

The art of bubble blowing

Marcus Miller shows his cousin, Corey Miller, 2, how to blow a bubble during an afternoon in Weequahic Park, Newark. The two Newark residents, like many New Jerseyans, enjoyed pleasant temperatures and sunny skies. Today should be slightly warmer and partly sunny.

Photo by Jim MacBride



Mayor, council tangle over Orange budget

By KEVIN DILWORTH

The Orange City Council and Mayor Robert L. Brown last night wrangled for more than 1½ hours over some final municipal budget amendments that are expected to send the property tax rate from \$14.96 to \$16.73 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Council members Louise Corvino, Todd Mark Galante and Patricia Juliano opposed raising the budget in the mayor's office from \$77,334 to \$86,334, a \$9,000 hike. They similarly objected to the city council's expenses and wages being increased from \$81,480 to \$116,480, a \$35,000 hike.

Council members James J. Brown, no relation to the mayor, Mims Hackett, Dwight Mitchell and Marian Silvestri supported the budget amendment increases.

During the heated special session, Galante, along with at least one member of the audience, accused the mayor of manipulating the council on the amendments and of running the council meeting.

The mayor denied the accusation. Council President Silvestri insisted she was in control and running the meeting.

A regular city council meeting followed, and when it ended after 11 p.m., the council said its final budget—to be voted upon Monday night—would total \$25.8 million and require a \$9.8 million tax levy.

Galante had noted that the mayor's original budget would have sent the property tax rate soaring to \$18 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The council needed five votes to approve the two amendment increases. The 4-3 vote defeat means the mayor's salary will not be increased 67 percent, from \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year, retroactive to Jan. 1, as had been suggested. Nor will the council members' salaries go up 50 percent, from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

In other business, Mayor Brown outlined a new program aimed at col-

Spending plan amendments could bring tax levy of \$16.73

lecting delinquent property, sewer and water taxes; the council introduced an ordinance to eliminate the police department's top chief position and create a new deputy police director's post, and the council approved a 5 percent wage hike for municipal employees, retroactive to Jan. 1.

"This administration has initiated a special campaign to target and attack those who have previously made a mockery of taxpayers," the mayor said. "With the extra difficulties attached to the collection and foreclosure on water and sewer taxes, some building owners have consciously not paid water and sewer taxes. This administration will not tolerate these actions."

Last month, he continued, the city developed a list of the businesses and commercial developments in Orange that owe more than \$5,000 in water and sewer taxes, some of them since 1986. According to Brown, "That list contained some well-known and prominent organizations, as well as slumlords and developers."

The mayor publicly identified the top 10 water and sewer tax scofflaws as landlord Louis Malavara, also known as South Center Associates and Macron Realty, \$102,000 plus interest; Orange Memorial Hospital, recently paid \$25,000 but owes \$70,000 plus interest; C. Samuels, \$36,400 plus interest; Winston (only name available), \$30,000 plus interest; J. Cassini Jr., who recently paid \$10,000 but owes \$28,000 plus interest.

Also, Expert Management Co., \$27,000 plus interest; Woosung Realty, \$17,400 plus interest; Ari Parnes, \$14,000 plus interest; R. McCree and William Goodwine, each \$12,000 plus

interest.

"Our intentions to scofflaws are to show no mercy and use any means necessary to collect the taxes that honest taxpayers pay and dishonest people try to avoid paying," said the mayor, outlining a 10-point program.

From now on, Brown said, such scofflaws will be personally notified of their delinquent status by Business Administrator Thomas Morrison. Violators subsequently will face being prohibited from doing any business with the city and having municipal services, such as garbage removal, curtailed, he added.

Regarding changes in the police

department's table of organization, the ordinance amendment calls for a police director, a deputy police director, five captains, 13 lieutenants and 18 sergeants.

Charles Cobbert is the police director and Anthony Benevento is the acting police chief. Police Chief Robert Sorge has been on a combination of sick leave and vacation since late last year.

The council also approved establishing a salary range for the police director of \$45,000 to \$55,000, and for a deputy police director, \$45,000 to \$50,000.

In still other business, the council, on second and final reading, adopted an ordinance, effective immediately, that prohibits the use or possession of electronic paging devices on school property.

The council said the beeper devices often are used by students and others to transact illegal drug business.

Montclair panel urges recycling center shift

Montclair's recycling subcommittee last night recommended that the center on North Fullerton Avenue be relocated across the street behind the public works building to reduce the noise created by operations.

The subcommittee, consisting of Councilmen Arthur Thompson, William Turner and John Griffith, conducted the study in response to neighbors' complaints about noise.

