have to submit to us, which spells out, you realize you're losing forty-eight thousand dollars. You realize you're back to square one. It's going to spell out all the consequences which are also in that book, all the potential consequences of opting out. Thank you Mayor, sorry I forgot about that.

Mayor Brown mentioned that's good, thank you. Okay so at this time if the council has questions for Mr. Moore, now is the time for you to ask.

Councilman Pryor asked Say that you're being comped on your house and I'll say that you have a particular house, where do you find comps? Say that in my particular neighborhood there's not a house like mine? **Mr. Moore** responded That is a great that is a fantastic question. What happens is you can go to a realtor to find open houses in your neighborhood. However, going forward in 2017, the assessor right not was to play by the same rules you do, which means they hit the comp sales that are coming up. Under the old system if one house oversold for a high price, that became the market value. Under the new program, we're allowing assessors to go back up to three years so we have a more even ... It won't slice because one house sold for this tremendous amount of money. We have all this information on the

website. It tells people where they can comp sales. It tells you what a good comp sale is. It tells you what kind of comps you want. You want similar type house, you want something in your neighborhood. It gives you about thirty-three data points. You don't have to use all thirty-three but the more data points you have, the stronger that comp is for you, you know? Councilman Pryor added if I was to go out on my own, say to a realtor or something to get a comp. Will they use that?

Mr. **Moore** stated Well, you're the one who's going to submit the evidence, so yes, you can do that. Any comps ... You can do a search on homes that were sold. Again, you can take a look just at the Monmouth County website and you can search houses in your neighborhood. We are the only ones in the state that have that much transparency. In fact, personally I think we have too much transparency. Some of the conversations and issues we have is because of the amount of transparency we have.

Mayor Brown commented I think the model as we spoke to earlier, I've been to multiple meetings about the new program. I think in the end it is fairer across the board. It does allow, if something changes that you can go up or down. That number will go back to the card we get. It was always a confusing number. You'd look at it and it would say, two-hundred thousand dollars is your value on your house for property tax but that's really not what you're getting assessed on because of that fifteen percent. This really does make it a lot easier to see that number that they've got you at.

The bottom line is, if you really don't believe that they're accurate, that's the real number. You don't have to do math to figure out if it's fifteen percent high or fifteen percent low. Then they've got the ratio in there. This is real simple. If it says two hundred thousand and you think you could sell your house for two hundred thousand, there's really not much of an argument there. If it's a two hundred thousand and you think it's only worth one hundred seventy five, because you know that's all it is, than you appeal it. If you can prove that, then you go to one seventy five. Council, do we have any other questions regarding the model?

Councilwoman Renee asked just a little bit more clarity. We received our postcard. The assessor came in and reassessed the home inside and everything. The next year we did not have somebody come in. You're saying somebody will come in every five years, correct? The assessment can change every year. How is that determined if it changes the following year but the assessor's not been inside?

Mr. Moore stated okay, so under the old system they came every ten years to come and inspect your house. Think of the old system first. It was every ten years. If you don't let them in, you've got to wait for twenty years. Under the new system, they come into your house and all they're really doing is they're assessing the data that's there. They're assessing how many bathrooms you have, how many rooms, square footage, did you upgrade your kitchen, and you know any upgrades that are there. With the benefit of this municipality is the people don't get permission within five years.

What we're trying to do, councilwoman is we're actually putting something in place in 2017 where a homeowner, I don't remember the initials or the acronym so I apologize. What's going to happen is the homeowners have the ability to actually inventory their house, take photos of their kitchen, take photos of their bathroom, take pictures of whatever they want and they submit it. When they submit it, it goes to the assessor and it goes to the tax board.

I have to tell you councilwoman, sometimes people sit in front of you and they describe their house so bad. I'm like, why are you living there? If you have holes and the rain comes in on top of your bed, why are you still living there? If you give me a picture, you know it paints a thousand words.

Here is the other thing too. We are trying to educate the taxpayer. That's our goal next year. That's getting more tools for the assessor to do a better job and more importantly than that, but the taxpayer understands what they're getting assessed for. You know, people say ... I'll just share one thing. What happens is it

becomes adversarial. If you're the homeowner, the first thing you do is you get comps. You want to get the lowest comps you can because you want to drive your number down. Then, you've got the town that you think is out there putting it the highest they can. Now you have to come before the tax board.

Here's the problem. That house sold for a lot less money for a reason you don't know about. In more cases than not, when the township attorney and the assessor's done with you, you've actually proved their case. You didn't know they didn't have a basement. You didn't know they didn't have this. The price sold for that. You say okay, like mine it sold for a hundred fifty thousand dollars less. There's a reason it sold for a hundred fifty thousand less.

