

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2004

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis 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, The Messenger-Gazette and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER

ROLL CALL

Black [P] Franklin [P] Otto [P] Mobus [P] Joren [P] Harding [P]

There were 18 members of the public present. Also present were Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Acting Borough Administrator/Clerk Laureen Fellin, Borough Engineer Richard Moody, and Deputy Borough Clerk Michelle DeRocco

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- 1 Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin announced that he attended the Personnel Evaluation seminar last Friday held at Borough Hall and said the human resource consultant Kerrin Malatesta did an excellent job. He explained that a session was held in the morning for supervisors and in the afternoon for non-supervisory personnel. He added that Kerrin should be used if the Borough is in need of any future seminars regarding employment. Councilman Franklin also reported that the deer hunt began on Monday and continued today and said the media has been advised. He said there are many venues for residents to be updated, such as 1610 radio, Channel 22, our website and a Borough Hot Line. He recommended that the Council meet as soon as possible to have a workshop meeting to discuss the progress of the operation and what further options are available for the future. Mayor Ellis agreed that it would be a good idea. Mayor Ellis said he also attended the personnel workshop and found it very interesting and said it will be very helpful for the Borough in the future.
- 2 Police - Councilman Black said he had nothing to report this evening.
- 3 Public Works - Councilman Mobus reported that last Thursday we were hit with our first snow storm without Public Works Director Donald Scotti. He reported that even with two trucks being down the department managed to do get the Borough cleaned up. He also announced that there are two resolutions on tonight's agenda pertaining to drainage and engineering.
- 4 Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs - Councilman Harding referred to a letter from Mr. Kita and the Open Space Committee and explained that this was the follow up report which everyone had been waiting for. He advised that the Committee should move forward now and make a decision regarding the proposed trailways

Buildings - Councilman Otto announced that he had met with and/or sent memos to the new Councilmembers who are taking over and will be attending a meeting tomorrow morning with Councilman Mobus to get an overview of 2003 and to plan for 2004. He reported that the Historic Committee will be meeting on February 4th to discuss the terms of the Santucci lease and also speak of the DeVito House.

5. Fire- Councilman Harding said he met with Councilman Otto last week and received a crash Course on the Fire Department. He reported that all is pretty quiet right now but noted they did go out on about 15 or 16 calls, none of which were major. He said the chief will attend the grand opening of Wal-Mart on the 28th, adding that there is still a concern on the fire access road. In regards to the guard house at Crystal Ridge he said they are supposed to have a guard there 24 hours a day, every day and said he hasn't seen one yet.
6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said the Laws and Ordinance Committee's first meeting is scheduled for January 28th and Recreation does not meet until February 4th. She announced that the Youth Services Commission is still moving forward and she will be meeting with Beth next week and also Warren and Green Brook the first week of February.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Borough Engineer Rich Moody said that the Engineering Department issued permits to the County for the telecom tower on Johnston Drive and the County is looking for a payment waiver. Councilman Otto referred to Resolution R19-6/12/03 where the Governing Body authorized the waiver of the fees from the Building Department for the County. It was moved by Councilman Otto, seconded by Councilman Black and carried, that Resolution # R19-6/12/03 be amended to include engineering fees.
8. Attorney - Borough Attorney Albert Cruz said he had nothing to report this evening.
9. Administrator - Borough Administrator Lauren Fellin said she had nothing to report this evening. Mayor Ellis announced that Councilwoman Deb Joren has agreed to be the Council liaison to the Rescue Squad. He also reported that our CFO Bill Hance and our computer technician Ed Horsefeld met Saturday morning to discuss changes to our website and Bill, as a member of the Technology Consortium, will be able to obtain a template, free of charge. Mayor Ellis said if any residents who have experience and knowledge in this area would like to volunteer their time, their assistance would be welcomed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda listed below was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin.

Approval of the following Council Minutes -
None

Approval of the following Borough Reports
Building Department Report - December, 2003
Police Report - December, 2003
Historical Committee Minutes - December 2, 2003
Tax Collector's Report - December, 2003
Planning Board Minutes - January 6, 2004

#10- Township of Nutley 12/16/03 Resolution supporting the "Property Tax Reimbursement Program" for homeowners, age 65 or older c: Mayor and Council

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The resolutions listed below were adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Mobus with all voting in favor.

- R2:1/22/04 Appoint Laborer for the Department of Public Works
- R3: Ratify Appointment of Richard M. Sasso as Municipal Court Judge
- R4: Ratify Promotion of Gene McAllister to Sergeant
- R5: Appointment of Local Assistance Board Members
- R6: Approval of Raffle Applications - Catholic Daughters of the Americas
- R7: Authorize 2004 contract with Plainfield Area Humane Society
- R8: Authorize Board of Health to sign 2004 contract with Middle Brook Regional Health Commission
- R9: Appointment of Planning Board Members
- R10: Award Professional Services Contract to Bohler Engineering - Miscellaneous Drainage Design Work
- R11: Award Purchase Order Contract to L. T. Purcell Associates - Aerial Mapping for Corey/Sunbright Sewer/Water Project
- R12: Appointment of Bond Counsel - Rogut & McCarthy
- R13: Authorizing the award of contracts for professional services
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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:04/01 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REVISION AND CODIFICATION OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY" Councilwoman Joren called for a second and final reading of the ordinance. The Clerk read the ordinance by title and produced an affidavit of publication, certification of posting and availability of copies. Councilwoman Joren moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and unanimously carried on roll call. With no one from the public desiring to be heard, Councilwoman Joren moved the public hearing be closed, the ordinance be adopted and the Clerk be directed to publish the notice of adoption. Councilman Black seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on roll call.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions listed below were adopted on roll call with all voting in favor, with the exception of R14 where Councilman Black abstained his vote.

