

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

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

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Acting Mayor Debra Joren called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 [A]

Also present was Borough Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Chief Finance Officer Bill Hance, Engineer Tom Herits, and Clerk Michelle DeRocco. Mayor Mobus was not present.

There were 4 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin announced a special workshop meeting is scheduled for this Saturday, beginning at 2:00 P.M. to discuss Department budget requests, and noted the public is welcomed to attend.

2. Police - Council President and Acting Mayor Joren reported there will be a Police Committee meeting tomorrow morning, and that the Chief has met with a representative from the Rodgers Group to begin the accreditation process. She said interviews for the positions of Sergeant and Lieutenant will begin next week, and noted one officer is on light duty and Officer Hale is temporarily handling traffic duties. She said a reverse 911 call went out this evening to let residents know that there will be a prescription drop-off event at Police Headquarters this Saturday and noted that Senator Bateman is sponsoring legislation that will mandate institutions to properly dispose of old medications.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls was happy to report that Bob Burns is back to work. He reported the amount of branch debris at the Ness property has been significantly reduced. He reported PARSA has videotaped a collapsed storm drain on Sunlit Drive, the fence at Blackadar Field has been installed, the aerators are on at both lakes, and the department continues the annual spring clean-up of Borough grounds. He said the Police Department's air conditioning units continue to need service and after discussion, it was the consensus of the Council members present that a mechanical engineer should be brought in to evaluate the HAC system.

4. Buildings and Grounds; Recreation - No report was presented.

5. Public Affairs

Open Space / Environmental - Councilman Franklin announced the Open Space Committee plans to discuss the open space inventory. In regard to Environmental, he confirmed that the Committee will host a styrofoam collection event in conjunction with the shred event, scheduled to be held on June 16th at the Police Facility. Councilman Franklin said at a recent meeting, Dr. Jim Conroy, a tree whisperer, was a guest speaker and he was very informative. Acting Mayor Joren asked Councilman Franklin if an evaluation of the trees along Watchung Lake, Stirling Road side, can be made. She explained that due to natural erosion, it appears they may be growing in the water. Councilman Franklin agreed.

Board of Health - Councilman Black announced the next meeting is not until June, at which time the Board will resume discussion of sewer exclusions.

6. Fire - Councilman Black said he would like to compliment the Department for their role in the recent water main break on Mountain Boulevard. He said they really rose to the occasion. He said in regard to the FCC license application, the Department is still awaiting a response.

7. Laws/Ordinances - Councilman Pote said he will be scheduling a meeting next week, and noted there are two ordinances scheduled for adoption this evening, and one proposed ordinance will be introduced. In regard to the progress with the Foreman Group, the proposed renderings are done, and that

an informative meeting was held on site, on Good Friday with the Foreman's engineer and the Borough's engineers, Tom Herits and Arlene McCoy.

REPORTS - OTHER:

8. Engineer - Mr. Herits reminded all the County is holding a Public Hearing in regard to the Mountain Boulevard improvements, on May 14th at the Borough's Municipal Court facility. He said he and Attorney Cruz are working on obtaining the necessary easements needed to proceed with stormwater improvements on Mountain Drive. He said a critique was done after the Mountain Boulevard water main break, and he will be discussing some issues with the water company.

9. Police Chief - No report was presented.

10. Fire Department - No report was presented.

11. Rescue Squad - No report was presented.

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

13. Clerk - Mrs. DeRocco reminded all that the annual Financial Disclosure Statements are due in her office on Friday, and that the Borough will be hosting the Green Brook Flood Control meeting on Wednesday, May 2nd at 7:30 P.M.

14. Administrator - Mr. Atkins had nothing to report.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance OR:12/03 entitled "**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FLAG LOT POLES AND DRIVEWAYS CONTAINED IN SECTION 28-40 1.V.**" was held.

Councilman Pote moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, "aye."

Planning Board Resolution PB12-R7, recommending and supporting the modification of the requirements for flag lot poles and driveways, as proposed in Ordinance OR:12/03.

With no one from the public desiring to be heard, Councilman Pote closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution:

R1:04/26/12 Adoption of Ordinance OR:12/03 - Amend Borough Code / Flag Lots

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

A Public Hearing on 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 held. Councilman Pote moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, "aye."

With no one from the public desiring to be heard, Councilman Pote closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution:

R2:04/26/12 Adoption of Ordinance OR:12/04 - Amend Code to increase Liquor License Fees

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

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NEW BUSINESS

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, "aye".

Approval of the following Council minutes:
April 12, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

- Police Activity Report - March, 2012
- Open Space Advisory Committee - Minutes of February 27, 2012
- Historical Committee - Minutes of March 14, 2012
- Tax Collector Report - March, 2012
- Planning Board Minutes - February 21, March 20, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #19 - John Pacifico, Chairman, John Basilone Parade Committee 4/13/12 Invitation to Governing Body at
- #20 - Somerset County Planning Board 4/20/12 Resolution supporting A-2717, extending the time period for municipalities to commit to expend collected development fees c: M & C, TEA, AC, TH, MS
- #21 - PSE&G 4/20/12 Notice of Filing and Public Hearings for petition of rate adjustments to enhance
- #22 - Somerset County Department of Public Works/Engineering Division 4/20/12 Public Hearing Notice and Resolution approving the map and road areas and authorizing the acquisition of lands for the improvements to the Mountain Boulevard Project. Public Hearing to be held Monday, May 14, 2012 at the Watchung Borough Courtroom, 840 Somerset Street, beginning 6:30 P.M. C: M & C, TEA, AC, TH, Post

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: 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, "aye."

- R3:04/26/12 Supporting the "Hiring our Heroes" Program
- R4: Authorize Cancellation of Unexpended Capital Balances
- R5: Endorsing Submission of Annual Tonnage Grant
- R6: Setting Summer Playground Program Registration Fee
- R7: Authorize Tax Sale Redemption - Certificate #9-2011

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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:12/05 entitled: "**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PROFESSIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$70,000.00 THEREFORE FROM THE CAPITAL SURPLUS FUND.**" 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.

R8:04/26/12 Introduction of Ordinance OR:12/05 - Appropriation for Professional Affordable Housing Services

The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, "aye". Public Hearing to be held on May 10, 2012.

Councilman Franklin offered the following resolution:

- R9: Payment of Bills

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

- #23 - Memo from Raymond Murray, Borough Tax Collector 4/11/12 in response to request

Mr. Atkins explained that Weldon bought the tax sale certificate for this parcel that is adjacent to the property they already own, and said it is a strip about 10' feet wide by 300 feet long and has no real use. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Governing Body to ask for a recommendation from the Borough Attorney, the Engineer and ask the Administration and Finance Committee for a recommendation.

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PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the public desired to be heard.

Councilman Black offered the following resolution:

R10: 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, "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 9:02 P.M. to the call of the Chair and to the next special budget workshop to be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. and then the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, May 10, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Clerk