Anyway, the point I'm trying to make is we're trying to give you tools next year that you can take and you can do a better job. Again, our goal as the tax board is to lower the number of appeals. The only way we are going to lower appeals is if you understand what your assessment is, you understand the value of your home and there's no reason to come before us. The other thing is, if you've got problems, your assessor can deal with it before it comes to us.

Mr. Moore also stated commercial properties, under the old model, if a commercial property went before the tax court and could not come before the tax board, so you would have multiple years of commercial properties sitting in tax court. What would happen is that commercial property one, you have a pretty big payout in three years. It takes two to three years to get there. Under the new program and it happened this year here, we have commercial properties that have been to tax court for two years, yet they came before the tax board and some of them already got relief.

Those multi-year problems that you're going to have go away because we can fix them every single year. Again, I look at it this way. The municipality is my customer. I've got to make sure you get the money that's due to you. The public is my customer. I have to make sure they're treated fairly and they're not paying any more than they have to. At the end of the day, where the numbers line are completely where the numbers line.

Councilman More asked you said a couple municipalities. Did they site a benefit for opting out or give a reason for opting out? Mr. Moore answered That is a great question. Actually I want to say, all but one opted out before they made the modifications. The reasons they opted out first, the reason they opted out is what forced us to say, "Allow them to opt out so that we can have these conversations to fix the problems." Now, we had two that opted out, that after my presentation were thinking about opting back in. There's more benefit to be in. One town it was going to cost them almost seven hundred thousand dollars to do reevaluations every ten years. They lose the seven hundred thousand based on our model and their model. Once, that also made a lot of sense. That's a lot of money to have to the taxpayers. Mr. Moore added that was pre-modification. Again, those modifications are all spelled out in your book.

Mayor Brown mentioned, the governing body's not going to take action tonight on this. We have time. I just want to make sure that everyone was informed. The booklet, read it. We can meet again, we can call. Anybody has questions, we can email or we can call the tax board, Mr. Moore, they're more than happy to answer any questions. The bottom line is, I've told this to everybody. If you don't think the assessment is correct on your house, first step, come see the assessor. It's the first step. It's your best bet. Don't call me. I'm not an assessor or a real estate appraiser. You know, that's the best bet. There is a process. If you feel that you need to get involved in it, start that process. We'll be more than happy to help you with the first, second, third process you have to go through.

Joann Drennen, 76 W. Wall Street asked I think Mr. Pryor asked about the community, but before I get to that, can you appeal ... You said you could go see our tax assessor. Do you have to wait until after next January? Mr. Moore said yes. Mrs. Drennen stated my problem is I go away. First of all, my house the

last time, well nobody let them in, there was nobody to let them in because I'm away. How do I go about appealing if I'm not here? Mr. Moore stated the first thing we want to do is you want to make sure your information is correct. That's the first thing we want to do. The way to do that is you set up an appointment with your assessor before you go away and let them come in and make sure that house is what you have on that property record card. When your property record card is wrong, your property record could be wrong the entire time you had the house. As you can tell, I'm a little bit passionate about this. I'm going to tell you why I'm passionate. When I learned all of this, all the years that I've owned houses in Bergen County and Monmouth County, I lost eighty-eight thousand dollars. If this would have applied I would have won all my cases. Eighty-eight thousand dollars, the first way you're going to get it right though is make sure that card's right. I've had cards that were wrong ten, twelve, fifteen years.

Mrs. Drennen asked if I go to the tax assessor and I see my house if you look at it at its worth, whatever they say, my neighborhood brings the property down, I feel. I have foreclosures. Is that something I can appeal? Mr. Moore stated you can talk to your tax assessor and we've had people come before the tax board. It's very difficult to prove that. The reason it's difficult to prove that is because here's what's going to happen. Once that's fixed, do they automatically raise your taxes? You might get a little bit of leeway. Then they can make those adjustments. Mr. Moore suggested she speak with the Assessor.

Freeholder Arnone stated on New Year's Day I came in here and I suggested to the Board that they opt out, probably a bit prematurely after knowing the system that I learned over the last four months or so. The long term, I guess, benefits to municipalities. Every municipality's different. Something that probably brought it to light at that time was the part that as Cliff said in an early statement that it was pretty much politically motivated why certain people got out.

The structure has to be clarified that the tax board, even though it's called Monmouth County Tax Board, some call it Monmouth County Courts, it has nothing to do with Monmouth County. We don't pay them. We don't hire them. They're all state run. Monmouth County tax board is a board that consists of an even bipartisan you appoint one republican, then the next one has to be democrat, so they're even. Actually, Cliff, who I think is a fabulous member of the tax board I think he's probably one of the best board members we have on that board.

The reason Cliff Moore is fabulous is because of what he's doing tonight. That's what the problem in Monmouth County. You have tax assessors and you have certain Board members okay that are defensive, they're not compassionate, they're not considerate to the public because of the public's lack of knowledge of this new program. They get in there, get defensive and slam their hands down and say, "No, this is the way it is I'm not moving." That is the problem. I will tell you. We have no effect on the tax board to freeholders. We don't appoint them. Matt Clark who works for them, is hired by them. The money is paid to them but comes to the state, has to pass forward as the courts do, as the workforce investment board does. We really don't have much authority but if it's a problem they pin it on us.

You have municipalities they are using in court as political motives to say, "Oh, it's not good," because they want to use it in the campaign or whatever it might be. More importantly denying going out through this process because they're hiding something in their own municipality which will be divulged at a different time, meaning the real values of their municipalities, the real values of what they're hiding in their municipalities. That's why some of them are scaring out of the program because the truth will come out. That will be divulged at a later time either through their program or when it actually comes out.

More importantly Mayor, I'm going to say this to you and I'm going to say this to all fifty three municipalities. Your tax assessor has to be accommodating, understanding to the public. That's the biggest part of the fault here and more importantly the tax board. When they're listening to arguments, they have to be compassionate to the tax payer. The average person, including myself, if you're telling me

I have to go up there and appeal my taxes, truth of the matter is I don't have someone like a Mark Aikins with me. What do I know? I'm just up there arguing and if you're going to be defensive, you are actually going to push me out of the door and make me somewhat taken back and move out.

We get tax assessors in this county and there are a lot of them that are. There are a lot that are extremely accommodating to the municipalities. Then, there are a lot that are not. Those ones that are not have to be removed from this process because they are flawing this process right now because they are making it very difficult for the residents, which ultimately affects each and every one of you standing up there or sitting up there now.

I think the program, even though I came here three months ago, four months ago, going steady. I think in the long run it's going to be good because I can tell you when I sat up there in their seats there was a complex, a townhouse complex that was very upset with their tax assessor for years. There's nothing we could have done. We tried. We understood that they were right but we never knew that fifteen percent disparity. That's what this tax assessor was judging. We had that ability to go that fifteen percent.

Today, they want it, everyplace has it, I guarantee that that same complex, I don't know what their tax bills are and I don't know what some of the other ones are. As much as you've heard of a handful of people going up, I guarantee you there's more than a handful of people who went down. Truth of the matter is taxes in the state of New Jersey are terrible, horrendous. That has nothing to do with the tax board. Everybody should pay an equal amount. Cliff, I commend you. You are the only tax board member out there doing this night after night. He should be commended and thanked for everything he's doing. Mr. Moore mentioned thank you for all your communication as well, because listening to you, listening to the freeholders, that's how we found out what the problems were. At the end of the day we want to be proactive and not reactive. I'm a business owner. My thing is service and customer satisfaction. You're my customer.

Mayor Brown stated I have to real quick agree with the freeholder. We've spoke over this the past four months. I was very hesitant in the beginning and I think in the end, I've spoken more with the tax board and the assessor than the rest of the council, but it really is, at the end of the day, it's real simple. The assessors and the tax board are there merely to make sure that it's an even playing field. Which it's really, the old system, it's not. It's really not. I've had people come to me and say, "You know, I live on this street and the guy who live down on River-view Avenue, overlooking the river with beautiful. He's paying the same taxes I do. How is that possible?" Well, that could be fifteen percent below, fifteen percent over. He could be paying on the bottom end. You could be paying on the top end. You're actually paying the same taxes in two totally different taxes.

Mr. More said Give it a couple of years and here's the thing. We're the only county doing this and we have a lot of counties that don't want this to succeed. Your assessors will tell you, it is a lot of work, but once the work is behind them, it becomes very easy because then all it is maintenance. We have to get the information on your property right at once.

Freeholder Arnone asked in case I don't get a chance to ask you this question because it will probably happen on Thursday night. We get a resident that comes in and he's from South Belmar which is somewhat Wall Township. He has a very justified complaint. He's in a house in a development that was all, new homes were built. He's in a house that was a little older, a lot older as he says. I'm not sure exactly but a hundred years old. What they're doing is they're putting a value, because obviously, even though it might be the size okay, are there, of the same house. Obviously the upgrades are nowhere near the upgrades of the homes that were renovated or built. It's in that area so if you have a comp of a house that sold, give you a number five hundred thousand and all of them are sold at five hundred thousand, but that house would really never be able to get that five hundred thousand, maybe three, three-fifty. I think

that's the profit you have got to take a better look at.

