



**MINUTES
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 2009
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

NOTICE OF MEETING

Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Perth Amboy was held on Monday, November 30, 2009, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Perth Amboy, New Jersey at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding Officer of the Council Peter J. Jimenez, advised the audience that notice of this meeting has been filed with the Home News Tribune, The Star Ledger, The Amboy Beacon and posted on the bulletin board in the City Clerk's office and on the City's website.

Council President Peter J. Jimenez: At this time, as a courtesy to the Governing Body, I would ask all individuals present, including members of the audience, to please turn off all cell phones, pagers and electronic devices. Should you need to make a telephone call, please go out into the hallway and speak in a low voice so as not to disturb the ongoing meeting.

The sole purpose of this meeting was to consider two matters:

- 1) Recommendations to the SFY 2010 Budget.
- 2) Authorizing application for \$500,000 from UEZ for the YMCA project.

Meeting was called to order by Council President Peter J. Jimenez with the following Council Members present: Kenneth Balut, Geraldine M. Bolanowski, Fernando Gonzalez and Robert R. Sottilaro.

Also present at this meeting were: Jane Feigenbaum, Business Administrator; Jill Goldy, CFO/Comptroller; Mark J. Blunda, Esq., Director of Law and Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk.

Council Member Jimenez: The budget recommendations have been submitted by the City Clerk to the Administration for review. Tonight we will obtain recommendations from the public and they can be submitted to the Administration also.

Council Member Balut: After further discussion of the YMCA matter, I think we should vote to approve this.

Council Member Gonzalez: The two members from the public that were to attend tonight's meeting to discuss the YMCA matter were not included. The amount of the request has been decreased to \$250,000.

Mark Blunda, Esq.: There will be another application made for \$250,000 in the future when funds are available.

**PUBLIC PORTION
(5 MINUTES MAXIMUM PER SPEAKER)**

Richard Piatkowski, 142 Gordon St.: Why wasn't the resolution for the YMCA brought before the Council right after it was submitted? Why did it wait so long? The YMCA is not an economic development project. It is a business. This is not a public building when payment has to be made to participate in activities.

Richard Piatkowski was given an additional 5 minutes by unanimous vote of the Council after his time expired.

Richard Piatkowski: YMCA's are good for the City and provide good services, but this is not a public building. Will the YMCA have to close if this money is not appropriated?

Robert McCoy, Director - UEZ: Any additional funding must come before this body and go to the state. The state has a review committee that must approve any future applications for conformance.

Council Member Sottilaro: Where did the original \$500,000 figure come from?

Robert McCoy: The full amount was included originally even though the money was not there.

Alan Silber, 244 Rector St.: I have a problem with the YMCA being a public/private entity. Did it go out for bid? Is there a board and are members Perth Amboy residents? Does the Perth Amboy Recreation Dept. have access to the building? If they are asking for money, we should ask for records. We don't know the YMCA expenses. We don't know the salaries of the employees. This YMCA will haunt Perth Amboy's future.

Orlando Perez, 467 Rathburn Pl.: The Council should do an audit of the UEZ. The City is in a hole.

Steve Jobin, CEO of the YMCA: The YMCA is a non-profit organization. The Y advisory board members are volunteers. Police, city employees and residents get discounted membership rates. We are employing over 100 people and offer day care for children so the parents can work. The Y has taken ownership of the facility. The Y is willing to show you our books. We seek out all avenues of funding.

Mark J. Blunda: This application was made at an open UEZ board meeting. The application was provided to the administration. The administration asked for additional info. I met with the Y reps and questions were asked and answers were supplied. The documentation is open. There is no other PA business making application for funding.

Council Member Gonzalez: I reviewed the request from the Y for \$250,000. The items that will be done by these grant monies are essential things that the city must do in order to protect the city's investment. We are the landlords of the building. We must make repairs. I must support the Y.

Council Member Jimenez: Three years ago I asked for an investigation of the public safety complex building. I got no support. No one from the YMCA came before the Council at that time to advise us of the poor workmanship.

Mayor Wilda Diaz: The UEZ advisory council consists of members from the business community. The advisory board made this decision. Their meetings are public. These are issues that must be addressed. We can't have a YMCA that fails. This is a partnership made with the previous administration. There is mentoring of children at the YMCA. That is what we want. I urge the council to vote "yes".

Dorothy Carty-Daniel, 277 Water St.: I am a board member of the YMCA. We did not know what the deficits were in the past. All the decisions were made in the back room. We were not allowed to be part of the planning. We were not part of the process.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Council discussion and recommendation of amendments to the SFY 2010 Budget.

RESOLUTIONS

R-575-11/09 Authorizing City Officials to file an application for funding in the amount of \$250,000.00 from the Urban Enterprise Zone Assistance Fund to provide funding for the YMCA Community Center Project Grant.

Motion was made by Council Member Sottilaro, seconded by Council Member Bolanowski to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Balut, Bolanowski, Gonzalez, Sottilaro and Jimenez. Nay--none. Absent—none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion was made by Council Member Jimenez seconded by Council Member Sottilaro to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm, and was carried by the following vote: Yea—Council Members Balut, Bolanowski, Gonzalez, Sottilaro and Jimenez. Nay—none. Absent—none.

Elaine M. Jasko
City Clerk