

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2012 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Acting Mayor Debra Joren called the meeting to order at 7:36 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 was Borough Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, and Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 5 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin said he is receipt of January's revenue report, however, noted that since this is the beginning of the year, it is not real meaningful. He explained there are two areas that cannot be budgeted for, one is budget refund and the other is unanticipated revenue. Councilman Franklin said the Administration and Finance Committee is beginning to review the capital appropriations, and believes this year's budget will be a good one. He thanked Councilman Pote and Councilwoman Cassidy for their assistance in the budget process, and assured the residents that this Committee consists of very qualified people. He said they are still trying to pin down a date for the Department's budget hearings. Acting Mayor Joren suggested that all review their budget books to see if all the Departments' presence at the meeting is warranted.

2. Police - Police Commissioner Joren reported that both Mayor Mobus and Chief Wenzel are at the County this evening where the Police Consolidation study is being released and discussed. She said they will report at the next meeting.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls reported the Borough has a DOT grant for Johnston Drive that needs to be used before August, therefore, he said a bond ordinance will have to be put into place. He explained that the Borough must spend the money for the project and then the DOT will reimburse the Borough. He said grant money has been awarded for improvements to Cedar and Lakeview, however, both those projects will probably not get done until next year. He said the Public Works Committee also discussed Allen Pond, and explained the Borough has been mandated by the DEP to decommission the dam. He said a new concern has come up on Glen Eagles, where 2 springs from Washington Rock park have been flowing downward causing road damage and presenting a serious icing condition in the cold weather. Councilman Nehls said the Committee would also like to move forward with drainage work on Hill Hollow and Knollwood and will continue to discuss this with Mr. Herits. He said the Borough is working to obtain easements necessary to proceed with drainage improvements for Mountain Drive and Edgemont Road.

4. Buildings and Grounds; Recreation - Councilwoman Cassidy said a special meeting of the Recreation Commission was held and upgrading and strengthening the summer Playground program was the topic of discussion. She said much time was spent going over personnel issues, however, they did not have a quorum so no decisions could be acted on. She said an increase in the registration fee for this program was also discussed. In regard to the Historical Committee, Councilwoman Cassidy said quotes are being sought to move display cases from the Library to the Texier House. Councilman Nehls mentioned that Bob Burns, although still on an "iv," has been cleared for light duty.

5. Public Affairs - Councilman Franklin said the Open Space Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on the 16th and are very focused on Camp Endeavor and the Ness property. He said he intends to advise at that meeting that the future of the Ness property still has a long way to go. Councilman Franklin said the Environmental Commission would like to add a styrofoam drop-off and collection to the Borough's June 16th "shred" event. He said if possible, he would also like to invite "Mr. Scrap Metal." Mr. Cruz said he would have to review the Local Public Contracts Law and advised Councilman Franklin to wait before inviting Mr. Scrap Metal. In regard to the Board of Health, Council-

man Black said their last meeting was focused on sewers, and the Board will continue to re-evaluate the current ordinances in an effort to address residents' concerns.

6. Fire - Councilman Black said at the last Fire meeting, communications and narrow banding were discussed. He said the Department has applied to the FCC for a new license, and once that is received they can proceed to reprogram. He said they are waiting for a proposal from a consultant. He apologized to the Rescue Squad for not including them in this meeting. Acting Mayor Joren asked which departments will be covered under the new license and Councilman Black said he believes it is just the Fire Department. Councilman Nehls said he attended the last Rescue Squad meeting and believes that Adam Wexler has been working with the Police Department on narrow banding, and will be using the same consultant.

7. Laws/Ordinances - Councilman Pote said the Planning Board will be meeting next week. He said an engineer from the Foreman Group met with the Borough's engineers, Tom Herits and Arlene McCoy, at the Library and discussed parking, drainage, stormwater runoff, and DEP permits - all issues that could be associated with a renovation to the Library. He reported a good exchange of information had taken place. He said that at the same time, the Committee is now pressed with a schedule to get this question on a referendum in November. He said he would like to set up a meeting with Mayor Mobus and Administrator Atkins to address some items.

