

# BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

## MINUTES

OCTOBER 11, 2012 – 7:30 PM

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Mobus 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 [A] Franklin [P] Pote [P] Nehls [P] Cassidy [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance.

There were 7 members of the public present.

### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. Administration & Finance: Councilman Franklin reported that there has been no meeting held and that nothing is pressing. There are a few personnel matters but nothing to report on this tonight.
2. Police – Council President Joren indicated that Chief Wenzel will be reporting tonight on the CAD/RMS system and that there is a Bond Ordinance being introduced tonight for the purchase of this system. There are also resolutions on the agenda to approve the Rules and Regulations for the Police Department Accreditation and one authorizing On-line Accident Report Access. Police Reports US LLC is that vendor, and an Ordinance to Amend the Salary Ordinance for Police Officer Probationary status will also be introduced. Finally, there is a resolution authorizing the implementation of a curfew for Halloween.
3. Public Works – Councilman Nehls reported there will be the second reading and Public Hearing for the stormwater Bond Ordinance tonight regarding Mountain Drive and related streets. In regard to the sanitary sewer project on Johnston Drive, he reported the Borough's consulting engineer, John Black, recently completed the inspection of the Blue Star sanitary system and determined the system is in much better condition than originally thought. There is one area of concern which is the sanitary pipe that goes under the bridge on Route 22 where they will be doing an inspection on that early next week using an ultrasound test. PARSAs and Levin Management's contractor did quite a bit of work blasting out the sanitary sewer line where there were some grease issues. The majority of the pipe is all 8" which is what we need and hopefully the Borough can move forward with the project. Mayor Mobus asked if this is the bridge over the Green Brook and Councilman Nehls responded that it is.
4. Buildings and Grounds; Recreation –

**Buildings and Grounds:** Councilwoman Cassidy reported that the Historical Committee had a meeting last night and much progress has been made as far as moving artifacts into the Texier House with the assistance of the Public Works Department and said all of the cabinets have been brought over from the Library. The Historical Committee will have a booth set up at the Harvest Festival on October 27<sup>th</sup> to sell historic plates they discovered at the library. The funds will be utilized to help with the cost of the historic renovations at the Texier House Museum. When the museum is completed it will be something the town will be very proud of. The Historic Committee, especially Barbara Diem and Diddy Addario, has worked very hard in getting this museum set up. Councilwoman Cassidy said work was done at the courthouse and the roof repair over the garage has been completed. There is a meeting tomorrow morning at 7:30 for the Buildings and Grounds Committee to discuss some additional capital expenditure maintenance items with regards to buildings and grounds, and to look at the 9/11 Memorial Proposal. She announced limb and branch pickup will begin on November 1<sup>st</sup> and requested all residents to keep these on their property and not at the curb until that time.

**Recreation:** Councilwoman Cassidy reported the Harvest Festival will be held on October 27 from 3 to 5 pm.

5. Public Affairs:

**Open Space:** Councilman Franklin reported that normally the Open Space inventory would be updated by Open Space Planning but he felt the Borough should request a proposal from Maser Consulting. He said he thought it would be more cost effective and should only take approximately 2-3 hours work.

**Environmental:** Councilman Franklin reported members of the Environmental Commission were disappointed with the Governor's veto of the bill against taking in fracking waste from other states to be processed in New Jersey. Council President Joren said the Senate had called it up to override the veto but they did not have enough votes to do it.

**Board of Health** – No Report was presented

6. Fire: No Report was presented, however, Councilman Nehls wanted to mention that Fire Prevention is Sunday and he will be at the Fire House that day.

7. Laws/Ordinances: Councilman Pote reported he is trying to set up a meeting for next week. He said there is good progress on the Library Study mailing to the residents and he is hoping it will go out the beginning of next week. He thanked Council President Joren, Administrator Tom Atkins with a special thanks to Albert Cruz and Michelle DeRocco, MaryAnn Hance and all who have been involved in getting this completed so quickly. A lot of work has gone into getting this ready for mailing.

Council President Joren reported that the Borough has received the Annual Grant funds from the Somerset County Freeholders for the Youth Service Commission programs.

**REPORTS - OTHER:**

8. Engineer: No report was presented.

9. Police Chief: Chief Wenzel gave an explanation on the CAD/RMS system and how this program will benefit the Police Departments' efficiency. The cost of the program and the yearly maintenance contract is less than the QED System which was the other program considered. The Law Soft system with Info Cop will cost approximately \$52,000 to \$53,000 with a yearly maintenance fee of \$7,000. He said a total of five systems were tested by Police Aide Brian Townley and he made the recommendation for Law Soft which is very user friendly and is compatible with the County. It was also recommended by the Rogers Group who the Borough is using for accreditation and all the accreditation items are compatible with this system as well. The mobile system they use is Info Cop and there have been no negative comments from other police departments who use Info Cop. Councilman Nehls wanted clarification as to whether or not this system will allow communication with the County and Chief Wenzel responded that it definitely will.

