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**Council Room Borough of Neptune City  
June 10, 2019**

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The Council Workshop Meeting of the Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Brown at 6:00 p.m.

Deputy Borough Clerk Jardine took roll call.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Zajack, Renee, Wardell, Kocsis, Lewis, Calhoun and Mayor Brown.

ABSENT:

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 the Coaster and by filing a copy with the Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Brown invited all to stand for the Flag Salute.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

None.

**PRESENTATIONS-**

Participatory Budget- Ron Griffiths, Freehold Borough.

Participatory Budget is a way to engage the public in a positive manor. Mr. Griffiths explained the percentage of voters in the United States is very low and that the Participatory Budget is a great way to get voter involvement and encourages good voting habits. It allows the residents to tell you, the Governing Body, what their interests are and be able to present what their projects are to you. Mr. Griffiths explained that in Freehold Borough, they allow 14 year olds to vote; in New York City they allow 11 year olds too do so. The Governing Body gets to set the rules for this. The program in Freehold is run by volunteers. Town Hall meetings are held to present ideas to the town. Participatory Budget is used in over 3,000 cities all over the world. How does Participatory Budget work, in Freehold Borough, residents decide what projects they want funded. Projects are then vetted by the Participatory Budget Committee and presented to the Council. Projects are only Capital projects, must be on public property and have at least a five year life, have low maintenance, allocating \$200,000 to the program. Examples for Freehold Borough are park improvements, traffic safety, library improvements, street lighting and sidewalks. Freehold Borough has more involvement in the Town Hall Participatory Budget Meetings then regular Council Meetings. They are starting to introduce this into the school with the help from their Superintendent. Mr. Kane spoke stating that this is the number one civic engagement strategy. Participatory Budget is a way to get people to understand how government works and to engage everyone in civic engagements.

C/Renee asked how many years Freehold Borough has done this. Mr. Griffiths stated 3 years.

Mayor Brown stated that the Participatory Budgeting is similar to what is already done. We do not spend money on anything in Neptune City every project we do is open for public comment; hearings are advertised residents are notified. Understands that this is just a different way to do it, by putting tax payer dollars aside first then decide a way to spend it later. Mayor Brown feels it is not a bad theory or thought; just do not agree with the process.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Griffiths for coming and giving this presentation.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Administrator Russell spoke about setting up a Neptune City Facebook page and a YouTube Channel. Hope to have Facebook up and running in July. No comments will be taken, will be informational only. With the YouTube channel hoping to have it up and running where you will be able to view meetings and different events going on here in town. Administrator Russell also made note that the sign board in front of Borough Hall is back up and running.

Neptune City Grievance Procedure, information in the Agenda, brought up by an OPRA Request throughout the State, internal process for the residents, if they feel we are not following the Disabilities Act they have a place to let us know. Administrator Russell spoke about Grants we have coming up that applications will be submitted for. 2020 NJ DOT Grant; 2020 Monmouth County CBDG Grant; 2019 Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant.

C/Lewis verified that there is not going to be a Neptune City Day this year; wants to propose the money in the Neptune City Day Bank Account be donated to the Community Center or Board of Recreation budget. There was continued discussion about the account and the money in the account.

C/Renee asked why officially we are not having Neptune City Day. Mayor Brown responded that the turnout for it has gradually declined in attendance by both visitors and vendors over the past 3 or 4 years. There was continued discussion about this.

C/Kocsis spoke about the possibility of getting Solar Panels on Borough Hall. There was continued discussion on this topic.

C/Calhoun gave an update on Neptune City First Aid Squad's Ambulance. There was discussion back and forth about this.

C/Renee spoke about Economic Development \$40,000 in Budget. Mainly for the Town Center that is in the Master Plan. This is a plan for the whole area. There was continued discussion on this topic.

Mayor Brown stated the workshop meeting needed to be closed out, as it was 7:00 p.m. and there is a scheduled regular meeting to start at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by C/Lewis. Seconded by C/Zajack.

Approved unanimously by roll call.