

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

JUNE 12, 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, Police Chief Sean Whelan and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 11 members of the public present.

The meeting began with an unannounced visit from Senator Tom Kean, and Assemblymen Munoz and Bramnick who presented a legislative resolution to Mayor Ellis in honor of his induction into the Mayor's Hall of Fame. Senator Kean said the Borough of Watchung and Somerset County are far better places for all that Mayor Ellis does, Assemblyman Munoz said he was grateful to Mayor Ellis and Assemblyman Bramnick said Mayor Ellis deserves to be in the Hall of Fame.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Nehls reported the Finance Department has calculated the 2008 sewer usage fees and there will be no increase this year. He also announced that the pumper truck will be posted for sale on govdeals.com.

2. Police - Councilman Franklin reviewed the Police Activity Report for the month of May, and commended all emergency personnel who responded to a "911" call for a 13 year-old girl who was kicked in the head by a horse in Watchung last week, and said "kudos" to the Police Department and the Rescue Squad for saving her life. He reported she is recovering well. Councilman Franklin announced that Detective/Sgt. Bill Kelly received the "Target in Blue" award for outstanding achievement from Target stores.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus reported much progress in regard to the Best Lake rehabilitation project and the Skyline/Johnston Drive sewer project, and said the Beechwood Place road improvement project should be started in July in hope that it will be completed before the start of school. He reported on the recent storm that swept through the Borough on June 10th and commended all emergency personnel who assisted Public Works and the Police in clearing the roads. He noted Public Works personnel worked throughout the night.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote read the statistics for the Rescue Squad for the month of May, and said the response of the emergency service organizations to the call for the little girl who was injured by the horse is a perfect example of volunteerism in the Borough. He reported on his attendance at the rally to save Muhlenberg, and said he and Councilman Mobus met with County representatives in regard to available grant money for the Library and energy saving measures that could be incorporated into its construction.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls announced the Environmental Commission is addressing a new issue to determine the status of a tree after it is struck by lightning. Councilman Nehls also announced that the Triathlon was held last weekend and was a great event, noting that all went smooth without incident, and thanked all who helped out or participated.

5. Fire - Councilman Black reported the Fire Committee had met to discuss the Shared Service Feasibility Study, and Mayor Ellis advised him that the Committee should make a recommendation to the Council. Councilman Black thanked the Rescue Squad for refilling the Fire Department's oxygen tanks and commended all of the emergency services for the response to the storm on Tuesday night. He also acknowledged the diligent work of the police dispatcher who was on duty the night of the storm.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren announced Laws and Ordinance Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss false alarms and regulations pertaining to motorized bikes and ATV's, new regulations for background checks and that Coded Systems has submitted their final comments in regard to the Land Development Ordinance. In regard to Recreation, Mrs. Joren reported that the AED policy & procedure recommendation should be completed soon and the summer programs are ready to go.

REPORTS - OTHER:

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

8. Police Chief - Chief Whelan spoke about May being a busy month and reported he attended a meeting with the Seniors, attended an FBI Retraining Course, and that the department has received a \$1700.00 grant from Target for a bicycle program. He has the department's "click it or ticket" program has resulted in 125 summonses. He reported the Department is implementing proactive measures to conserve gas whenever possible, including reduction of idling time and two men per car during some shifts. Chief Whelan announced that a new Police Officer will be appointed at the next meeting.

9. Attorney - Mr. Cruz said he had one item for discussion in Executive Session.

10. Administrator - Administrator Fellin reported that the Borough will be increasing its fees for Police extra duty to cover the increased price of fuel, the sale of abandoned and surplus property last week brought in some money for the Borough, and that the Borough offices have been busy working evenings and weekends to purge records and files, courtesy of the Paris Grant received from the County.