10. Fire Department: No Report was presented

11. Rescue Squad: President Don Monetti reported the statistics for the month included 42 calls, 2 mutual aid calls to Plainfield and 3 to Warren. The Squad provided coverage for the Watchung Hills Pop Warner football games in Warren and he reported we are the only ones who provide this coverage and that the Squad was informed they will be receiving a check for this service and this is the first time we will be receiving funds for this service. The Squad will also be attending the Harvest Festival on October 27<sup>th</sup> and have a crew at the Municipal Alliance Walk/Run on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Some of the members will be attending the Fire Department's Pig Roast on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Elaine Stringer, who is a Watchung resident and works at the Watchung library is a new affiliate member. Top responders for the month were Adam Wexler, Logan Taylor, Ali Diecke and Denise Wilson.

12. Attorney : No report was presented.

13. Clerk: Mrs. DeRocco had nothing to report this evening.

14. Administrator: Tom Atkins said he will be giving the Council a written report on the Risk Management meeting this morning, and he attended a meeting two weeks ago on Affordable Housing.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A Public Hearing on Proposed Bond Ordinance OR:12/11 entitled: **“BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF STORMWATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT MOUNTAIN DRIVE AND PORTIONS OF NORTH DRIVE, EDMONT ROAD AND RELATED STREETS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$655,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.”** was held.

Councilman Pote requested the Clerk produce an Affidavit of Publication and moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, “aye”.

The meeting was open to the public for any questions or comments.

Mayor Mobus commented this ordinance has been presented to fund an improvement project to correct ongoing drainage problems on these roads.

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

R1:10/11/12 Adoption of Bond Ordinance OR:12/11 -Drainage Improvements at Various Locations

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

A Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance OR:12/12 entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE GRANTING EASEMENTS FROM THE BOROUGH TO THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR THE MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD PROJECT”** was held.

Councilman Pote requested the Clerk produce an Affidavit of Publication and moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, “aye”.

The meeting was open to the public for any questions or comments.

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

R2:10/11/12 Adoption of Ordinance OR:12/12 - Granting Drainage, Construction Easements to County of Somerset - Mountain Boulevard

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

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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 Nehls and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Franklin, Pote, Nehls and Cassidy, “aye”.

Approval of the following Council minutes:

September 27, 2012 - Regular and Executive Sessions

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Board of Health Minutes - June 27, 2012  
Recreation Commission Minutes - July 23, 2012  
Historical Committee Minutes - June 13, 2012  
Building Department Report - September, 2012  
Police Activity Report - September, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #52 - State of NJ, Dept. of Environmental Protection 9/17/12 Notification that an application to consider the Spencer-Hollingsworth House, 1370 Johnson Drive as a Historic Site and will be considered by the NJ State Review Board on November 13, 2012 c: M & C, TEA, AC, Planning Board, Historical Committee
- #53 - Mayor Searfoss, Township of Green Brook 10/5/12 Invitation to Mayor and Council to attend the 100th Anniversary of the Washington Rock Monument Celebration on October 13th, held from 12:00 P.M. To 5:00 P.M (with parking passes) c: M & C

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

Prior to the vote Mayor Mobus requested R6 be tabled.

- R3:10/11/12 Purchases Over \$2,000. - Communications Specialists, Watchung Electric and Contracting, LLC
- R4: Authorize Tax Sale Redemption - Certificate #2-2010 / Block 7601, Lot 1 known as Bonnie Burn Road, Old Mill Race
- R5: Authorize Implementation of Curfew - Halloween
- R6: ~~Revisions to Recreation Fee Schedule~~ (Tabled)
- R7: Approving the Police Department Rules and Regulations / Accreditation
- R8: Authorizing Agreement for On-line Accident Report Access / Police Reports US LLC
- R9: Authorizing Clerk to Advertise Public Auction of Abandoned Vehicles, and Sale of Surplus Vehicles and Miscellaneous items, as listed.

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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 Bond Ordinance OR:12/13 entitled: **“BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$55,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) SYSTEM AND A RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS) FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$52,250.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION.”** 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 directed the Clerk to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing.

R10:10/11/12 Introduction of Proposed Bond Ordinance OR:12/13 - Police Department Purchase CAD/RMS

The motion was seconded by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Franklin, Pote, Nehls and Cassidy, “aye”. Public Hearing to be held on October 25, 2012.

Councilwoman Cassidy asked if there are any existing Bond Ordinances which could cover this. Administrator Tom Atkins checked with our CFO and it was decided based on the type of equipment to introduce a new Ordinance.

Proposed Ordinance OR:12/14 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 directed the Clerk to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing.

R11: Introduction of Proposed Ordinance OR:12/14 - Amend Salary Ordinance / Police Officer Probationary Status

The motion was seconded by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Franklin, Pote, Nehls and Cassidy, "aye". Public Hearing to be held on October 25, 2012.

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

Chief Wenzel wished to thank the Mayor and Council for moving the Ordinance for the purchase of the new CAD system for the Police Department.

Councilman Nehls asked the Chief when the new system would be in place and was informed that hopefully it would be completed by the end of this year.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. to the Call of the Chair and to the next meeting scheduled for October 25, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*MaryAnn Hance*  
Deputy Clerk