

**MINUTES**  
**Work Session**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Monday, May 8, 2017**

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Council President Bromberg called the meeting to order at 9:40 pm in the Council Chambers located at 406 Rivervale Road, River Vale, New Jersey 07675.

**SALUTE TO FLAG**

Council President Bromberg asked all in attendance to rise and join him in a Salute to the Flag.

**SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT**

Council President Bromberg read the Sunshine Statement into the record, as follows:

*"In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the Municipal Office."*

**ROLL CALL**

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg were present.

**Also present:** Mayor Glen Jasionowski, Business Administrator/CFO Gennaro Rotella, Township Attorney Silvana Raso, Lisa Neiman, Township Engineer's Office and Township Clerk, Karen Campanelli.

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**Discussion - Deer Management**

Mayor Jasionowski opened up the discussion stating that he has always been very transparent about the deer situation and he has always stated that under his leadership there will never be a hunt. However, looking at all the facts and hearing from the experts that the deer problem will only get worse; as Mayor his responsibility is to do what's best for the Township whether or not he believes it in his heart. Mayor Jasionowski commented that for the first time in his elected career he is beginning to see the facts point towards having a hunt as being the only solution to rectify this problem. He feels that the Township is going to have to take a serious look at how they can safely and effectively achieve this goal.

Councilman Ben-Yishay attended the meeting with Fish Game & Wildlife and commented that the meeting was both enlightening and very scary. He explained that it was made very clear that the current environment in Bergen County is ideal for the deer to reproduce and that if we don't take significant steps the population will double every year. Councilman Ben-Yishay added that the deer have no fear and have become acclimated to humans. He was hoping that there would be other non-lethal means to control the deer however after hearing the experts their conclusion was that non-lethal measures won't work in our circumstances because we don't have a closed population.

Councilman Ben-Yishay concluded from the meeting that they have a major issue that they may decide to put off a year or two. However, at some point in time in the near future the Council and Administration of River Vale will have to do something and the only effective means is a controlled hunt. He also stated that it would be a bow hunt with experts and the State would be happy to work with the Township to set up a program that is both safe and very effective in densely populated areas.

Council President Bromberg added that the deer are also destroying wooded areas which are at this point are decimated.

Councilwoman Sieg also attended the meeting; she lives on Bailey and has numerous deer traveling through her property daily. The meeting provided a lot of information explaining that residents feed the deer so they become so tame and they reproduce very quickly. Councilwoman Sieg commented on the high cost of sterilization also not necessarily being effective unless all the surrounding Towns participate. She added that the representatives from the State have been studying this for years and showed images of the damage the deer have done to our forests over

time. Councilwoman Sieg agrees with the experts and that the only way to safely and humanely solve this problem is with a bow hunt.

Mayor Jasionowski suggested that he and Gennaro work with Fish Game & Wildlife to prepare a press release stating that the Town of River Vale is looking to move forward with an organized hunt and state the facts and reasons why. The Mayor added that this would have to be done next year for budget and planning purposes.

Mr. Rotella commented that the hunt can only be done for a certain amount of time during a specific time of year. He explained that the State is willing to come back and present the details to the Mayor and Council at a public meeting. Mayor Jasionowski stressed the importance of getting the word out to the residents.

Council President suggested to use the language controlled bow hunt in the press release; as there are different levels and types of hunts and we need to be specific.

Councilman Donovan agreed that the hunt is the only effective solution. Councilman Donovan had questions as to Township's time commitment whether it is 1 or 3 seasons. The Mayor responded that they don't have those specific details yet. Council President Bromberg added that Fish Game & Wildlife determines how many deer are to be culled and they will review on an annual basis.

Councilman Ben-Yishay reported on a new virus that is spread through the ticks that carry Lyme Disease. He explained that this new virus is horrific; having a 10% mortality rate and 50% of people that contract the virus are left with permanent neurological damage. He added that this virus is directly related to the deer population and all of the vectors that spread Lyme Disease.

Council President Bromberg called for a brief recess at 10:00pm

Council President Bromberg called the meeting to order at 10:05pm

**ROLL CALL**

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg were present.

**Discussion - Proposed Dumpster Ordinance**

Gennaro Rotella reported that presently dumpsters are not regulated in the Township. He used the example that a dumpster can sit in the front yard of a home for 2 years; currently there are 5 to 6 different locations in Town with this same issue. Mr. Rotella explained that Mike Sartori does not have the authority to ask that a dumpster that has been in the front yard for 2 years be removed. He further explained that these are abusive situations that we have no control over because we have no ordinance to follow.

Council President Bromberg commented that this situation is very similar to the POD ordinance; as far as longevity and where to place. He also questioned the severity violations and penalties section of the sample ordinance. Ms. Raso clarified that is not required that jail time be given and that this situation does create a hazard on the property. Councilwoman Sieg added that there is a quality of life issue as well.

Mr. Rotella offered to draft up a similar ordinance for the Mayor and Council to review. Councilman Donovan had issues with the language of the Emerson sample ordinance particularly with regard to the time frame. He would like to see the ordinance be sensible but still have enough teeth for when people abuse it. Mayor Jasionowski suggested having Mike Sartori and the meeting and the Council should send any suggestions about the ordinance to himself and Gennaro.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; seconded by Councilman Donovan to adjourn the meeting at 10:16pm.

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ATTEST:  
Karen Campanelli  
Township Clerk

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Council President  
Mark Bromberg