Mayor Ellis reported he attended an educational program for 1st graders at the County Clerk's Office, that he attended the Triathlon saying it was a great event, and commending all who helped out during Tuesday night's storm. He said the Borough will be participating in a "green audit" which may prove to be very interesting.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:08/08 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A SANITARY SEWER CLEANOUT ACCESS EASEMENT FROM JOSE JERONIMO AND ANA GONCALVES TO THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG." 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 else 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 of Ordinance OR:08/09 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ACQUIRING A SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT FROM PSE&G TO THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG." 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:
May 22, 2008, Regular and Executive Sessions; June 4, 2008 Bid Opening

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Historical Committee - Minutes of April 9, 2008
Planning Board - Minutes of March 18, 2008
Building Department - May, 2008
Environmental Commission - February 25, March 31, and April 28, 2008
Police Activity - May, 2008

- #40 - Somerset County Bd. of Chosen Freeholders 5/27/08 Resolution supporting legislation to establish "Court Security Enhancement Fund" c: M & C, LBF, Court
- #41 - Franklin Township 6/3/08 Resolution supporting the "NJ Hero Act" and Resolution supporting Snowmobile and All-Terrain Vehicle Regulations c: M & C, LBF
- #42 - Louise Lindenmeier, Watchung Youth Services Commission 6/4/08 Informing Mayor of Det. Andrew Hart's resignation from the Youth Services Commission and recommending the appointment of Det. William Stankan to fill the vacancy c: M & C, LBF
- #43 - Township of Bedminster 6/6/08 Resolution opposing proposed Assembly Bill A2877, also known as the "Permit Extension Act of 2008" c: M & C, LBF, EB
- #44 - Senator Kean, Assembymen Munoz and Bramnick 6/9/08 Request support of the Joint NJ Senate and Assembly Republican Budget Alternative (see R11:06/12/08) c: M & C, LBF

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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.

- R3:6/12/08 Purchases Over \$2,000. - CSM, Partner's Equity Capital
- R4: Authorize Waiver of Construction Permit Fee - Eagle Scout Project
- R5: Authorize Submission of Somerset County Youth Athletic Grant and ratification of Approval of Field Use Modification Permit
- R6: Authorize the Return of Escrow Balance Deposits
- R7: Position and Salary Adjustment - Recreation Director
- R8: Appointment to Volunteer Fire Department - William Heilman
- R9: Authorize Raffle License - Sisters of Mercy of New Jersey
- R10: Appointment to Youth Services Commission - William Stankan
- R11: Supporting the Joint NJ Senate and Assembly Republican Budget Alternative
- R12: Opposing Senate Bill S-1137 - Expanding the Scope of Negotiations
- R13: Authorize Submission of DOT Grant Applications
- R14: Authorize Budget Submittal in Excess of Time Required by Statute
- R15: Authorize Liquor License Renewals
- R16: Authorize Clerk to Advertise for Bids - Belgian Block Curb Construction / Various Streets

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

~~Introduction of Ordinance OR:08/10 entitled "ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK" Public Hearing to be held on June 26, 2008 WITHDRAWN~~

~~Introduction of 2008 Municipal Budget Public Hearing to be held on July 24, 2008 WITHDRAWN~~

Proclamation - In honor of the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation's 25th Anniversary
 Mayor Ellis read the proclamation and noted the banner on display in front of Borough Hall (copy of proclamation attached).

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

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

- R1:06/12/08 Adoption of OR:08/08 - Accepting a Sanitary Sewer Easement, Block 2803, Lot 6.01 Joren Black
- R2: Adoption of OR:08/09 - Acquiring a Sanitary Sewer Easement - Block 64.03, Lot 1 Joren Black
- ~~R17: Introduction of OR:08/10 - Establish a Cap Bank~~ **WITHDRAWN**
- ~~R18: Introduction of 2008 Municipal Budget~~ **WITHDRAWN**
- R19: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 of the Code of the Borough - Gray's Florist Nehls Franklin Black
- R20: Executive Session: Franklin Black
Potential Litigation - Council On Affordable Housing (Borough of Watchung v. COAH Third Round Rules)

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PUBLIC PORTION

Former Mayor Addario, Rock Road, questioned the amendment to the Recreation Director's salary and hours, and it was explained that the position will now require 25 in-office hours in addition to the time previously given to recreational duties.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Road, asked if fees are collected from residents who participate in recreational activities, and it was explained that fees are collected.

Councilman Franklin offered R20:06/12/08 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

Upon return to regular session at 9:13 PM, with the exception of Mayor Ellis, 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 9:15 P.M. to the call of the chair and the next scheduled meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. on June 26, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Deputy Clerk