Mr. Moore stated that's that tiara, that list of tiara I'm talking about. The homeowner can take a picture and send it in. My house is a hundred years old. Look at side by side. Most assessors will make some sort of adjustment. Is it the age of the house and then there's the effective age of the house. The age of the house is when the foundation went in and it was originally built. The effective age are all the sudden changes when you upgrade this or you change this or you change this. Still it won't be the same effective age of a random house. We need to get a little bit more information, but again all that stuff will help us educate. The Mayor thanked Mr. Moore for coming. Great presentation

Mayor Brown stated now we will continue on with our meeting. We have another presentation a little on a more upscale note than taxes, a little more colorful. I'd like to welcome our Paint the Town Pink committee. Ladies, thank you for coming. They're going to pass out some stuff and give some explanations of what's going on here with Paint the Town Pink in Neptune City. Pink-tune City, I'm sorry, in May. It's going to be Pink-tune City. Thank you

The Paint the Town Pink Committee mentioned thank you for having us here tonight. Paint the Town Pink is in May, the whole month of May. It's a community wide effort to raise awareness for the importance of your annual mammogram. It's the tenth year that it's been in effect. They keep it away from October for breast cancer awareness because they don't want it to be a negative. They want it to be a positive. The goals are to encourage women in our community, age forty and older to have their annual mammograms and to raise money to provide the services to uninsured and under-insured women in the community, to make a difference in their lives. Early detection is key. It's the best defense against breast cancer.

We have shirts for sale, light bulbs for sale, magnets and upcoming events. The girls will tell you about. We're going to do our kickoff May the 1st. All the funds that are raised by us stay with Jersey Shore and Meridian. If there are any women that you know of who need to have a mammogram and can't afford it, they have a process that you can go through and it's free of charge. We do have several events throughout the month of May and we will start off with our kick-off party on Sunday May 1st down at Memorial Park at 11 AM. We'd like to invite council please, come down and help us down there opening and of course all the audience would like to have you at all of our events. On May 5th we have a Pink Party over at the Fire Department in the hall and would love to see anyone there who would like to come. We have a bocce tournament at the Memorial Park that's on May 7th, Saturday May 7th. There's contact information on here about bocce if you want to play. We do have these shirts for sale that were generously donated by Pete & Elda's. We expect to see all the men get up as well, not just women.

May 13th we're having a bonfire barbecue with music by Joe Ricardello at Memorial Park. We're also having our annual business fair May 14th and along with that we're going to do a Pink and Ride Bike-a-Thon. We're inviting all of the businesses to come and be a part of the business fair and also to take part in that. May 15th is Yoga on the Beach at Memorial Park. So far, that's where we're at. We hope to see everybody there

Mayor Brown stated Thank you, ladies I can't express my gratitude enough. I know how much effort you've put into this. One of the things that we've done, also in town and I'm not trying to steal any of your thunder but, we will be painting the fire hydrants on West Sylvania Avenue pink for the month of May. We've done that in the past. Then, I'm probably going to have to make a phone call to Monmouth County Freeholders to see if we can possibly have the line painted on West Sylvania Avenue, our pink line, which they do every year for us. I'll make that call tomorrow. It's a great cause and I appreciate everything you do. Please, come on out, buy the t-shirts, buy the light bulbs and show your support. Put that light bulb on your front porch. Thank you very much.

We have like a hundred forty-three businesses participating this year. Mayor Brown commented a hundred forty-three businesses are going to participate and paint their stores up. Thank you.

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:**

##### **Mayor Brown:**

Last Saturday unfortunately I was away. I missed the opening day at little league. I want to thank all of you who went out. Mr. Zajack, you threw the pitch out I understand. Councilman Zajack said I didn't get a chance to warm up.

I just want to mention it. I did miss Saturday, but for thirteen years, I coached on that field, with Mr. Zajack and for a couple years against Mr. Zajack. We had some great times, sat on the Board, coached for a long time along with Mr. Zajack. It's great to see all the efforts that go into the little league and the volunteers. It takes a lot of time. It takes a lot of time today for people to give up to get up there and donate their time for the kids. I want to thank the Public Works for all the work they do. They take a lot of pride in the ballparks for our kids. They always make sure everything's ready for that day. I want to thank everybody for that.

Mr. Freeholder, thank you for Made in Monmouth. I understand like I said, we were away. Every opportunity I get to go and see my family, my mother we take advantage of it. I did miss Made in Monmouth this year. I want to thank you for that, I understand it was a great event. Freeholder Arnone mentioned there were over five thousand people who attended.

Mayor Brown mentioned, we're hoping for something close to that for our small business fair that we're going to have here in Neptune City. I think every year it gets a little bit better. Please come on out anybody who wants to. It is on May 14th at ten to two and of course the Pink Your Ride Bike-a-Thon is going on the same day. It's free to the businesses and the residents. Come on out, set your tables out and show the residents what we have.

##### **Councilman Wardell**

Just a few things, I'll be brief as well. One, I'd like to call for a meeting for the committee human services April 25th at 6PM. I was away about a week ago. I've missed these last Board of Ed meeting but I will be attending on the 28th of April. Just a couple things real quick. When I got back I got a letter in my mailbox here from Captain Kenny Sprague of the Neptune City First Aid Squad. It's just one sentence. I'd like to read it for you. "Dear Mr. Wardell, I just want to make you aware that Neptune City First Aid Squad has been awarded a grant from the New Jersey American Water Company for a thousand dollars to purchase two stretchers." I just wanted to congratulate Captain Sprague with what a great job he's doing over there.

