

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

MAY 8, 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 [P] Black [P] Mobus [P] Joren [P] Pote [P] Nehls [P]

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

There were 13 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Nehls said the corrective action plan has been submitted and is on the agenda for approval, noting there are two items of deficiency which have already been corrected.

2. Police - Councilman Franklin discussed the Police Activity Report for March, and read a letter of gratitude from Chief Whelan to the Governing Body for the resolution in memory of former Chief Robert Really.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus reported on the progress of the Skyline Drive and Best Lake projects, and noted that the Beech wood Place project is on hold until after the Little League and Pony Tail seasons are done. He also announced a major decrease in reportable incidents on Washington Rock Road, since the completion of that road improvement project.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote announced the Memorial Day Services will be held on May 26th at 9:30 am. He reported on the Rescue Squad's calls for the month of April, noting there was one CPR save and that May is their fund drive month. He said the Library Study group is searching for architects for assistance with their recommendation.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls reported Middle-Brook's annual meeting was very well attended by Borough personnel, and NIMS and the Pandemic Flu were discussed.

5. Fire - Councilman Black said the Fire Committee met last week, and will be continuing their discussion at a meeting scheduled for next week.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren announced the Recreation Commission has scheduled the annual Community Picnic for Sunday, May 25th, the Regatta is scheduled for September 14th, a \$1,000. grant was received again this year from Wal-Mart – enabling the Commission to plan 3 trips, and the packets for the Summer Playground program went out to the schools yesterday. She said at the last meeting, the Commission was approached by Rod McCrae from Watchung Little League and Jim Zilinski of the Janet Zilinski Memorial Fund who would like to donate automated external defibrillators (AED) to the Borough for use at Borough Fields for all sporting events. She discussed the details and said the Commission voted to recommend the acceptance of this donation. After a brief discussion, the Governing Body suggested that the Recreation Commission review Warren's policy in regard to the donation of AED's.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - In regard to Engineering, Councilman Mobus reported that he attended a Smart Growth meeting at the County, along with Tom Herits and Planning Board Chairman Don Speeney.

8. Police Chief - Chief Whelan thanked the Governing Body for the resolution in Bob Reilly's honor, saying all that knew him were moved by it. He announced that Officer Mike Sugalski is the Borough's new DARE officer.

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

10. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin said she was in attendance at a very nice Arbor Day celebration at Bayberry School, where a new tree was planted, and announced that on May 31st a public auction of surplus items will be held at the Public Works garage.

Mayor Ellis displayed a "citation" the Borough received from the Somerset County Freeholder Board in recognition of the donations made to the "Point in Time" homeless project. He explained that at the Borough's holiday party, donations of food and clothing were gathered for this organization.

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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:
April 24, 2008, Bid Opening April 29, 2008

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Youth Services Commission - Minutes of April 8, 2008
Tax Collector's Annual Report for 2007
Tax Collector's Monthly Report - April, 2008
Historical Commission Minutes - March 12, 2008
Environmental Commission Minutes - November, 2007 and January, 2008

- #34 - Alfred and Joan Eville 4/18/08 Letter thanking the Borough, Tom Herits, and Charles Gunther in regard to the remedy of a water runoff problem behind their property c: M & C, LBF, TH, CG
- #35 - Township of Mt. Olive 4/24/08 Resolution urging the State Legislature to implement a "stay" on the implementation of the COAH Third Round Proposal and Fair Housing Act; Resolution opposing Assembly Bill A-575 prohibiting municipalities to use schools as polling places; and Resolution supporting Assembly Bill A-1105 authorizing on-line publication of municipal legal notices c: M & C, LBF
- #36 - Township of Warren, Chief Russell Leffert 4/28/08 Letter of gratitude to Police Department for assistance given during a dangerous occurrence c: M & C, LBF
- #37 - Richard DeAngelis, on behalf of Fibertech 4/28/08 Request to use and occupy the public rights-of-way within the Borough for the purpose of constructing a fiber optic network to provide telecommunications services c: M & C, LBF, AC
- #38 - Olive Lynch 4/28/08 Invitation to attend a meeting to discuss the creation of a hospital authority to take over Muhlenberg 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.

- R1:5/08/08 Remembering Police Chief Robert Reilly
Councilman Franklin read R1 into the minutes, copy attached.
- R2: Commending Wayne Otto - OEM Coordinator
Councilwoman Joren read R2 into the minutes, copy attached.
- R3: Purchases Over \$2,000. - East Coast Traffic Marking
- R4: Approval of the Corrective Action Plan - 2007 Audit Report
- R5: Authorize Developer's Agreement - Watchung Associates, L.L.C./Block 3.01, Lots 32 and 32.01

- R6: Urging the Governor and Legislature to Implement a Stay on Further Implementation of the COAH Third Round Proposals and the Fair Housing Act
- R7: Authorize Revocable License - Installation of a fence across a sanitary sewer and Drainage easement/Block 69.02, Lot 18
- R8: Waive Chapt. 16-1.15b of the Code of the Borough - Swimming at Watchung Lake for Triathlon/June 8, 2008
- R9: Authorize Clerk to Reject all Bids and Post Surplus Fire Vehicle on govdeals.com
- R10: Authorize Clerk to Advertise Surplus Items for Public Sale

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Request for execution of access agreement - Tyree Environmental Corp. on behalf of Getty Service Station requesting permission to place two groundwater monitoring wells on Spratford Park as required by a remedial investigation for DEP

Mrs. Fellin explained that a request has been received for permission to install two monitoring wells on Spratford Park. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Governing Body that it is in the best interest of the Borough to approve this request and, as suggested by Engineer Tom Herits, request a bond in the amount of \$2,500.00 in the event that any restoration is needed to Spratford Park.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Nehls, seconded by Councilman Black, and unanimously carried upon roll call:

R11:05/08/08 Authorize Offsite Access Agreement - Tyree Environmental

Proclamation: Arbor Day at Bayberry School and in the Borough
Councilman Nehls, on behalf of Mayor Ellis, offered a proclamation in recognition of Arbor Day, copy attached.

Proclamation: Public Works Week - May 18 - 24th
Councilman Mobus, on behalf of Mayor Ellis, offered a proclamation in recognition of Public Works Week, copy attached.

Proclamation: Myasthenia Gravis (MG) Month - June
Mayor Ellis offered a proclamation for Myasthenia Gravis awareness month, copy attached.

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

None

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PUBLIC PORTION

Daniel Germaine, Fawn Lane, thanked Councilmen Franklin and Mobus, Engineer Tom Herits, and Public Works Manager Charles Gunther for restoring his property which had been damaged due to water run-off, and said although improvements have been made, the project needs to be continued to completely rectify this problem.

Phil Whitting, Fawn Lane, said he was pleased that improvements have been made to the upper part of Hughes Lane, and feels if the improvements are continued for another 50 feet, all of the water run-off problems could be solved.

Councilman Mobus explained that Hughes Lane is a private road and catch basins and curbing were offered to those residents and they opted not to do anything.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M. to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on May 22, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC

