

WORKSHOP MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2023
7:00 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Mayor Nohilly. “The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk’s office.”

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council President Butler, Councilmembers Horowitz, Delia, Franks and DeSarno

Absent: Councilman Blasucci

Also Present: Borough Clerk/Administrator Lori Reibrich and Borough Bond Counsel Drew Stauffer, Esq. for Richard Shaklee Esq.

1. **INVASIVE SPECIES:**

The Mayor and Council discussed the invasive species of bamboo. There are many municipalities in NJ that restrict or prohibit bamboo. A few issues have been brought to the Borough regarding neighbors planting bamboo and not having it properly installed to not impact the surrounding neighbors.

The Council discussed completely restricting the new planting of bamboo. The Council also discussed wanting to require any current bamboo be remediated by the homeowner as to mitigate any issues with running bamboo impacting surrounding neighbors.

Mayor Nohilly referred to Robert Napoli in the public audience and asked him to address the Council with an issue he has been experiencing.

Robert Napoli explained that having running bamboo come into his yard has had a devastating effect on his property. Quotes he received to remediate the problem on his property are astronomical. It also requires him to remove tens of thousands of dollars of his current landscaping as well as remediating the issue of random bamboo growth in his yard. Mr. Napoli spoke of lawsuits throughout NJ between neighbors as well as NJ Courts and Agriculture Organizations prohibiting bamboo.

Councilman Franks asked about the traveling distance of bamboo and what it takes to stop it. Mayor Nohilly explained that within 4 or 5 of traveling you can have an entire bamboo infestation in a matter of weeks. It is extremely hard to eradicate.

Councilman Delia was interested in researching this more himself to see the need of a proposed ordinance of this nature.

The Mayor and Council discussed having Borough Attorney Shaklee draft an ordinance based off of the discussions today and a few other ordinances already in place throughout NJ that were provided to the Council for review from Borough Clerk Reibrich.

2. **SIDEWALK PROJECT:** Mayor Nohilly brought back a discussion about doing a town wide project to remediate the sidewalk issues throughout town. There is a current ordinance from decades ago that requires homeowners to be responsible for the maintenance of their sidewalks. While the town enforces this ordinance during CO receipt and selling of houses, the overall state of the sidewalks is not in good shape.

There are a few options to remediate the sidewalk issues but with a previous Council there were discussions of a town wide project that would be a special assessment to residents when their sidewalks were repaired. This seemed like the direction that many members were interested in taking. The other option was to have the Code Enforcement Officer site a violation at each house with raised sidewalks.

The past discussion lent to the fact that if the Borough was to create and manage a town-wide project, the costs would be cheaper due to the number of repairs being done.

The Council discussed how Borough trees would be affected as the canopy is a very important part of Interlaken. The Mayor and Council discussed the ways of not removing the trees with sidewalk installations that can go around them.

3. **NEW BUSINESS:** No new business at this time.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comments.

Jodi Heinz, of 512 Bridlemere Avenue, asked about the kayak area and getting your kayak into the lake. Mayor Nohilly explained that there is a floating dock that will be installed but it is in a shipping delay. The project is not completed yet.

Andy Levine, 309 Bendermere Avenue, had pickle ball net questions. The Borough did order nets and they should be received soon. The Borough is going to look into a locker to hold the nets because the tennis players can also utilize that court and need different nets. Mr. Levine suggested an electronic system to sign up for courts like larger towns have because this is the fastest growing sport in America. He also offered to hold a pickleball clinic if the Borough would be interested.

With no further comments, Mayor Nohilly closed the floor.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Councilman Franks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Delia unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President Butler	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Delia	Councilman Franks	Councilman DeSarno	Councilman Blasucci
Motion to Approve					X		
Motion to Second				X			
Approved		X	X	X	X	X	
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused							X

Lori Reibrich, RMC/CMR
Borough Clerk/Administrator