

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

APRIL 30, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Acting Mayor Gerald Mobus called the meeting to order at 7:34 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, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Administrator/Clerk Laureen Fellin, Attorney Albert Cruz, Police Chief Sean Whelan, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 31 members of the public present during the Police presentations, and 9 present for the remainder of the meeting..

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Police Commendations

Police Chief Sean Whelan presented the following awards:

Unit Award - Chief Whelan, St. Wenzel, Det/Sgt. Kelly, Det. Lyons, Det. Stankan, Ptl. Lacaillade, Ptl. Sporer, Ptl. Melchionda, Ptl. Bouchard, Ptl. Emerick, Ptl. Smith, Police Aide Townley, and Police Aide Morales

Life Saving Awards - Ofc. Boyle, Ofc. Bouchard; Ofc. Tallmadge; Ofc. Anderle, Ofc. Lavecchia, Det. Hart and Det. Lyons; Ofc. Sporer, Ofc. Dolinski

Commendation Award - Ofc. Anderle

Investigation Award - Det./Sgt. Kelly, Det. Lyons

Administrative Police Service Award - Police Aide Townley

Letters of Commendation - Sgt. Tim Faust, Ofc. Kimock, Ofc. Anderle, Ofc. Zaiton, Ofc. Tallmadge, Ofc. Melchionda, Ofc. Emerick, Det./Sgt. Kelly, Lt. Cina, Det. Stankan, Ofc. Boyle, Ofc. Bouchard, Ofc. Smith, Sgt. Hart, Police Aides Peixoto, Nappa, Records Clerk JoAnn

Estrella

Chief Whelan read a letter of praise written by Lt. Wenzel to Rescue Squad Captain Mel Isidro for the Squad's heroic efforts in saving the life of a young girl who was trampled on by a horse.

Chief Whelan announced his choice for this year's Achievement Bar/Service Award is Ofc. Brian Emmerick.

Council President Gerald Mobus said the Borough is very proud of everything the Police Department does and added that the Department is outstanding in his book.

Councilman Black congratulated the recipients and said he only hears positive feedback when residents speak of the Police Department. He said the Borough is very proud of all the Department does.

Councilman Pote offered his gratitude to the Department for their professionalism.

Councilman Franklin spoke of his personal experience with the Police Department and thanked them for their assistance.

Councilman Nehls thanked the Department and said the Governing Body, along with the residents, appreciate all that they do.

Councilwoman Joren agreed with all previous comments and congratulated all of this evening's recipients.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin said the Governing Body is formally accepting the 2008 Audit report, and approving the corrective action plan. He said the Administration and Finance Committee is still finalizing the budget and feels the budget is looking good and believes the public will be pleased with the end result.

2. Police - Councilman Mobus reported that this Monday night, Valley View School will host the DARE graduation ceremonies, noting instruction is provided by Officer Mike Sugalski.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls said Public Works has decided to invest in repairs to an older vehicle instead of replacement, believing it may be possible to get an additional 7 years use from it. He said the Committee also reviewed the priority list for roads, and pared it down from almost two million dollars to about \$300,000.00 for improvements to Stanie Glen, Anderson Road, Devonshire Lane and Bayberry Lane. He said the Committee is reviewing the speed limit signs throughout the Borough, and intends to authorize the installation of speed humps on Brookdale Road. Councilman Nehls also announced Public Works Week will be celebrated from May 17th through May 23rd.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote complimented Public Works for doing a nice job of replacing shrubbery at Spratford Park. He said the Historical Committee is busy assessing their needs in regard to their move to the Texier House, and he announced the Memorial Day services will be held on Monday, May 25th at 9:30 A.M., following the Exempt Fire Department's service at 9:00 A.M.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls updated all on the latest swine flu information, and announced that there are no suspected cases in the Borough. He assured all that Health Officer Kevin Sumner will be able to handle any incidents that may arise. He said Mayor Ellis is working on a way to increase e-mail communication with residents for emergency notices. Discussion ensued regarding setting a table up at the Memorial Day Community Picnic to distribute information for residents. Councilman Nehls announced that the Watchung Educational Foundation held their annual Art in Park event last Saturday.

5. Fire - Councilman Black read Fire Chief Skip Bell's report, which included the Department's response to a car fire on Valley Road and a fully engulfed dumpster fire. He said last night was Fire Department Appreciation Night at Dunkin' Donuts, and all scoops of ice cream were \$.31 cents. He thanked the Warren Fire Department for also attending.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said the Laws and Ordinance Committee is meeting next week and the Recreation Commission is meeting in two weeks. She noted that on the agenda for discussion is a Field Modification Request from the Watchung Little League.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Engineer Herits announced Valley Road will be fully milled and paved – curb to curb. He said the emergency repairs to Washington Rock Road have been done, and announced the Borough has received a DOT grant for improvements to Bayberry Lane. He said he is reviewing future road projects and the installation of speed humps on Brookdale Road.