		<u>Offered</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
R1:1/22/04	Adoption of OR:04/01 Revision and Codification of Ordinances	Joren	Black
R14:	Waive Chapter 46 - Gray's Florist	Mobus	Franklin
R15:	Payment of Bills	Franklin	Mobus

At 8:05 PM, Mayor Ellis declared a 5 minute recess. At 8:10 PM Mayor Ellis resumed the meeting with all the members previously present again in attendance.

PUBLIC PORTION

Jill Salkowski, High Oak Drive, Warren, said she could not understand how the Borough can continue with the deer slaughter, and how the governing body is able to look anyone in the eye. She said the water runoff is not caused by the deer eating ground cover. She said landscapers come in and remove natural ground cover and replace it with ornamental landscaping. She added that if the amount of deer-car collisions has increased it is because of the slaughtering; the deer are now running into the streets as they are afraid. Ms. Salkowski said killing does not work, as Union County has tried it, adding that it causes the deer to reproduce at a faster rate which was proven by the number of fetuses counted from the culled deer. She said the hunting commission is making money from this. She said she has had Lyme disease for 10 years and has been able to deal with it. She said she is a student at Columbia and will continue to debate this issue and if need be, she will bring other students with her and protest.

Ray Miller, Valley Road, asked the Council to consider the following fact at the Deer Workshop: if Watchung has 1600 deer, and cull 100 per year, this will turn out to be a never ending fiscal drain on the Borough. A method of contraception must be looked into as the answer is not hunting.

Nick Cocuzza, Johnston Drive, said that there has not been enough information given to the

residents regarding the deer hunt. He suggested that the Deer Workshop committee be made up of 3 committee people plus 3 residents. He said \$17,000. is a lot of money to spend on killing only 80 deer. He said that one of the sites was left bloodied from a deer and between that and the sound of the gunshots, his wife is getting sick over it.

Dawn Wright, Crestwood Drive, asked Councilman Franklin how many deer have been killed. Councilman Franklin said 33 the first day, and 26 the second day, totaling 59. He added that the tentative days for next week were Monday and Thursday, however, residents will be notified.

Phil Italiano, Johnston Drive, said he has only lived in Watchung for two years and asked how adamant the Governing Body is about using this method as he hears guns going off constantly. He said he moved to Watchung because of the wildlife and said this is still a wonderful town and fences must be mended. He asked that another solution to this problem be found. Councilwoman Joren said that since Mr. Italiano was a new resident, she would like him to be aware of the fact that she voted against the culling and it was not an unanimous vote.

MaryAnn Salkowski, High Oak Drive, Warren, said she moved here for the environment and cannot believe the Borough allowed the shooting on Martin Luther King day, when children were home from school and had to stay indoors and shots were heard everywhere. She said that when the deer eat her bushes, she buys new ones. She said she has one particular deer that is always on her property and she feeds, who she has named "sweet baby". She said that if anything happens to this deer, she will sue the Borough. She asked the Council how they sleep at night.

John Holland, Washington Rock Road, asked how many sites were still active. Councilman Franklin replied that there were 6 on Monday and 4 sites today, adding that they start ½ hour before sunrise and finish ½ hour before sunset. Mr. Holland said there are no signs to designate the site and since he jogs in the area it can be pretty spooky. He said this was a tough call and Councilman Franklin is taking the brunt of this. He told Councilman Franklin that he was set up for this one.

Mrs. Cocuzza, Johnston Drive, visibly distraught, said that the Borough is massacring the deer and she saw just a tail laying in the road. She showed the Council her bottle of tranquilizers that she now has to take due to the massacre. Mayor Ellis, asking Mrs. Cocuzza to calm down, told her he understands how she feels.

Allan Lubin, Glen Eagles Drive, said that he is feeding the deer to try to keep them safe and on his property. He said his wife and daughter are always crying and even he breaks down. He said this is very sad.

Noah Wrubel, Scott Drive, said he was distraught, as the cullers were on land without permission and asked if the police will guide them to the legal sites. Mayor Ellis said that we are doing exactly what the application allows us to.

Judith Neaman, Deer Run, said she requested copies of the permission slips from Borough Hall and did not get all of them, as Councilman Franklin had copies of ones that she did not get. Councilman Franklin told Ms. Neaman to go directly to the Clerk for information, or to him.

Jeff Klumpp, Tuttle Road, asked for a breakdown on the sexes of the deer that have been shot, if available. Councilman Franklin said the information is not yet available from today, however, he

has the breakdown for Monday. Mr. Klumpp said in order for this hunt to be effective, the hunters should take doe only Councilman Otto said that, when vote on, this issue was a 3 to 3 tie, with the Mayor breaking the tie. He explained that in order for this hunt to continue, the Council must approve that more money be spent, as the original \$17,000. that was allocated is just about used up Councilman Franklin said that the hunt must be completed by April 15th.

Joel Goldshein, Sherwood Drive, asked the Governing Body if they are actively pursuing the Ness property and Mayor Ellis said yes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned to the call of the chair

The next scheduled meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on February 12, 2004.

8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Borough Clerk