The subcommittee report said operations should be maintained at the present level as much as possible but recommended a "new approach" that would cut curbside pickups to once a week. A "substantial savings" in municipal collection costs could result, according to the subcommittee statement.

The plan also involves sending some material, including glass, plastic bottles and aluminum and tin cans, to West Paterson for recycling. West Paterson would take the material without charge.

Montclair's revenue from the sale of such materials would fall by about \$19,000 to \$20,000 a year, according to subcommittee projections, but some \$225,000 yearly would be saved by cutting tonnage deposited at the transfer station by about 10 percent.

The recycling center would be moved across North Fullerton behind the public works garage.

"This will move it further from residents and allow the present center to be used for badly needed parking," the statement reads.

The subcommittee also considered a second option, costing about \$126,000

in capital expenditures, which would have involved constructing a recycling building, buying a mobile electric crane, modifying existing packer trucks with electric motors and building additional fencing around the recycling area on N. Fullerton Avenue.

A third alternative would involve hiring a contractor to collect at curbside.

"This option would address the noise issue, preclude the need to construct a state-of-the-art recycling center and meet our required recycling percentage goals."

But, the statement adds, "It does put the township at the mercy of outside contractors."

The modified center would be open six days a week from noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

In other matters, Catherine Nicholas of New Street presented the council with a petition asking for action to stop drug trafficking in the neighborhood.

The petition, which Nicholas said contains 100 signatures, asks for "a policy of intense police patrolling of the area."

Residents are also asking that the New Street parking lot be cleaned up and cleared of abandoned cars.

"I've lived on the street for 22 years and I'm totally ashamed to tell people that I live there," Nicholas said.

Mayor Clifford Lindholm said township officials were concerned about the area and that this year's budget had allowed the addition of two patrol officers.

Airlink buses fitted with wheelchair lifts

All NJ Transit Airlink buses operating between downtown Newark and Newark International Airport are now equipped with wheelchair lifts to allow access by mobility-impaired persons, NJ Transit officials announced yesterday.

The six Airlink buses, which serve all terminals of the airport, operate between the Broad Street station, the

Quality Inn Hotel on Park Place, the Public Service Electric & Gas Co. building and Newark Penn Station Bus Lane No. 1.

"Newark International Airport is the first of the three major metropolitan airports to be served with regularly scheduled accessible bus service," said NJ Transit Executive Director Thomas Gagliano.

New county treasurer appointed in Essex

Essex County Executive Nicholas Amato announced yesterday that he has appointed Joseph Auremma, the former Bloomfield finance director, as county treasurer.

Auremma, who was hired as a \$60,000-a-year assistant budget officer for Essex in July, fills the vacancy left by the resignation of Joseph Galluzzi. Galluzzi resigned as treasurer and acting finance director to become a part-time consultant to the county.

Galluzzi's new contract, which was approved by the freeholders in 7-2 vote, set his salary at \$125,000 and gave him \$1 per \$1,000 par value for the underwriting of negotiated bond issues. Galluzzi had been receiving \$66,000 a year as county treasurer and acting finance director.

Mark Parnes, who has been on the staff of the county finance department the last 10 years, was appointed director of that office last month.

Auremma did not receive a salary boost in accepting the treasurer's post, according to Amato.

The county executive said, "I am confident that Joe Auremma will continue the programs started by our outgoing treasurer, Joseph Galluzzi, to improve our cash management systems and controls."

The new treasurer holds a degree in business administration from Seton Hall University and a master's degree in public administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

From 1977 to 1986, Auremma served as finance director for Bloomfield, where he resides. In his municipal post, Auremma was responsible for supervision of tax collection, controller, treasury, water and public utility operations.

In 1986 Auremma was named finance director for Jersey City, the state's second largest city. During his tenure there, Auremma reorganized the department. While in Jersey City, Auremma said he also implemented general and capital financing techniques resulting in substantial savings for the city.

Verona provides funds to reconstruct two roads

A \$175,000 appropriation for reconstruction and resurfacing of Rockland Terrace and Orchard Street was adopted last night by the Verona council.

Township Manager Vincent DiMauro said the improvements, to include curbing, regrading of both streets and repairs to sidewalks and driveway aprons, are contingent upon the receipt of community development block grant funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. DiMauro said the council is required to approve the measure before it receives

any funds from Washington.

In a related matter, the council applied for \$422,620 in state transportation trust fund aid to finance repairs to portions of Oakridge Road, Claremont Avenue and Hillside Avenue. DiMauro said Verona should receive a response on its application from the state Department of Transportation by late fall.

The council awarded a \$28,403 contract to Creo Contracting of West Caldwell to resurface the municipal annex building's parking lot on Grove Street.

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