

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2008 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Council President Franklin 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, 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 Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco. Mayor Albert Ellis was absent.

There were 4 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Nehls asked fellow Council members to review the Audit report that was in their mailbox and prepare to comment at the next meeting. In regard to the Environmental Commission, he reported that they continue to be proactive and are fully supportive of any initiatives for the Borough to "go green" in any forthcoming projects.

2. Police - Councilman Franklin said that he would comment on the Police Activity Report at the next Council meeting.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus announced that the Skyline Drive sanitary sewer project should begin next week; the Best Lake Dam rehabilitation project is on schedule; work should begin on Beechwood Place soon, and the Borough is planning to overlay at least 4 miles of roads this year.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote reported that Library Study Committee has completed their mission statement and are moving along, already looking for cost-effective storage solutions for the inventory while the project will be taking place. He said the Library Study Committee intends to take full advantage of "go green" incentives and will incorporate them into their plans. He said the Historical Committee will begin the filming of their historical tour of Watchung in May.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls reported the Environmental Commission continues to be proactive and are fully supportive of any initiatives for the Borough to "go green" in any forthcoming projects.

5. Fire - Councilman Black said the Fire Department met and discussed attendance and false alarms, and he announced that new members are always welcome.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren reported that the Recreation Commission is very busy with field scheduling, softball, the summer playground program and she announced that this Saturday is Little League/Pony Tail opening day and the Memorial Day Community picnic is scheduled for May 25th. She said the Commission discussed the future of the tennis courts at Camp Endeavor and will be asking Maser Consulting to attend their next meeting to discuss options.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Tom Herits was not present this evening.

8. Police Chief - Chief Whelan reported that the Detective Bureau opened 22 new cases this month which included a lewdness charge and a missing juvenile.

9. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had no report this evening.

10. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin said she and insurance representatives Candyce Forster and Craig Sutherland from Hurley Agency met with the Rescue Squad and Fire Department to discuss and answer any insurance questions and concerns. Mrs. Fellin said the County Election Board mistakenly sent the sample ballots out with incorrect voting locations on them for the upcoming April 15th School Board Election, and post cards informing that all voting will be at Valley View School are in the mail.

=====

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

=====

=====

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 Mobus.

Approval of the following Council minutes:
February 7th, and 28th, 2008

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Wildlife Management Advisory Committee - Minutes of December 5, 2007
Tax Collector - March, 2008
Building Department - March, 2008

- #24 - National Ovarian Cancer Coalition 3/28/08 Request for permission to place teal "Awareness Ribbons" in the municipality in recognition of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
c: M & C, LBF
- #25 - Watchung Little League 3/28/08 Invitation to Opening Day Parade and Festivities on April 12, 2008
c: M & C
- #26 - John Paff, NJ Libertarian Party 4/2/08 Regarding the timely release of meeting minutes
c: M & C, LBF, AC
- #27 - Borough of No. Plainfield 4/4/08 Resolution calling for the continued full-service operation of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center
c: M & C, LBF
- #28 - Connell Company 4/4/08 Notice of Public Hearing of Site Plan approval for a three story parking deck, on April 28th, 7:30 PM at the Township of Berkeley Heights Town Hall
c: M & C, LBF, Pl. Board

=====

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

- R1:4/10/08 Appointment Clarification - OEM Coordinator - Gary Greves
- R2 Purchases Over \$2,000. - Ray's Sport Shop, Inc., Municipal Information Systems
- R3: Authorize Expansion of Contract - LT Purcell / Skyline/Johnston Drive Sanitary Sewer and Drainage Project
- R4: Appointment of Technical Assistant to the Construction Official (TACO)/Planning Board Clerk-Carolyn Taylor
- R5: Authorize Tax Sale Certificate Redemption - Block 4306, Lot 3.02
- R6: Authorize Agreement w/Special Tax Attorney - Peter J. Zipp, Esq.
- R7: Appointment of Fireman - Michael C. Dellipoali

=====

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

=====

Request for a waiver of sewer hook-up fees - Block 44.05, Lot 1

A request for a waiver of sewer hook-up fees from the property owners of Block 44.05, Lot 1 was discussed. It was the consensus of the Governing Body to accept the Public Works Committee's and Borough Engineer's recommendations to deny the request to waive the sewer hook up fees. A motion was made by Councilman Mobus, it was seconded by Councilman Black, and upon roll call, unanimously carried.

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>
R8:4/10/08	Reaffirmation of the Borough's Commitment to Promote Transparency in Government	Nehls	Black

=====
PUBLIC PORTION
=====

Lee Ehrenworth, Canterbury Lane, said he believes that the Governing Body has a responsibility to protect the consumer from fraud in situations such as an art auction held at Twin Brooks.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, said she does not think that Operation Pride was well advertised because a lot of people missed it. Mrs. Goldschein said she feels the resident e-mail service is wonderful and was disappointed that more people are not signed up for it.

=====
ADJOURNMENT
=====

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of April 24, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk