

**Approved Minutes  
Open Session  
Of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton  
December 23, 2008  
Regular Meeting  
Open Session 5:30 P.M.**

Present: Council President Margaret Karcher, Councilman David Goldfarb, Councilman Andrew Koontz, Councilman Roger Martindell, Councilwoman Barbara Trelstad, Councilman Kevin Wilkes, and Mayor Mildred Trotman

Absent: None

Staff Present: Borough Administrator Robert W. Bruschi, Borough Engineer Christopher M. Budzinski, Chief Finance Officer Sandra L. Webb, Borough Clerk Andrea Lea Quinty

Mayor Trotman called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M. and read the open public meetings statement as follows:

*“This meeting is called to order pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of December 23, 2008, was included in a list of meetings sent to and advertised in the Princeton Packet and Trenton Times, posted on the bulletin board in the Borough of Princeton municipal building and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Proper notice having been given, the Borough Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.”*

Mayor Trotman asked all present to rise for **Agenda Item C, Salute to the Flag.**

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item D, Approval of Minutes.**

Presented for approval were the minutes of the open session of December 9, 2008.

Councilman Koontz moved to approve the minutes of the open session of December 9, 2008, Councilman Wilkes seconded, and Council approved unanimously.

Mayor Trotman read **Agenda Item E, Public Presentation**, and asked if anyone present wished to address the Council with an issue not on the agenda.

There were no public presentations.

Mayor Trotman read by title **Agenda Item F, New Business (1) — Resolution 2008-R298** as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2008-R298  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON  
TO ESTABLISH A QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULE  
WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is necessary and appropriate for it to meet regularly with the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton, in addition to joint budget meetings, in order to accomplish cost effective governmental planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council wish to establish a schedule at the beginning of each calendar year for quarterly meetings with the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton meetings, with the agenda for each meeting to be set at least one month in advance of the meeting in order to facilitate discussion and resolution of identified agenda items;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton shall establish in consultation with the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton, at the beginning of each calendar year, a schedule for quarterly meetings with the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton, in addition to joint budget meetings. The governing bodies shall establish the agenda for such meetings at least one month in advance of each meeting in order to facilitate discussion and resolution of identified agenda items.

Councilman Wilkes moved to approve Resolution 2008-R298 and Councilman Koontz seconded. Councilman Martindell suggested deleting the second “Resolved” paragraph and Council members agreed. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Trotman called for a vote. Mayor Trotman proclaimed the motion carried.

Mayor Trotman read by title **Agenda Item F, New Business (1) — Resolution 2008-R299** as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2008-R299  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON  
AWARDING CONTRACT TO WASTE MANAGEMENT  
FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Princeton has determined the need for services in connection with Solid Waste Collection Removal And Disposal Service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has solicited bid proposals for same; and

**WHEREAS**, all bid proposals were publically opened on November 13, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough received the following bids:

Waste Management \$46,578.75 per month, base bid  
\$47,250.00 per month, Alternate #1A  
\$38,642.00 per month, Alternate #1B  
\$39,044.00 per month, Alternate #1C

Central Jersey Waste and Recycling, \$49,150.00 per month, base bid  
\$50,650.00 per month, Alternate #1A  
\$42,750.00 per month, Alternate #1B  
\$44,000.00 per month, Alternate #1C, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Borough Engineer that the bid be awarded with Alternate #1C, which stipulates once a week pickup for a three year period, said period to extend from February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2012, and that the contract be awarded to Waste Management, 208 Patterson Avenue, Trenton NJ 08610 as the lowest responsible bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough’s Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for the purposes set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton that a three year contract be awarded to Waste Management, 208 Patterson Avenue, Trenton NJ 08610, for Solid Waste Collection Removal And Disposal Service in the amount of \$1,405,584.00 as set forth in the bid specifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract on behalf of the Borough.

Councilwoman Trelstad moved to approve Resolution 2008-R299 and Councilman Goldfarb seconded.

Council discussed reduction of pick-up service from twice to once per week as it applied to the agreement and resolution. Christopher Budzinski, Borough Engineer, explained that *once-a-week for three years* was the most attractive contract for taxpayers. He went on to clarify the process of notification to residents.

Mayor Trotman opened discussion to the public. Mary Agnes Procacino, 19 Erdman Avenue, asked if the new practice will affect items put curbside. Mayor Trotman replied, "No."

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Trotman called for a vote. Mayor Trotman proclaimed the motion passed.

Mayor Trotman read by title **Agenda Item G, Discussion (1) — 2009 Budget** — *Robert W. Bruschi, Borough Administrator*

Mayor Trotman announced that this is the first of several meetings to discuss the 2009 budget and that **no** decisions will be made today. She predicted adoption of a budget will occur in the spring.

Councilman Goldfarb hoped for decisions at this meeting to identify areas where Borough can recognize savings early in 2009.

Robert Bruschi, Borough Administrator, recapped for the public the draft budget that staff had presented to Council on December 9. He mentioned union reluctance to re-negotiate existing agreements. Recommended additional (since December 9) staff reductions include police, administration, and public works departments.

Mr. Bruschi suggested next steps:

1. Begin advising employees that layoffs are coming
2. Continue discussions with bargaining units
3. With solid numbers mid-January (unaudited), work with finance committee on specific items
4. Meet immediately with Township about joint agency issues
5. Pursue outreach to the community.

