

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

MARCH 8, 2007 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:45 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 11 members of the public present.

Mayor Ellis deviated from the agenda and offered the following proclamation:

Girl Scout Week, March 11th through 17th

Leader Denise Sappas was present in the audience and Scout Lauren Vaculis came forward to accept the proclamation, on behalf of the Watchung Girl Scouts, many of whom were home getting ready for their weekend encampment at Camp Hoover this weekend.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Black announced the date for the budget meeting will be March 24th.

2. Police - Councilman Franklin said he had just attended a memorial ceremony for Matthew Melchionda in North Plainfield held at the site of the accident which took place one year ago today. He explained that after a moment of silence at the site, all returned to police headquarters where a plaque was dedicated in his memory. Councilman Franklin said that on Saturday, North Plainfield will be having a memorial ceremony for Matt and will dedicate a plaque to be placed at the site of the accident. Councilman Franklin noted that he is in receipt of the police reports and commented that 8 of 10 crimes that occur in Watchung are shoplifting crimes and take place at the shopping areas on Route 22. He said virtually all of the perpetrators are from out of town, and due to the small population, Watchung always appears to have a high crime rate. Councilman Franklin advised Councilman Pote that there is a climate control problem at police headquarters. He also referred to #20 on the agenda which is the Court Update, submitted by Municipal Judge Richard Sasso and said generally all is in good order and the court is operating smoothly.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus thanked Councilwoman Joren and the Laws and Ordinance Committee for a great job on the Land Development Ordinance revision, which was discussed at a workshop meeting prior to this meeting. He announced that the anticipated start date for the Crosswalk Improvement project and the Spencer/Fawn Lane Improvement project is May 1st. Councilman Mobus said he attended the JIF Safety Awards breakfast this morning and was proud to report that Watchung scored very well again this year, thanks to the time and effort put in by Charlie Gunther and his department. He explained that the Borough was awarded \$800.00 for scoring 100% on the 2006 Safety Incentive Program and reducing Loss Time Accident Frequency by 10%; another \$300.00 for the Safety Incentive Program Participation; and \$500.00 for exceeding 100% participation and for holding the #1 spot for the 3rd consecutive year. Councilman Mobus explained that these monetary awards are given in the form of gift cards and are for the purpose of purchasing equipment for the department. He said "kudos" to Charlie for his safety management practices.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote said the Buildings and Grounds Committee will look into the problem of temperature control at the Police Department. He reported that the windows are being cleaned at the Police Department and the interior is being painted. Councilman Pote said the Rescue Squad is scheduled to meet next week and the Library Study Commission is planning on having a recommendation to the governing body by April.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls announced the date of the Annual Pancake Breakfast will be May 5th at Wilson Memorial Church and said this year he will be reaching out to all Borough

employees and committees for their assistance. He said there is a young lady in the High School who suffers from a serious form of cancer, and raises funds for children who also suffer from this disease. He said he will have to confirm this information, but that cause is the one he would like to earmark to receive the profits raised from the breakfast. Councilman Nehls said he believes the young lady's family has also ridden with the Rescue Squad for years. Mayor Ellis commented that the spirit of Watchung is alive and well. Councilman Nehls reported that the Environmental Commission met and the development of the Ness Property was the main discussion; the Board of Health is scheduled to meet in April. He also thanked the Mayor and Mrs. Fellin for meeting with the Educational Foundation Committee and for their support, as he feels it is a very worthy cause.

5. Fire - Councilman Nehls said the Fire Department is scheduled to meet next week and he will have a report at the next meeting.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said this past weekend the Recreation Commission sponsored the 10th Annual March Madness Showcase which was enjoyed by over 300 residents. She said the basketball program is very successful to the credit of Dave Chemidlin. She announced March 18th is the date for the coach's dinner; the winter tennis program is underway at Bayberry School; and the Commission is working on a revision to the summer playground manuals. Councilwoman Joren announced Little League opening day is April 21st and said the Commission is discussing the possibility of a new program, an outdoor social. In regard to Laws and Ordinances, Councilwoman Joren said the Committee will continue to discuss snow removal on sidewalks, walls and fences, and a "no knock" policy. She thanked the Planning Board for their participation and input on the Land Development Ordinance revision.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - No report.

8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz announced that he had three items for Executive Session.

9. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin reported that she had received a letter from the Borough of North Plainfield requesting permission to use our court facilities while theirs is under renovation. She announced that at the JIF meeting she attended this morning Dave Grubb announced that they will be holding training programs for crossing guards and are instituting a training program for a "pre-trip" inspection for all vehicles, which she said she feels is a wonderful idea. She advised the governing body that the budget books will be delivered to them next week and the meeting is set for Saturday, March 24th at 8:30 am. Mayor Ellis mentioned that the schools are now mandated to have their budget submitted by April 12th.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing on OR:07/04 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-25.12, TITLED "BID T
3." Council woman Joren called for a second and final reading of the ordinance. The Clerk read the "BID T
ordinance by woman Joren called for a second and final reading of the ordinance. The Clerk read the
copies. title and produced an affidavit of publication, certification of posting and availability of
Black and Councilwoman Joren moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman
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.

