

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

APRIL 24, 2008 - 7:30 P.M.

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, Messenger-Gazette and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER

ROLL CALL

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

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

There were 5 members of the public present.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION / LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

John Blackadar and Claude "Red" Ford

Councilman Mobus said he was proud to present to John Blackadar and Red Ford special legislative resolutions signed by Senator Tom Kean, in recognition of their many years of service to the Borough as members of the Watchung Fire Department.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Nehls announced that there is a resolution on the agenda tonight to accept the 2007 Audit Report.

2. Police - Councilman Franklin was not present this evening.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus provided progress reports for the Best Lake, Johnston Drive sanitary sewer improvement, and the Beechwood Place improvement projects. He reported on the Public Works Department's weekly tasks and said the Committee is reviewing the feasibility of the purchase of a hot-box and asphalt reclaimer.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote congratulated Jerry Mobus on his recent induction into the Watchung Hills Regional High School's Hall of Fame. He reported on the spring clean up of the buildings and grounds. He noted that there is an award of contract on tonight's agenda to Maser Consulting for a topographical survey of the Library and said the Bonus Room renovations should begin shortly. In regard to the Rescue Squad, he spoke about the loss of Shirley Cattabiani, and the ground breaking for the building's renovations.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls said the Board of Health is working on a tanning salon ordinance, and announced that a meeting to discuss the triathlon was held yesterday, where the details of the June 8th event were discussed.

5. Fire - Councilman Black was not present this evening.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren reported that this is a very busy time for the Recreation Commission, who are already working on the summer program schedule.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Mr. Herits reported that he met with the Public Works Committee and fine tuned the proposed road program for 2008; the ladies room at the Art Center is complete – the contractors did a wonderful job; and he, Don Speeney and Councilman Mobus will be meeting with the Office of Smart Growth next week.

8. Police Chief - In Chief Whelan's absence, Lt. Wenzel announced the schedule of services for the funeral of former Police Chief Robert Reilly.

9. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had nothing to report this evening.

10. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin announced the hiring of Linda Monetti to replace the Administrative Assistance position left vacant when Carolyn Taylor moved across the street to the Construction Office. She reported that she has been working with Bill Hance and Lee Purcell on a comprehensive report of sewer EDU's (Equivalent Dwelling Units) for the Borough.

Mayor Ellis welcomed Linda Monetti and said she will be a good addition to the Borough family- all of who will be together in one building, once the Bonus Room project is completed.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:
January 24, 2008, March 13, 27, and April 10, 2008
Executive Session - Aug. 16, Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, 26, Dec. 13, 27, 2007,
Feb. 28, March 13, 27, 2008 and Workshop meeting of March 29, 2008

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Board of Adjustment Minutes - September, 2006 through December, 2007
Police Activity - March, 2008
Board of Health Minutes - February 20, 2008

#29 - Board of Chosen Freeholders, Somerset County 4/11/08 Citation commending and praising the Borough of Watchung as participant in the "Point in Time Survey" and Drop-in Centre called Project Homeless Connect" by holding a food drive at the Borough Holiday Party
C: M & C, LBF

#30 - Borough of No. Plainfield 4/21/08 Resolution in opposition to proposed COAH Rules and Regulations and Resolution opposing the proposed tariff rate increase proposal of NUJ American Water c: M & C, LBF

#31 - Susan Tucker / Watchung PTO 4/17/08 Invitation and request for donations to PTO Carnival to be held on May 31st from 1 PM to 5 PM c: M & C, LBF

#32 - William Freemason, Office of Regulatory Affairs, DICA 4/15/08 Report of compliance in regard t

#33 - Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission 4/21/08 Invitation to attend the annual educational meeting on April 30th, 5:00 PM c: M & C, LBF, OEM

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda listed below, with the exception of R1 and R4, was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Mobus and a second by Councilman Nehls.