Claire Jacobus, member and chair of the Human Services Commission (HSC), introduced her fellow commissioners present in the audience. In reference to suggested budget considerations as they applied to Human Services, she expressed certainty that handing off their work to other government or private agencies would create hardship for the town and its disaffected citizens.

Cynthia Mendez, Human Services Director distributed information packets describing accomplishments, goals, Crosstown rides, welfare demographics, and so forth.

Alex Maweez, 14-year-old Princeton High School student, participated in the HSC summer employment program. He is still employed at the job HSC found for him.

Cora Sloan, 6 Maple Terrace, uses HSC for (1) job information, used clothing, transportation and (2) guidance for her teenage son.

Roz Denard, former Township Committeewoman, described the mission of HSC and beseeched Council not to destroy it (cut *down*, not cut *out*).

Tom Parker, chair of the civil rights committee, supported HSC.

Councilman Martindell stated the need to learn whether Mercer County can legally send intake personnel to the Borough. He noted the historic practice of volunteerism during hard economic times (perhaps increased activity by University students). Councilman Martindell thought HSC programs could survive within different alternative programs (for example, youth work program operated through recreation department).

Council President Karcher asked Ms. Mendez about conference, professional meeting, and training expenses. Ms. Mendez provided examples.

Mr. Bruschi said the senior center has stated willingness to take over Crosstown administration. He recommended Council reach out to prospective “other agencies” immediately.

Councilwoman Trelstad and Councilman Wilkes sought clarification of some line items and Ms. Mendez obliged with details.

Mayor Trotman inquired about HSC programs **not** available in Trenton or through Mercer County. Ms. Mendez mentioned “this unique thing that we do” for the Latino community (such as legal matters, school registration, tenant/landlord, domestic violence among others) that would represent a “service gap” without HSC. She stressed that some people *will not* avail themselves of services in Trenton, throwing problems back onto the streets of Princeton Borough.

Councilman Goldfarb emphasized that Council is asked to identify functions that are not central to governing the town. He suggested that there may be groups already present to assume non-central functions.

Councilman Wilkes said he was uncomfortable discarding the entire HSC system; clearly there is value in the dollars expended.

Council instructed Mr. Bruschi to seek out new service providers and report to Council. Councilman Wilkes and Council President Karcher will meet with Ms. Jacobus and Ms. Mendez.

Mr. Bruschi requested input this evening from Council on the topic of upcoming layoffs. (Staff may need to identify particular individuals.) He hoped to inform employees early January 2009 and be able to provide prompt outsourcing where appropriate.

Mr. Bruschi identified other areas of consideration for cuts, Councilman Goldfarb expressed concern about neglected street trees with elimination of Shade Tree.

Councilman Martindell asked about legally (politically) approaching bargaining units with options. Mr. Bruschi responded that the unions had refused to re-negotiate.

Mr. Bruschi stated that an initial mailing to employees about cutbacks will not be a commitment to action.

Council sought increased revenue through fines for neglected snowy sidewalks.

Council discussed timing of next budget debate.

Mayor Trotman asked if anyone from the audience wished to address Council.

Mark Alexandridis, Princeton Avenue, raised procedural items:

1. Meetings of interest to the public could be held on Saturdays
2. Status of University agreement
3. Belated payments from Township
4. Cottage Club dispute

Council was open to the Saturday meeting idea. Council went on to update Mr. Alexandridis's other topics.

Mr. Alexandridis stressed examining consequences of tough budget choices. He suggested researching outsourcing some Borough functions such as Shade Tree.

Kristin Appelget, Princeton University, confirmed that their agreement with Borough is a six-year agreement with a notice date in writing of January 1, 2008. It is their stand that it *is* a six-year agreement. She was interested to learn that Borough has the lowest effective tax rate in Mercer County.

**Mayor Trotman read Agenda Item H, Bill List for December 9, 2008 — Resolution 2008-R300 as follows:**

**RESOLUTION 2008-R300  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON  
APPROVING THE DECEMBER 23, 2008 BILL LIST**

**WHEREAS**, Sandra L. Webb has forwarded the bills received for payment by the Borough of Princeton for review and approval by the Mayor and Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Clerk has certified that the vouchers listed on the attached register are as follows:

December 23, 2008

CURRENT ACCOUNT (8-01)	3,718,577.45
RESERVE ACCOUNT (7-01)	6,270.45
PARKING UTILITY OPERATING FUND (8-05)	18,323.30
PARKING UTILITY OPERATING FUND (7-05)	900.00
AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPERATING ACCT (8-24)	2,437.32
IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT (8-11)	
AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPERATING ACCT (7-24)	
CAPITAL ACCOUNT (C-04)	144,974.00
PARKING UTILITY CAPITAL FUND (P-08)	600.00
ESCROW (E-30)	3,229.84
TRUST FUND (T-13)	3,500.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	
FLEXIBLE SPENDING FUND (5-22)	
MANUAL	1,283,236.10
ASSESSMENT TRUST FUND (5-11)	
GRANT (G-02)	

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton approve the bill list of December 23, 2008 as presented.

Councilman Koontz moved to approve Resolution 2008-R300, Councilwoman Trelstad seconded, and Council approved unanimously.

Councilman Koontz moved to adjourn. There being no further business, Mayor Trotman adjourned the open session meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

**Andrea Lea Quinty**  
**Borough Clerk**