Public Hearing on OR:07/05 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XVIII OF THE REVIS
BY ADDING AMENDING THE A-NEW SUBSECTION TITLED "GREASE TRAPS". 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.

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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:
February 22, 2007 - Regular and Executive Sessions

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Planning Board Minutes - January 16, 2007
Board of Health Minutes - January 17, 2007
Environmental Commission Minutes - November 27, 2006
Historical Committee Minutes - February 1, 2007

- #16 - U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame 2/22/07 Requesting permission to cycle through Watchung on Saturday, May 26th for their annual "Super-Saturday Cycling Classic" c: M & C, JF
- #17 - Lorraine Coleman, Martinsville, 2/28/07 Request to purchase and place a bench at Watchung Lake in memory of her father, James Coleman c: M & C, LBF
- #18 - Township of Scotch Plains 2/28/07 Notice of adoption of Master Plan Reexamination c: M & C, DS
- #19 - North Plainfield PBA 3/1/07 Invitation to attend a dedication of plaque ceremony in memory Of Matthew Melchionda on March 10th, at 2:00 pm c: M & C
- #20 - Richard M. Sasso, JMC 3/2/07 Municipal Court Update c: M&C, LBF
- #21 - ANJEC 2/15/07 Notice of 2005 Smart Growth Planning Grant - \$5,000. C: M&C, LBF, Env. Comm,

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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.

- R3:03/08/07 Award of Contract for Animal Control Services - Roxdane Kennels
- R4: Appointment of Assessment Commissioners for Corey/Orchard/Eaton - Pote, Ciccolella, and Cox
- R5: Authorize Issuance of Raffle Licenses for Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, Inc., St. Mary's - Stony Hill
- R6: Purchases Over \$2000. - Maser Consulting, P.A.
- R7: Appointment of Fireman - Frank C. Newman
- R8: Appointment of Assessment Commissioner for Will Lane/Brook Drive - Fechtner

Council President Franklin commented on R3, an award of contract to Roxdane Kennels and explained that this is to the credit of Administrator Fellin, as every year the previous contract with the Plainfield Area Humane Society has gone up tremendously, and this year had gone up 150%. Roxdane normally handles animal control services for Warren and due to Mrs. Fellin's diligence, they agreed to contract with Watchung. Councilman Nehls thanked Mrs. Fellin and said this will be saving the Borough a lot of money. Mayor Ellis commended Mrs. Fellin for making the arrangements with Roxdane and said she did a wonderful job.

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Watchung Educational Foundation - Margaret Weidlich, Barry Hunsinger

Barry Hunsinger and President Margaret Weidlich, representatives from the Watchung Educational Foundation, spoke about the history of their group and explained they are raising funds to provide "grant" money to teachers at the Watchung schools to fund programs, at no cost to the taxpayers. Some examples are the "peaceful playground" at Bayberry School and the recent "battle of the books" which encouraged children to read. On April 22nd they will be sponsoring a walk around Watchung Lake for owners and their dogs, and they asked the governing body and all residents to come out and support their cause.

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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>Offered</u>	
<u>Second</u> R1:3/08/07	Adoption of OR:07/04 - Amending Bid Threshold section of Borough Code - Increasing Bid Threshold	Joren	Black
R2:	Adoption of OR:07/05 - Amendment of Grease Trap subsection of Borough Code	Joren	Black
R9: Black	Executive Session: Attorney/Client Privilege Litigation: Fuentes v. Borough of Watchung Disch vs Borough of Watchung		Franklin

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PUBLIC PORTION

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, said she felt the composition of the Ness Committee was unbalanced, that too many members represented the Recreation Commission and no one represented the Senior Citizens or the general public. Mayor Ellis explained that Councilwoman Joren was on the committee to represent the governing body, not Recreation, but several members serve on several commissions and can represent either, ie. Don Pote can represent the Seniors as well as the Environmental Commission. Councilwoman Mobus explained when the Ness Committee meets, ground rules are set and all requests are acknowledged. Councilman Black added that this is only one of many committees that will be formed to discuss the future of the Ness property. Mrs. Goldschein requested that when an appointment is listed on the agenda that the first name be listed as well. Mrs. Fellin said appointments will be listed in full on future agendas.

Gemmy Siegel, Watchung Rescue Squad, announced that the Rescue Squad would be in attendance at the Memorial Services for Matthew Melchionda in No. Plainfield on Saturday, March 10th. Mr. Siegel also asked if a date was set for the proposed Recreation Commission's outdoor "social" and Councilwoman Joren said it was in the planning stages.

Mrs. Goldschein suggested that when town events are planned that the organizers check with groups such as the Rescue Squad, prior to planning the event, to confirm that they are available to provide their services, as she feels the organizations are being taken advantage of and are being spread too thin.

Councilman Black announced that on Friday, February 23th he attended a fund raiser for the Watchung PTO. He explained it was a basketball game between the Harlem Wizards and various Borough staff and personnel. He said Mayor Ellis threw the game ball up for the "tip-off" and said it was a wonderful night, very well attended and a good time was had by all.

Councilman Franklin offered R9:3/08/07 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

Upon return to regular session at 9:00 PM, all member 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 9:05 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of March 22, 2007 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Deputy Clerk