

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

JANUARY 11, 2007 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:32 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, Messenger-Gazette and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Administrator/Clerk Laureen Fellin, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 4 members of the public present.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor Ellis appointed the following Councilmanic Committees:

Administration & Finance

Black- Chair
Franklin
Pote

Council
Administrator
Clerk
Finance
Tax Collector
Library
Welfare

Public Works

Mobus - Chair
Franklin
Pote

Engineering
Roads
Sewers

Laws & Ordinances

Joren - Chair
Black
Franklin

Legal
Recreation

Buildings & Public Affairs

Buildings and Grounds:

Pote - Chair
Mobus
Nehls

Buildings & Grounds
Historic
Planning Board

Public Affairs:

Nehls - Chair
Black
Joren

Open Space
Board of Health
Board of Adjustment
Environmental
Solid Waste

Police

Franklin - Chair
Black
Mobus

Police
Court
Traffic & Beautification
Community Service

Fire

Nehls - Chair
Black
Joren

Construction
Fire Safety Official
Rescue Squad

Special Liaison to Rescue Squad:

Pote

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Black said he met with Bill Hance and Paula Heilman from the Finance Department and was very impressed to learn of all their responsibilities. He reported that they are busy closing out the finances for 2006 and preparing for the 2007 budget meetings.

2. Police - Councilman Franklin said he met with Chief Frosoni last week and called the meeting "very productive"; and said he will be meeting with the Police Committee before the end of the month.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus said the Public Works Committee has had a very busy year, and explained that the Committee oversees the Road Department. He noted the appointments on the agenda, and announced that Andy Baldassarre will be the new Foreman. Councilman Mobus also announced that the residents involved in the "Corey/Sunbright" sanitary sewer project will be able to hook up very soon, and the artist's rendering of the improvements to Best Lake is in the front foyer.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote publicly thanked North Plainfield for the use of their bucket truck for recently needed repairs. He announced that Building and Grounds is getting quotes for the painting of the interior of the Police Department; the new windows in Borough Hall are already reaping savings in heating costs; and the Historical Committee met and are seeking options for a new home. Councilman Pote said he attended his first Planning Board meeting and will report at the next Council meeting on the Rescue Squad.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls announced the next Board of Health meeting is on January 17th, and the next Middle Brook meeting is the 29th. He reported he attended the Lower Raritan-Middlesex County Water Resources Association meeting on the 8th and said it was very interesting, saying he was glad to be getting more involved.

5. Fire - Councilman Nehls said the Fire Department had a very busy year, announcing they responded to 284 calls in 2006. He reminded all to keep February 10th open as it is the date of the annual Fire Department/Rescue Squad Installation Dinner at Twin Brooks.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said the governing body is in receipt of the revisions to the Land Use Ordinance and she would like to have it reviewed by the end of the month. She said she will schedule a work shop meeting with the Planner, Mark Healey, who has resigned his position with Heyer and Gruel, however, will still meet with the Committee to discuss the final revision, and also members of the Planning Board. In regard to Recreation, she said the Commission is working on new programs for the summer, which will include 3 to 5 year olds. She reminded residents that all programs are listed on the web site, and announced that the on-line registration for programs is now up and running.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - No report

8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz wished all a happy New Year.

9. Administrator - Administrator Laureen Fellin reminded the governing body that they have an obligation to attend a ICS402- NIMS training seminar, and they can still register for the one being held on January 29th. She reported that at the JIF meeting she attended this morning, it was brought to her attention that the Borough's personnel manual may need a revision to include the changes that may take effect after the new "Civil Union" legislation is enforced. Mrs. Fellin also announced that the PTO dropped off flyers and are looking for volunteers to participate in fundraising basketball game with the Harlem Wizards.

