

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

JANUARY 26, 2012 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Gerald Mobus called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD

ROLL CALL

Joren [P] Black [P] Franklin [P] Pote [P] Nehls [P] Cassidy [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney James Harding, CFO Bill Hance, Engineer Tom Herits, and Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 2 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin reported the Borough will receive the State aid figures on February 21st, and this is key for putting together the budget. He said the Borough did receive franchise royalties from Verizon and Cablevision totalling about \$38,000.

2. Police - Council President Joren announced the department participated in a Somerset County initiative called "put it down." She explained drivers stopped for being on a cell phone while driving were issued a warning for a first offence, and given a 15 - day window to view a video on the dangers of using a cell phone while operating a vehicle. If they fail to watch the video, they are issued a ticket. She said the program has been very successful. Councilwoman Joren said the DARE graduation is scheduled for January 31st, noting that this is Officer Talmadge's first class.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls said the season's first snowfall came this past Saturday, and fortunately was not a major one. He complimented the Public Works crew and said positive comments are coming in. He reported the storm cleanup has been completed and all leaf bags and Christmas trees picked up. He announced the yellow lines on Johnston Drive have been repainted, community service personnel continue to wash police cars in addition to picking up roadside trash. Councilman Nehls asked Mayor Mobus for the status of the agreement with North Plainfield that will help alleviate some stormwater problems for Mountain Drive and Edgemont Road residents and Mayor Mobus advised that it is in the lawyers' hands. Councilman Nehls said he intends to hold a meeting with the residents of Edgemont and Mountain to bring them up to date on progress of the improvements. He announced a water runoff problem from Green Brook onto Glen Eagle is being discussed, the permit process for Ross Pond has begun, and the Blue Star sewer line is being discussed

4. Buildings and Grounds; Recreation - Councilwoman Cassidy said the purchase order to build shelving at the Texier House is on the agenda. She announced the Recreation Commission will begin to advertise for summer playground registrations, in an effort to assess the demand to consider whether or not the program should continue in 2012.

5. Public Affairs - Councilman Pote said it has been a busy January. He reported the Planning Board held their re-organization meeting on the 17th and said the Board passed a resolution supporting the County's CEDS initiative, and noted Mayor Mobus will be putting together a committee. Councilman Pote said the Foreman Group has been asked to provide a high level rendering which he hopes will be ready to be made public in a couple of weeks. Councilman Pote also announced the Board of Health held its re-organization meeting and said at that meeting, possible exclusions and exemptions to the sewer hook-up requirements were discussed. He explained the Board of Health is looking for the right balance between the State requirements and the resident's needs. Councilman Pote said he attended the Board of Adjustment's re-organization meeting and reported no real activity was acted upon. He announced the Open Space Committee met on January 23rd and discussed the Ness property and Camp Endeavor, and noted that the Borough has a Ness Property Advisory Committee, however, the Open Space Committee would still like to generate ideas. He advised Mayor Mobus that the Committees still needs a member of the Historical Committee to complete its membership.

6. Fire - Councilman Black said Chief Carlucci had reported approximately one call per day, and that the Department held two drills, and one joint drill with the Rescue Squad on blood borne pathogens. He reminded all that the radio upgrade is mandatory by the end of this year, and advised that the Department is also looking to purchase a GIS software package for their vehicles. Mayor Mobus said he believed that this information was available to all the Borough's Departments through our current GIS system and Engineer Herits said the Chief is looking for a fire-specific integrated system.

7. Laws/Ordinances - Councilman Pote said Laws and Ordinances met on January 25th and discussed final changes to the dog ordinance. He thanked Attorney Albert Cruz and Administrator Tom Atkins for their assistance with the new contract for animal control services with Plainfield Area Humane Society. He said the Committee also discussed public safety and vehicle use policies. Councilman Pote said the Committee is also reviewing the Planning Board's recommendations in regard to "flag-lots."

Mayor Mobus announced he is making changes to some of the Councilmanic Committees, as Chairing Public Affairs can be too much for one person. He said Councilman Franklin will now Chair Public Affairs, and committee member Black will assume responsibility as liaison to the Board of Health, and committee member Cassidy to the Open Space Committee.

REPORTS - OTHER:

8. Engineer - Mr. Herits reported he has reviewed the I-78 Planning Study - final report by the NJ DOT and said it is not favorable to Watchung. He announced the improvements to Ridge Road are now complete; the County has been addressing erosion control on the circle; and solutions to an icing problem on Glen Eagles are being reviewed. Mr. Herits said the environmental remediation on the Ness property has just begun using ground penetrating radar, and that they are looking for septic and underground storage tanks. Mr. Herits said he and Mayor Mobus attended a presentation at Valley View School by the SOAR students, and explained the students created "cities of the future." He said he was very impressed with what the students presented and said it was interesting and unique. Councilman Franklin asked Mr. Herits for an update on the status of the sign on Bonnie Burn Road that indicates a right turn if you are looking to go to Newark, but steers most traffic onto Prospect, a private Road with two houses. Mr. Herits said the DOT responded that there was nothing they could do and they were not going to relocate the sign. Mayor Mobus suggested extending the marker lanes and Mr. Herits said the DOT had promised to have the contractor install a "no outlet" sign at the corner of Prospect and Bonnie Burn, and that he is also going to suggest "do not block driveway" signs.