I think he should be commended. Like I said, I was not here at the last meeting. I was in Florida with my family visiting my in-laws. I didn't get a chance to congratulate Rick Pryor on his election and being sworn in as well. On the same note, I also want to congratulate Mike Skudera for running a really good campaign. I know it was really tough on both these guys. I know both of them personally and they're both stand-up gentleman. I just want to applaud both of you for the way you carried yourself during this election time. I know it wasn't easy. Again, I just want to applaud you both. That's it Mayor.

##### **Councilwoman Renee**

I attended the opening day on Saturday and it was just awesome. Again, just thanks to all the volunteers. There's so many. I was just really amazed. My favorite part was just watching the t-ball players running in different directions and everything. It was just so cute. Also seeing the older children helping the younger

children was really impressive too and everybody just supporting each other and you know, sliding into home base. It was exciting, it really was, in spite of the cold, it was really nice.

Just a reminder to everybody if there's a power outage to call 888-LIGHTSS with an extra S at the end. That's 888-LIGHTSS. April 22nd is Earth Day. Earth Day's been going on since 1970 and there's millions of people all around the world celebrating Earth Day. It is celebrated throughout the month of April just to preserve and protect our environment. If you are able to go out and get a tree, to plant a tree in celebration of Earth Day that's awesome. Also remember to call before you dig, 811 and that is actually a law to call before you dig. It's just, you can check out the website to, it's Call811.com.

Our Department of Public Works does an awesome job with recycling. There's something to keep in mind too with recycling. For cans and bottles, there's that plastic piece that holds cans and bottles. If people are able to cut that like in three lengthwise, it helps with the environment. If by chance these get into the waterways, they get wrapped around fish, wildlife, birds and turtles. If you cut them in three lengthwise, it just prevents that from happening.

Just being that Earth Day is so important, there's some upcoming events for that.

There's an Urban Composting Workshop, coming up in Asbury Park on April 22nd at CoWorks. You get, it's for forty-five dollars and you get a counter-top compost collector for your counter-top if you go to that workshop, which is awesome. If you visit the Monmouth County Parks website, which is awesome, [monmouthcountyparks.com](http://monmouthcountyparks.com), there are so many events taking place at the Monmouth County Parks, it's just really awesome. There's a one for active adults. There's a canoe club, which is fantastic, for ages fifty-five and up. One of the events is here at the Shark River all throughout the different waterways.

On this coming weekend at the Manasquan reservoir April 16th and 17th at 11AM, if you like butterflies, there is a PowerPoint presentation about Monarch butterflies. The following weekend is the Earth Day celebration. There's going to be April 24th from eleven to five, live animals, different presentations at eleven thirty, one, three thirty and different nature walks too. I do have information about all of this, extra copies if anybody wants it. You can also again, visit the [monmouthcountyparks.com](http://monmouthcountyparks.com) website and it's all there too.

### **Councilman Zajack**

Like the Mayor said, I threw out the first pitch with little league this Saturday. It was a lot of fun. Kudos to Lou Carlson the President and Joe Morrow the Vice President. They do a great job down there. Again, it's hard to get volunteers to come and help out. It's even harder to get kids to come out and play baseball anymore. They do a great job.

Also, we had a Board of Recreation meeting on Sunday April 3rd to discuss a few issues. The Neptune City Bradley Beach Summer Camp will be starting soon, camp dates are Monday June 27th to Friday August the 12th. That's all I have. Thank you.

### **Councilman More**

The Department of Public Works, I echo the Mayor's comments and councilman Zajack's comments. They do a great job on the field. Brush pickup is in full swing. Please, I know that Public Works is very good about picking it up. Try and keep it up off the street onto the curb. It can become a road hazard, especially with vehicles on the roadway.

In addition, to that, very briefly, Saturday evening on Ocean Avenue, in the Bradley Beach Area, we had a gentleman who due to a medical condition lost control of his vehicle, wound up going across the

parking lot, hitting a curb and going into Sylvan Lake. He actually went airborne and he was trapped in his vehicle. Our local regional water rescue team responded to that and everything turned out okay. Neptune City's been a player in the team since its inception twenty years ago. I'd particularly like to thank Patrolman VanEtten and Director Ed Kirschenbaum who were on the scene. Thank you for your expertise in helping get to that person and get the vehicle out of there.

Mayor Brown asked that's the answer team, right? Yes, sir stated Councilman More. Mayor Brown asked and who's the acting chief of that answer team right now? I am sir answered Mr. More. That's what I thought, so thank you too for your help stated Mayor Brown.