8. Police Chief - No report was presented. Refer to the Police commendations.

9. Fire Department - No report was presented. Refer to Councilman Black's report.

10. Rescue Squad - Captain Mel Isidro presented the Department's statistics for the month, and said in honor of National EMS Week, the Squad will be having a barbecue on May 17th and all are invited to attend. She reminded all the date of the wetdown will be June 27th.

11. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had nothing to report.

12. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin reported employees attended a brief presentation on the Borough's Employee Assistance Program.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS
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NEW BUSINESS
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CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda listed below, with the exception of #33 and #38, was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Nehls. Acting Mayor Mobus asked for discussion on #33 and #38.

Approval of the following Council minutes:
April 16, 2009, Workshop Meeting of April 18, 2009

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Board of Health Minutes - February 25, 2009
Historical Committee Minutes - March 11, 2009

- #33 - Lynn Franklin and Lynn Stahl, Northern NJ Chapter of the Nat'l Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) Requesting permission to place teal awareness ribbons in the municipality in September 4/13/09 c: M & C, LBF, T & B

Councilman Black read the above correspondence and made a motion to authorize the placement of teal ribbons in the municipality during the month of September. Councilwoman Joren seconded the motion and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Mobus, Black, Joren, Pote, Nehls, "yes"; Franklin, "abstain".

- #34 - Jersey Central Power & Light 4/14/09 Notice of Public Hearings for Proposed Rate Increase in Connection with Proposed Economic Stimulus Demand Response and Energy Efficiency Program c: M & C, LBF, Post
- #35 - PSE&G 4/15/09 Notice of Petition with the Board of Public Utilities for approval of a Solar Loan II Program and An Associated Cost Recovery Mechanism Program c: M & C, LBF
- #36 - John Basilone Parade Committee 4/17/09 Invitation to participate in the 28th Annual John Basilone Memorial Parade on September 27, 2009 in the Borough of Raritan c: M & C, FD, RS
- #37 - Township of Warren 4/20/09 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance No. 09-13, regarding Zoning Amendment entitled "Affordable Housing Unit Regulations" and Ordinance No. 09-14 regarding an Amendment to Land Use Procedures by increasing the fees for a Road Opening Permits to be held on May 28, 2009 c: M & C, LBF
- #38 - Sara and Jose Pineiro 4/23/09 Request for approval of a sewer hook-up for 44 Valley Drive c: M & C, LBF, TH, LTP

Councilman Mobus said he is aware of this request and has been previously discussed. He recommended this request be forwarded to the Public Works Committee for further consideration.

Councilman Black offered a motion to accept correspondence #38 as received and refer it to the Public Works Committee for further consideration. Councilman Nehls seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried upon Roll Call vote.

- #39 - PSE&G 4/27/09 Notice of public hearing on proposed rate increase c: M & C, LBF, WH, Post
- #40 - City of Plainfield Planning Board 4/27/09 Notice of Public Hearing on proposed Master Plan c: M & C, LBF, Eng., DS

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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 Franklin.

- R1:4/30/09 Urging our Legislators to seek and request sufficient funding for use by the U.S. Army
- R2: Acceptance of 2008 Annual Audit Report
- R3: Approval of Corrective Action Plan
- R4: Establishment of and Appointments to COAH Mediation Committee
- R5: Supporting Watchung's Application for DOT's Transportation Enhancement Program
- R6: Authorize Curb Agreement Credit - Block 43.07, Lot 4
- R7: Award Professional Service Contracts - Land Use Board Consultants

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Phillips Field Modification Form -
 Watchung Little League's application to install a net above the Ost Field First Base dugout area Councilwoman Joren explained the request and the process for its approval, and after discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to approve this request and forward it to the Board of Education for their review and approval.

		<u>Offered</u>	<u>Second</u>
R8:	Approve Field Modification Form to install a 33' x 12' net above the Ost Field first base dugout fence area with the stipulation that galvanized steel be used for the support poles and not PVC pipe as listed on the application	Joren	Black

Proclamation - Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month / June

Councilman Nehls offered a proclamation proclaiming June as Myasthenia Gravis Month
(copy 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:

	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Second</u>
R8:4/30/09 Payment of Bills	Franklin	Black

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PUBLIC PORTION

Council President Mobus complimented Echoes Reporter Denis Kelly, for his article on Watchung Boy Scout Troop 32, recently honored in Mendham by the Patriot's Path Council for receipt of a "Good Turn for America Heroes Award", Silver level, for the installation of a fish habitat at Best Lake. He also noted a recent editorial penned by Little League President Rob Lister who very eloquently described what Little League is really about.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, inquired about the status of the Environmental Commission's request to modify the tree removal application, and asked about the status of the repaving of Valley Road. Mr. Cruz advised Mrs. Goldschein that she will have the tree removal application tomorrow, and Engineer Herits advised her that the water company is still doing work on Valley Road. Mrs. Goldschein asked what the right-of-way measurements are for the residences around the lake, as she saw a home that appears to her to have brush and debris encroaching Borough property and Councilman Mobus asked her to get the specific address, as he believes what she is referring to was once a "living fence."

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 8:55 P.M. to the next meeting regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Deputy Clerk