- 9. Police Chief - No report presented.
- 10. Fire Department - No report presented.
- 11. Rescue Squad - No report presented.
- 12. Attorney - Mr. Harding had nothing to report.
- 13. Clerk- Mrs. DeRocco had nothing to report.

14. Administrator -Administrator Atkins referred to Resolution R9 on the agenda, authorizing the County of Somerset to submit the recycling reports on behalf of the Borough. He explained the State is now mandating submission of all reports to be done by a certified recycling professional. He said it has been a pleasure to work with the County with this agreement and we have to wait to see how it works out.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda items listed below were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Councilwoman Joren, a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, "aye".

Approval of the following Council minutes:
January 12, 2012 - Regular and Executive

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Police Activity Report - December, 2011
Tax Collector's Report - December, 2011
Recreation Minutes - December 7, 2011
Finance Department - Revenue Reports: November, December, 2011

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #4 - Georgia Glasser-Nehls 1/19/12 Letter of resignation as a member of the Traffic and Beautification Commission c: M & C, TEA
- #5 - Borough of Far Hills 1/19/12 Resolution opposing S1954/A4358 - Forest Harvesting on State Lands c: M & C, TEA, Env. Commission
- #6 - Joyce Huber 1/23/12 E-mail commending Public Works for a great job plowing the top of North Drive and around the triangle after this weekend's snow event c: M & C, TEA, BB

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda resolutions listed below, with the exception of R8, were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Councilwoman Joren, a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, "aye".

- R1:01/26/12 Authorize Professional Service Contracts - Board of Adjustment Engineer,
Planning Board Engineer
- R2: Authorize Tax Sale Redemption - Certificate #5-2011
- R3: Authorize Tax Sale Redemption - Certificate #8-2011
- R4: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 of the Borough Code - 2 Purchase Orders / Steve Monetti
- R5: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Ditschman/Flemington Ford, The Rodgers Group, Archonix Systems, LLC
- R6: Authorize Emergency Purchase - Wayne H. Boylan Contracting, Inc.
- R7: Authorize Clerk to Issue Raffle Licence - Childrens Tumor Foundation

Councilman Nehls asked for the removal of R8 for separate consideration. He explained that Andy has been working for the past six months as a probationary foreman in the Department of Public Works and has really "stepped up to the plate." He said he this promotion is well deserved. Mayor Mobus added that Andy is a hard worker with a genuine passion for this Borough.

- R8: Authorize Salary Adjustments - A. Baldassarre, L. Shpunder

Councilman Nehls moved for the adoption of R8, a second was made by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, "aye".

- R9: Authorize Somerset County to Submit Recycling Reports
- R10: Appointment to Wildlife Management Advisory Committee - Phil Whitting
- R11: Appointment to Traffic and Beautification Commission - RoseAnn Barr
- R12: Appointment to Traffic and Beautification Commission - Robert Gibbs
- R13: Appointment to Youth Services Commission - William Stankan
- R14: Appointment to Youth Services Commission - Mary Nunn
- R15: Appointment to Youth Services Commission - Kathleen Caldas

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA: Items listed below will be individually addressed and acted upon accordingly. Council reserves the right to refer an item to Committee for further review and discussion.

Proposed Ordinance OR:12/01 entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Code of the Borough of Watchung CH. 5-12-12.76 et. seq., thereof and to fix and determine minimum and maximum salaries and compensation to be paid to certain employees" was introduced. Councilman Pote moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilman Pote moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, "aye". Public Hearing to be held on February 9, 2012.

R16: Introduction of OR:12/01 - Amend Code - Minimum/Maximum Range for Employee Salaries - Chief of Police

Mayor Mobus asked a member of the public, Dr. Lee Ehrenworth, to read the following proclamation on his behalf:

Proclamation - "Wear Red Day for Women" / February 3, 2012 (Copy attached)

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

R17:01/26/12 Authorize 2011 Budget Transfer

Councilman Franklin moved R17, a second was made by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, "aye."

R18: Payment of Bills

Councilman Franklin moved R18, a second was made by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, "aye."

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PUBLIC PORTION

Charles Neiss, Dogwood Lane and Board of Education President, advised the Governing Body that the Board of Education will be discussing the recently passed legislation that allows school boards to move their annual election to the November General election date. Mr. Neiss also announced the date of the Narratives of Courage program will be held on May 16th.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 P.M. to the call of the Chair and the next scheduled meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 9, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Clerk