REPORTS - OTHER:

8. Engineer - No report was presented.

9. Police Chief - No report was presented.

10. Fire Department - No report was presented.

11. Rescue Squad - President Don Monetti announced the Squad will be attending the Little League Opening Day, the Triathlon on May 20th, and the Memorial Day picnic. He said the squad's fund drive will be underway soon and noted this is held every other year. He said the Squad hosted an informational session with the 3rd grade girl scouts in March, and will be welcoming a 5th grade troop this Friday. Mr. Monetti advised resident Wade Homer has joined the Squad as a new member, and noted that he is CPR and EMT certified. He also reported that the weekend shifts have been extremely busy and that last weekend they received 10 calls. Mr. Monetti said one of those calls was to assist an individual at Party City, and moments later a second call was received for an elderly lady who had fallen in the middle of Route 22, in front of Party City. Upon arrival, Rob Winston was able to split up the crew and attend to both calls. The elderly lady had been a missing person from a nearby town. Top responders for the month were Noah Monetti, Adam Wexler, and Charles Pivnichny.

12. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had nothing report but said he had one item for discussion in Executive Session.

13. Clerk - Mrs. DeRocco announced JIF Attorney Harry Yospin is scheduled to come to the Borough on Tuesday, April 17th, and will provide required EPL training to Department Heads and Supervisors.

14. Administrator - Mr. Atkins said he attended a JIF meeting this morning and will prepare a report to the Governing Body. He asked all Council to review their budget work books, and to call him if there are any questions. He also noted that Resolution R5, the award of contract to Maser Consulting for continued affordable housing consultation services, will be removed from tonight's agenda. Mr. Atkins explained that this will be addressed at another meeting.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:
March 22, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Finance Department Revenue Report - January, 2012
Historical Committee - Minutes of February 8, 2012; 2012 Strategic Plan

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #14 - Heidi and Stephen Rubino 3/25/12 Thanking and commending the helpful and supportive assistance received from the Construction and Engineering Departments, during their home renovation
- #15 - Governor Christie 3/27/12 Notice of Transportation (DOT) Grant award / \$220,000.00 to be used for
- #16 - Middle Earth 3/30/12 Requesting permission for the annual Frank "Nap" Torpey, Memorial "Hills of Somerset County" Cycling Classic to pass through Watchung on Saturday, May 26, 2012 c: M & C, TEA, TW
- #17 - Governor Christie 3/30/12 Notice of pension reform and its benefit to Watchung c: M & C, TEA, WH
- #18 - Somerset County Planning Board 4/9/12 Resolution supporting the Action Plan Concepts Of the Raritan River Initiative c: M & C, TEA, TH

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda items listed below, with the exception of R5, were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Councilman Black, a second by Councilman Franklin and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, "aye."

- R1:04/12/12 Supporting A-2717 to Extend the Deadline on Housing Trust Funds
- R2: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Fun Services, Tri-State Materials, Geargrid Corporation, Knox Company
- R3: Appointment to Fire Department - Robert Tucker, Russell Reed
- R4: Authorize Participation with the State of NJ - Safe and Secure Communities Program
- ~~R5: Authorize Expansion of Contract - Maser Consulting / Continuing Housing Advisory~~
- R6: Authorize Return of Escrow Balances - As listed
- R7: Authorize Cancellation of Unexpended Capital Balances
- R8: Authorize Professional Service Contract - LT.. Purcell Associates / Planning, Design, and Resident Engineering and Inspection for Johnston Drive and Valley Drive Sanitary Sewer Extensions
- R9: Authorize Tax Redemption - Certificate #9-2010
- R10: Authorize Tax Redemption - Certificate #1-2011

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AND RESOLUTIONS: 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:12/04 entitled: "**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, CHAPTER VI, ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL," SPECIFICALLY SECTION 9-3.7 THEREOF, ENTITLED 'LICENSE FEES; MAXIMUM NUMBER' AS HERETOFORE SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED**" 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 Franklin and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy "aye". Public Hearing to be held on April 26, 2012.

- R11: Introduction of Ordinance OR:12/04 - Amend Code to increase Liquor License Fees

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PUBLIC PORTION

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, questioned the success of this year's deer culling. Mr. Atkins responded that over the course of about 12 or 13 days, 22 deer were removed. He said that most of the culling was done on Borough property, in addition to 2 private sites. Mrs. Goldschein said that a successful cull was done in the past 6 or 7 years, and believes the poor numbers in the last two years will undo all of the progress that was being made. Mr. Atkins announced that he had spoken to Hans Jette this morning, and that the Wildlife Advisory Committee will be requesting to meet with the Council.

Tina Kelly, Board of Education member and resident of Dogwood Lane, said she was present this evening in an effort to stay informed and bring information back to the Board.

No one else from the public desired to be heard.

Councilman Black offered the following resolution:

R12: Executive Session: Attorney-Client Privilege: Council on Affordable Housing Update

Councilman Franklin seconded this motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, "aye."

Upon return to regular session, all Council members previously in attendance were again present.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 P.M. to the call of the Chair and to the next meeting scheduled to be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 26, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Clerk