**Councilman Pryor**

I will actually be your pink events. I went to opening day. Kind of a crappy day but for a good cause. I just want to really thank all the volunteers who come out and help the kids. It's just a great thing. I want to thank councilwoman Renee for bringing me up to speed on law and ordinance. We were actually able to have a meeting tonight and I could talk comprehensively about what we're going to do. That's it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

none

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Zajack offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilman Wardell.

**Resolution 2016-44**

Bill List April 11, 2016

Be it resolved that the following payroll and bills be paid

Current Payroll	\$124,667.00
Current Bills	\$ 47,161.79
Current Agency	\$ 4,984.69
DCRP	\$ 26.60
Sewer Payroll	\$ 4,283.42
Sewer Bills	\$ 4,250.10
Sewer Agency	\$ 327.68
Capital Checking	\$ 76,370.00
Environmental	\$ 3,395.00
Special Trust	\$ 3,205.00

On Roll Call the following vote was recorded:

Aye: C/Pryor, C/Zajack, C/More, C/Renee, C/Wardell, C/Shafer

Nay:

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Councilman Zajack offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilwoman Renee.

**Paint the Town Pink  
Resolution of the Borough of Neptune City  
Resolution 16-45**

**WHEREAS**, Paint the Town Pink is an annual month long event sponsored by Meridian Health to raise awareness of the ways to prevent breast cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, Breast Cancer is the most common cancer found in American Women today and one out of eight women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended that women between the ages of 40 and 50 years old should have a mammogram every one to two years, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Neptune City understands that early detection is a woman's best defense against breast cancer, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is proud to be a part of the community-wide effort to raise awareness of the importance of the annual mammography across Monmouth County, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has been invited to participate in the "Paint the Town Pink" Program for 2016 and proudly accepts the invitation and encourages participation in the program with the community, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Neptune City proclaim the month of May as "Paint the Town Pink" and the Borough of Neptune City is proud to be known as "PINKTUNE CITY" for the month of May, and it is hoped that all residents and businesses will join in to help educate the Community on early detection of breast cancer.

On Roll Call the following vote was recorded:

Aye: C/Pryor, C/Zajack, C/More, C/Renee, C/Wardell, C/Shafer

Nay:

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Councilman More offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilman Zajack.

**Resolution 2016-46  
Temporary Appropriation #1**

**WHEREAS**, a condition has arisen (payment of 2016 Pension Bills) and no adequate provision has been made in the 2016 temporary appropriations for essential services and NJSA 40A: 4-20 provides for the creation of a temporary appropriation for the abovementioned purpose, and

**WHEREAS**, the total temporary budget adopted on January 1, 2016 was for the amount of \$1,683,725, and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provisions of NJSA 40A: 4-20, temporary appropriations are necessary and are hereby made in the amount of \$600,000.00.

**WHEREAS**, the above appropriation will be inserted in the 2016 Budget, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Neptune City hereby approve the temporary appropriations in the total amount of \$600,000.00, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

On Roll Call the following vote was recorded:

Aye: C/Pryor, C/Zajack, C/More, C/Renee, C/Wardell, C/Shafer

Nay:

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Councilman Wardell offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilwoman Renee.

**RESOLUTION 2016-47  
APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Neptune City Fire Department is always in need of volunteers, and

**WHEREAS**, the following person has made application to become a member of the Neptune City Fire Department; Jeffrey Loesch, and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant has been recommended for membership by the Neptune City Fire Department, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Jeffrey Loesch be approved as a member of the Neptune City Fire Department.

On Roll Call the following vote was recorded:

Aye: C/Pryor, C/Zajack, C/More, C/Renee, C/Wardell, C/Shafer  
Nay:

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Councilman Pryor offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilman Zajack.

**POLICY FOR STAND BY TIME  
Resolution 2016-48**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Neptune City hereby change the policy 97-1 regarding providing volunteers with pay during times of Emergency,

1. Crews will only be used if road conditions warrant that response of Emergency Personnel could be delayed.
2. The Determination of these conditions will come from will come from the Emergency Management Coordinator or his/her designee after receiving field reports.
3. Crew sizes will consist of a maximum of (8) eight for the Fire Department and (6) six for the Emergency Medical Service.
4. Rate of Pay will be \$14.00 per hour.
5. Crews will stand-by for a maximum of (12) twelve hours in any (24) twenty-four hour period, unless such crews member(s) is not relieved by a successor crew member(s).
6. A daily food allowance shall not exceed \$300.00.

On Roll Call the following vote was recorded:

Aye: C/Pryor, C/Zajack, C/More, C/Renee, C/Wardell, C/Shafer  
Nay:

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Councilwoman Renee offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilman Zajack.

