

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2007 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis 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, 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 [A] Pote [P] Nehls [P]

Councilwoman Joren arrived at 7:40 P.M.

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

There were 3 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Black reported the audit is in process and the budget meeting will be scheduled shortly, usually a Saturday morning in March. He also congratulated the Borough's CFO on the arrival of his new baby girl.

2. Police - Councilman Franklin said he has received a packet from Chief Frosoni to review, and he will also be attending a training seminar for new police commissioners in West Windsor in March. He said he received a call from a resident who asked why the Department has not been utilizing the portable radar detector and he said he will look into that. Councilman Franklin said he will be calling a full committee meeting soon.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus referred to correspondence #12 on the agenda - a letter from resident, Seymour Spiegel, who called 911 on an icy night because of a medical emergency. He explained the resident has a very steep driveway making accessibility by the Rescue Squad dangerous. He commended Bob Pittenger who was out salting that evening with Public Works and heard the call coming in, and had the insight to go to the residence and salt the driveway so that the emergency vehicles could get to Mr. Spiegel's home.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote said there was an obvious problem with the heat at Borough Hall, and that is why tonight's meeting is being held at the Municipal Court facility. He reported that Maser has updated the preliminary plans for the Bonus Room and he is anxious to move that along. He said the Library Study Committee will be meeting on February 12th at the Fanwood Library, as they would like to observe a Library in another county and Fanwood is comparable in size to Watchung. In regard to the Historical Committee, Councilman Pote reported they are still looking for a new "home" and are also working with high school students on their "audio tour of Watchung" project. Councilman Pote said he too, would like to thank Bob Pittenger and Public Works for their response to Mr. Spiegel's emergency call for assistance on that icy night. Mayor Ellis said he too was proud to have learned of Bob Pittenger's actions that evening and suggested a copy of the letter go in to his personnel file.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls was happy to report that he was able to change the dates for the Middle-Brook meetings which previously conflicted with the dates for the Environmental Commission meetings. He said at the last Middle-Brook meeting Kevin Sumner announced that there has not been a reported case of the flu in New Jersey. He said they discussed new regulations from the State which include air quality issues and legislation regarding lead-based paint. He said he is planning to meet with Barry Hunsinger in regard to the newly formed Educational Foundation, and said they already have some wonderful activities planned.

5. Fire - Councilman Nehls reported there were 16 calls last month, 271.6 man hours, 2 drills and 1 work night. He reported 2 of the calls were for activated smoke alarms which had the potential to turn into structural fires.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren announced that the Laws and Ordinance Committee will be meeting the morning of February 6th, and Recreation is meeting on Wednesday, February 7th so she will have reports at the next Council meeting.

REPORTS - OTHER:

- 7. Engineer - No report.
- 8. Attorney - No report.

9. Administrator - Administrator Fellin reported that she attended a seminar this afternoon pertaining to the new civil union legislation that takes effect on February 19th. She explained that the personnel manual will have to be revised and it may affect the Borough in the way of benefit costs.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

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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:
Special Workshop Meeting of November 9, 2006
Regular Meetings of January 11th and 25th, 2007

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Tax Collector - January, 2007
Building Department - January, 2007

- #8 - Township of Warren 1/30/07 Notice of Adoption of addition to Land Use Procedures
c: M & C, LBF, DS
- #9 - Watchung Rescue Squad 1/31/07 Letter of appreciation to Charles Gunther and the Department of Public Works for their assistance on an icy morning of a critical life-threatening episode requiring transportation c: M & C, PHF
- #10 - Township of Hillsborough 2/1/07 Resolution supporting Bill A289 (Grace's Law), Hearing Aid Insurance Legislation c: M & C
- #11 - Township of Scotch Plains 2/2/07 Notice of Public Hearing on Feb. 12, 2007 for Master Plan Re-examination Report c: M & C, DS
- #12 - Seymour Spiegel 2/5/07 Expression of gratitude to the Police Department, Rescue Squad and Public Works Department for their assistance when he had to make a life saving call to 911, and emphasizing their professionalism in addition to confirming his faith and pride in local go

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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.

- R1:2/05/07 Appointment to Library Advisory Committee - Dr. MaryLou Malyska; Appointment to Youth Services Commission - Dr. MaryLou Malyska and Kathleen Caldas
 - R2: Authorize submission of Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to NJDEP
 - R3: Purchases Over \$2,000 - Communications Specialists, Wayne H. Boylan, Contractors,
 - R4: Adoption of Temporary Capital Budget
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Introduction of OR:07/02 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A SANITARY SEWER CLEANOUT ACCESS EASEMENT FROM MANUAL M. CARDADEIRO AND MARIA G. CARDADEIRO 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 February 22, 2007.

Introduction of OR:07/03 entitled "BOND ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$450,000 FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE POLICE FACILITY ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION PROJECT IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE

COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.” 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 February 22, 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>Second</u>		<u>Offered</u>	
R5:2/5/07	Introduction of Ordinance OR:07/02 - Accepting a Sanitary Sewer Easement, Block 2803, Lot 6.02	Joren	Black
R6:	Introduction of Ordinance OR:07/03 - Bond Ordinance additional funding for Rock Slope Remediation at Police and Municipal Court Facilities	Joren	Black
R7:	Executive Session - Personnel Attorney/Client Privilege	Franklin	Black
	Scheduled to be withdrawn, Councilman Franklin made a motion to change the subject matter of R7:02/5/07 to “Attorney/Client Privilege”. It was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved upon roll call.		

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PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the public desired to be heard.

Councilman Franklin offered R7:2/05/07 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

Upon return to regular session at 8:25 P.M. all members previously present were again in attendance.

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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 February 22, 2007 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Clerk