R1:04/24/08 Remembering Shirley Cattabiani

Councilman Pote asked for this resolution to be removed from the agenda and read this resolution into the minutes (copy attached). Councilman Pote said it was with a heavy heart that he reads this resolution, calling Shirley a very committed woman. Mayor Ellis added his regrets. Councilman Pote moved for the adoption of this resolution, it was seconded by Councilman Mobus, and upon roll call vote unanimously adopted.

R2: Purchases Over \$2,000. - MTS Intelligent Surveillance, Medieval Times

R3: Acceptance of 2007 Annual Audit Report

R4: ~~Approval of Corrective Action Plan—2007 Audit Report~~ **WITHDRAWN**

Councilman Nehls explained that this resolution will be considered at the May 8th Council meeting.

R5: Approving Participation with the State of NJ in a Safe and Secure Communities Program

R6: Accept and Authorize Final Payment / ADA Toilet Alterations - Pelcon Construction, Inc.

R7: Ratify Motion to Deny Request for Waiver of Sewer Hook-up Fees - Block 44.05, Lot 1

R8: Award of Bid / Bonus Room - Finne Building & Investment, Inc.

R9: Clarifying the Application of the Borough’s Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual

R10: Authorize Clerk to Issue Raffle License - St. Mary’s Stony Hill

R11: Authorize Award of Contract - LT Purcell / Engineering Valley Rd Sewer Ext Project

R12: Authorize Appointment / Administrative Secretary - Linda Monetti

R13: Authorize Release of Performance Guarantees/ Wildwood Terrace Subdivision

R14: Authorize Professional Services Contract / Housing Element and Fair Share Plan - Maser Consulting

R15: Authorize Expansion of Contract - Maser Consulting/ Topographical Survey

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Introduction of Ordinance OR:08/07 entitled “AN ORDINANCE VACATING, EXTINGUISHING AND RELEASING A CERTAIN WALKWAY EASEMENT LOCATED ON LOT 1.02, BLOCK 71.00, ALSO KNOWN AS THE “INDIAN PATH”, IN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY” Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Mrs. Fellin explained that this ordinance releases an easement that originally went through the homeowners property and, in exchange, a walkway to the “Indian Path” was constructed on Borough property. 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 Mobus and unanimously carried on roll call. Public Hearing to be held on be held on May 8, 2008.

Proclamation - Child Abuse Prevention Month / April

Councilwoman Joren read a proclamation proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention month in the Borough of Watchung.

Proclamation - Motorcycle Awareness Month / May

Mayor Ellis read a proclamation proclaiming May as Motorcycle Awareness month, and noted the banner on display, which he received at the Mayor’s convention.

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

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

- R16:4/24/08 Introduction of OR:08/07 - Vacating Walkway Easement/Block 71.00, Lot 1.02 (Indian Trail) Joren Mobus
R17: Waive Chapter 2.25-10 of the Code of the Borough - Gray’s Florist & Greenhouse Pote Mobus
R18: Payment of Bills Nehls Mobus

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PUBLIC PORTION

Walter Niegisch, Tuttle Road, spoke about his recent walk along the Indian Path and said he feels signage would be appropriate so that more residents were aware of where it is, and also commented that there were many tree branches and clutter along the trail, making it hazardous to walk. Councilman Mobus explained the Borough's wish to keep this trail "rustic" and advised Mr. Niegisch to contact Public Works and request that it be cleaned up.

Anthony Addario, Rock Road, said he was planning on going to the hearing of the Berkeley Heights Planning Board where they will be discussing application for the proposed parking garage on the Connell property. He said he heard there is a lack of response to fire calls and does not feel they should be offered a stipend. Councilman Mobus explained the Fire Committee is reviewing proposals and options for the Fire Department's stipend request. Former Mayor Addario also spoke about the pick-up response time for dead deer along Borough roadways and discussion ensued in regard to a previous sub-division application whose Planning Board approval contained a requirement to deed some land to the Borough; Attorney Cruz explained that sub-division had never been perfected.

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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 May 8, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Deputy Clerk