**RESOLUTION 16-49  
AUTHORIZATION TO AUCTION VEHICLE**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Neptune City previously advertised the following equipment for sale at public auction, however the legal ad was printed erroneously, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Neptune City is the owner of the following equipment, which is not needed for public use:

1. 1983 Long Tractor Model 610DTC Serial Number 610DTC
2. 1998 Ford Crown Victoria, Vin 2FAFP 71W6W X1049 32

Minimum bid \$500.00 on each vehicle

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Neptune City desires to authorize the sale of the above vehicle for public sale pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-36, to the highest bidder on May 23, 2016 at 7:00PM or as soon thereafter as a matter may be reached at Neptune City Borough Hall, 106 W Sylvania Avenue, Neptune City, NJ 07753.

The Borough reserves the right to reject all bids.

The vehicles are in "as is" condition.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Neptune City hereby declares the above described property as no longer needed for public use.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Municipal Attorney is authorized and directed to take any and all steps necessary to proceed with the public sale of vehicle and that in the event there are no bidders to either of the vehicles, the Borough Administrator is authorized to recycle the abovementioned vehicles.

On Roll Call the following vote was recorded:

Aye: C/Pryor, C/Zajack, C/More, C/Renee, C/Wardell, C/Shafer

Nay:

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

Councilman Wardell offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilman More.

**A Resolution Honoring Jack Rose  
For Twenty Five Years of Service with United Fire Company #1**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Neptune City has been fortunate in having the services of Jack Rose as a volunteer fireman for a period of twenty five years; and

WHEREAS, Jack joined United Fire Company No. 1 twenty five years ago, and

WHEREAS, each of those twenty five years are indelible in the history of the Neptune City Fire Department and it is not without consideration that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Neptune City recognize his tremendous personal efforts on behalf of the people of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, Jack has achieved his twenty five years as a member in good standing and still continues to volunteer for the Neptune City Fire Department; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Neptune City pay tribute to Jack Rose for his outstanding service these many years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a copy transmitted to the aforesaid fireman.

On Roll Call the following vote was recorded:

Aye: C/Pryor, C/Zajack, C/More, C/Renee, C/Wardell, C/Shafer

Nay:

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Michaela O'Brien, 119 Hillside Avenue. First off I want to say I'm very sorry I wasn't at the last meeting. Rick, I'm very pleased with the choice that Neptune City made. I'm glad you're in that seat. I did have eyes and ears in the room at the last meeting. I just want to say to Pamela Renee, no offense to you, but it is my fault that Rick Pryor is in the seat. I'd also like to say for anyone that has called me a show-pony through these past months, I'm not a show-pony. I'm my own person and I'd like to keep it that way. I'd also like to say it was my choice to go after it. It was no one else's. Thank you.

Joanne Drennen, 76 West Wall Street. I have a question. I try and come to the meetings, but I am away for like half of January, February and March. I don't know how to go about getting a copy of the minutes, what procedure there is for those couple of months so I can read what went on. Mayor Brown advised Mrs. Drennen to come into the Clerk's Office to request them. Mrs. Drennen also asked when the agenda was available for the public, she was advised they are usually available on Friday.

Ms. Renee asked Mr. Aikins about posting of the agenda. I do believe it's forty-eight hours we're supposed to post ahead of the meetings. He will look into it. Ms. Renee stated I think with the best practices checklist is says we're supposed to post them public knowledge forty-eight hours prior and any changes have to be like ten hours prior or something like that. Mr. Aikins will look into it. Ms. Renee also mentioned I know we haven't approved minutes since October. Will we be doing that soon? Ms. Sapp said yes.

Pat Ward, 33 Coastal Drive, my first question is I understand that there will there be a kayak rack when the beach is completed? Mayor said correct. I was wondering if you were going to have a signup sheet or if there was going to be any notice to how you can reserve a spot and how many spots can be reserved. When will that be made public? Mayor responded the last couple pieces of railing should be this week. I thought they were doing today. We have some grading to do and some seeding. We have sand that has to go on the beach. I'm thinking the fences should probably come down within the next two weeks and the boardwalk hopefully will be open. Let me go back to your original question on the kayak racks. Yes, what I'm doing is I'm not passing this onto anybody, but as we've talked about before, the kayak rack is going to be run through our Board of Recreation. We're going to put the kayak racks down there. There will be available for rent. Again, this is after everything is done and we can secure it, this way the Board of Recreation through Tom Adcock and through the Community Center, they'll be able to register the slips and take the fees. What they're going to be, I'm going to leave that to the Board of Recreation. I'm sure they've already done some of the research on what they're charging in other areas. To help generate some money, but yes that will be coming.

Hopefully the sooner the better. You know, there's sometimes, I don't want to call them stumbling blocks, but little things that we've got to keep changing. We need a couple tandem loads of sand on the beach to get us to the right elevation where we were. The erosion will stop now. That's one of the original purposes of all this and all the grant money. I want to thank the county for a lot of the grant money and a lot of the help that the county CDVG and Open Space for all the help that they've helped us with getting this done.

Mrs. Ward also stated we have our own landscapers and all that. I know the Public Works doesn't pick up brush or any kind of tree limbs and things like that. However, I am President of the Board here and a lot of people do their own work in a certain area. They may have some brush or tree limbs or things like that. Is there anywhere that we can take it, it being the town won't pick it up and our landscaper won't do it either? Mayor Brown replied I believe Public Works is open in the spring for certain days. Mayor Brown will also check with Neptune Township to see if they will accept brush from Neptune City.

Ken Sorenson, 809 1/2 Fourth Avenue. I have a question about the speed limits we have, specifically Steiner Avenue, why it goes up when you come to Neptune City, why it goes from twenty-five to thirty-five in Neptune City. Do we have the fastest speed limits allowable? Why is so hard to lower them? Mayor Brown responded I don't know some of those answers. It's a County Road. I know you're coming to every meeting about the speed limits over there and we've been working diligently on some reports. I can actually have the director, we discussed some of the statistics today. We have some of the numbers for those streets.

Director Kirschenbaum reported I got this report today from our Traffic Safety Bureau. We did a survey. A total of thirty-nine days for Fourth Avenue. You were at three or four meetings now talking about Fourth Avenue traffic. We set the sign up, three separate surveys in 2016, fourteen days, fourteen days and eleven days. The fourteen days from March 18th and March 31st on Fourth Avenue. We go eastbound and westbound, okay? The average speed, let me just make sure I have it, twenty-two miles an hour on Fourth Avenue. Heaviest traffic was 8AM and 6PM. Sixty-nine percent of traffic between twenty-one and thirty-one miles per hour, 5.1 traffic between thirty-one and forty and twenty-six percent of traffic under twenty miles per hour. There's different surveys that went through here. This gives an accurate account of the problems on the road.

I'm going to cut to the chase about all three [inaudible 01:19:52] in the thirty-nine days; 27,653 vehicles traveled and were recorded. Okay, the average speed was 21.5 miles per hour on Fourth Avenue, 28.2 percent of all traffic activity was under twenty miles per hour, 7,734 vehicles. 66.6 percent of all traffic on Fourth Avenue were either between twenty-one and thirty miles per hour. That's 18,518 vehicles, 5.2

percent of all traffic on Fourth Avenue were over thirty-one miles per hour, 1,397 vehicles. There were only four vehicles reported out of the 27,653 vehicles that were over forty miles per hour.

This is a scientific study of the traffic perception. Sometimes when you're on the street it's a little bit different than the actual scientific study of the traffic flow. Like I said, the average speed was 21.5 miles per hour. The police department would consider any speeding to be a public safety issue and that's why you'll see our patrol cars out there running radar and handling any of the vehicles that are traveling at a high rate of speed as well as any illegal action by anybody in the motoring public. Hopefully, this gives you a little bit of reassurance that the scientific study and not just the perception of it.

Mr. Sorenson stated you did all the work and everyone's been very quick to respond. To me it just means the speed limit's too high. Director informed him well, the average speed is 21.5 miles per hour. Mr. Sorenson said the twenty-five mile per hour speed limit is too high.

Mayor Brown stated we've addressed this from the beginning and there's a state statute, they set the speed limits even on interior roads in Neptune City. If I could legally, I would reduce the speed limit.

Mr. Sorenson mentioned other towns have a 15 mile an hour speed limit He believes Neptune has it. Mayor advised we will look into it. Director Kirschenbaum also mentioned Neptune only had the speed bumps. It's only in front of the speed humps where it is 15 miles per hour. What happens there and what you were saying before, I know the Mayor and myself were talking about this last week, on Steiner Avenue, which is a County Road, and you are right about it coming from Neptune to Neptune City. That's all DOT control. When you do the study, you have to actually prove to DOT by that scientific study. Then, they question anything come out for it. The actual burden is really not on the mayor. He did what he did after that last meeting I think it was two weeks ago. Mr. Sorenson questioned Steiner Avenue again and Director said we have no jurisdiction to lower a speed limit. We can do the scientific study, but then DOT controls all the speed controls out there. Quite frankly, even on a County Road, we cannot even put the speed humps on there. We can't implement the speed humps without DOT's approval.

Mayor Brown commented like I said, if I could drop everything to fifteen that would be great. I'd love it. I live on these streets too. My kids have been on them thirty almost thirty years. I wish there was more I could do, other than our police department being out there and giving out summons. I know we've dropped a lot of roads that you know, we've encouraged people, if you want to put it that way, to not speed on a lot of the roads. Our officers are out there aggressively giving tickets. Thank you. Anyone else wish to be heard, please state your name and address.

Erin Maciorowski 17 Tucker Drive, just along the same lines, just a status update of where we were at. I think we were waiting on the crossroad county study for us. Is that where we're still at. Mayor Brown responded we're waiting.

Moved and seconded (More/Renee) to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

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Mayor Robert Brown

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Tammy Brown, Deputy Municipal Clerk