Mayor Ellis announced that he attended the Governor's State of the State address and it was very impressive and will be interesting to see the proposals implemented, in particular, the plan to reduce property taxes. He also reported that he attended a meeting at the High School with Mayor Pat Walsh from Green Brook and Watchung Rescue Squad members Diddy Addario and Walt Niegisch to discuss the implementation of an EMT Certification course in the curriculum. He explained that this is a great example of shared services and would promote community service and hopefully recruit more young adult volunteers.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recreation Commission Director Maria Bachert
Continuation of Request for Authorization and Support for modification of 2006 Recreation Grant P

Recreation Director Maria Bachert was present to request authorization and support to modify the Recreation's 2006 Youth Athletic Grant, to include safety improvements as recommended by Construction Code Official Ed Bennett and as cited on the insurance company's loss control report.

Councilman Mobus advised Mrs. Bachert to contact the manufacturer of the backstop at Barrett Field, as it is possible it was installed incorrectly and it would be their responsibility to correct it. Mrs. Bachert concurred and after discussion, the governing body agreed to support the modification to the grant, pending receipt of the manufacturer's verification as the proper placement of the backstop at Barrett Field. A motion was offered by Councilwoman Joren, seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously adopted, to approve the request for the use of the remainder of the 2006 Grant funds subject to provision and consideration of manufacturer specification and requirements for placement of the "hanging arc" backstop, and subject to subsequent approval by the Board of Education.

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NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:
December 28, 2006 and January 1, 2007

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Historical Committee - 2006 Annual Report, and Minutes of November 2, 2006
Building Department Report - December, 2006
Open Space Committee Minutes - September 20, 2006

- #1 - Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders 1/04/07 Resolution to serve as an addendum to the V
- #2 - Gail R. Schoenbach 1/5/07 Requesting permission to hold her 2nd annual Gail R. Schoenbach F.R.E.E.D. Foundation Walk around Watchung Lake on May 7, 2007 from 9:45 am to 11:30 am c: M & C

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

- R1:1/11/07 Authorize Borough Attorney to file Tax Appeals and Petitions on behalf of the Borough for 2007
- R2: Authorizing the execution of agreement for the services of James F. Hurley Insurance Agency Corp. as Professional Risk Management Consultants
- R3: Appointment of Public Works Foreman - Andrew Baldassare
- R4: Appointment of Public Works Laborer - Tashon Stepney
- R5: Appointment to Environmental Commission - Jean Forlano
- R6: Award of Professional Services Contracts - Board Attorneys, Auditor, Bond Counsel
- R7: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc., Triangle Communications,
- R8: Appointment to Green Brook Flood Control Commission - John Gausz, A. Addario
- R9: Authorize Reduction of Cash Performance Guarantee - Dorothy and Phil Whitting
- R10: Authorize Waiver of Fees - Rescue Squad
- R11: Authorize Traffic Signal Agreements with Somerset County - Stirling Road and Brookdale Road, and Verona Place and Brookdale Road

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Introduction of OR:07/01 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT FROM SHOBIN/TOWNSEND TO THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG"
Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilwoman Joren 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 unanimously carried on roll call. Public Hearing to be held on January 25, 2007.

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted on roll call with offering and seconding as follows:

<u>stain</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Ab-</u>
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R12:1/11/07 Introduction of Ordinance OR:07/01 - Accepting Joren Black
a Sanitary Sewer Easement,
Block 68.01, Lot 6

R13: Award of Professional Service Black Franklin
Joren Contract - Borough Attorney

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PUBLIC PORTION

Bruce Ruck, Lakeview Avenue, urged the governing body to consider making improvements to Lakeview Avenue, saying it was in very bad condition and in dire need of repairs. He said his wife fell in a hole in the street and when it rains even a little, the flooding is so bad he has to actually drive his son to cross the street. Mayor Ellis said the proper steps will be taken to address this situation.

Walter Niegisch, Tuttle Road, thanked the governing body for supporting the Rescue Squad and waiving the fees associated with the Rescue Squad Building renovation.

Mayor Ellis reminded all that the Police Awards are scheduled for the next Council meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of January 25, 2007 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Clerk