

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Acting Mayor Gerald Mobus called the meeting to order at 7:40 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 [A] Franklin [P] Joren [A] Pote [P] Nehls [P]

Also present were Administrator/Clerk Laureen Fellin, Attorney Albert Cruz, Police Lt. Tim Wenzel, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 7 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Borough Attorney Albert Cruz reminded all that the microphones used to record the meetings are very sensitive and reiterated the protocol of public comments. He said when the meeting is open to the public, the public is welcome to speak and should walk up to the microphone and identify themselves and where they live, and that the comments should be no more than three (3) minutes.

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin announced the introduction of the Cap Bank Ordinance, a COAH Information Session will be held at Borough Hall Monday evening and all interested residents are welcome to attend. He said he and Councilman Mobus will attend a meeting in Bergen County on Tuesday where there will be an update in regard to COAH Litigation.

2. Police - Councilman Mobus referred to the Police Activity report for the month of May, and noted a reduction in the numbers, possibly due to the Department's full compliment. He announced that Officer Brian Emerick will be at the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office for the next six months for training, and that Sgt. Tim Faust will be retiring as of June 30th. Councilman Mobus announced that a new replacement officer will be sworn in at the next Council meeting.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls reported that the contract will be awarded tonight for the Valley Road Sanitary Sewer Extension project, and two grant applications will be authorized for submission to the DOT. He announced the County will begin the Gateway Project on Somerset Street on June 17th, and Charles Gunther has requested permission to proceed with the rehabilitation of Truck #2, which will result in a big cost savings for the Borough. Councilman Nehls said Watchung's sewers are serviced by PARSAs and Berkeley Heights, and the Borough recently learned that the Borough will be receiving a bill next year from Berkeley Heights in the amount of \$103,390.00, and in 2011 in the amount of approximately \$200,000.00. He explained that this is the Borough's share of Berkeley Heights' capital improvement project and unlike PARSAs where the Borough has a voice in what is done, Watchung has no voice in what Berkeley Heights does. Councilman Nehls said the Borough received no notification that this was going to happen and believes it to be another "slap" to Watchung. He said he would like to remove our services from Berkeley Heights and it will be discussed in Committee.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote announced a recent act of vandalism at the 911 Memorial, and Village Green, and thanked Fire Chief Skip Bell for volunteering his services to do some repairs. He reminded all that the Squad will hold their wetdown for the new ambulance, acquired entirely through public donations, on June 27th. Councilman Pote said in regard to the issue of our squad being overwhelmed by multiple mutual aid calls, the situation has subsided for now although he did meet and discuss the situation with the EMT's from Plainfield. He reported the squad is the recipient of 2 new highly automated defibrillators donated by the Rachel Fund. In regard to the Library Study Committee, a status report is being drafted and reviewed in anticipation of its presentation to the Governing Body. Councilman Pote said the Historical Committee will be working through the summer on their plans for the Texier House.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls said Middle-Brook will be holding another State mandated, unfunded training session on June 18th, and the Environmental Commission is working on a pamphlet for "healthy lawns." He said Don Pote has provided an update in regard to the County Energy Audit for all Borough buildings except the Library, and the two schools. Councilman Nehls reported the Triathlon was held on May 31st, and it was very well attended.

5. Fire - Councilman Black was not present.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - In Councilwoman Joren’s absence, Councilman Franklin announced the public hearing and adoption this evening of an ordinance that will authorize the installation of a 4-way stop at the corner of Cedar and Valleyview Road. He explained that this is being done in an effort to rectify a traffic and parking problem near Valleyview School and has been discussed with the Board of Education.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Mr. Herits was not present.

8. Police Chief - No report was presented.

9. Fire Department - No report was presented

10. Rescue Squad - No report was presented

11. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had nothing to report

12. Administrator - Administrator Fellin said she attended a JIF meeting this morning where the rising costs of insurance rates and premiums were discussed. She noted on tonight’s agenda is a resolution authorizing the Borough to join in the Joint Insurance Fund’s new venture – the SEM, which stands for the Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting. She explained that this is a new consortium being formed to combine resources and obtain good energy rates and purchases. Mrs. Fellin also announced the Borough is scheduled on Monday to receive delivery of the rolling files to be shared by the Tax, Construction and Engineering Offices.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance OR:09/09 entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ARTICLE 7-24 ENTITLED "THROUGH STREETS" AND ARTICLE 7-26 ENTITLED "MULTI-WAY STOP INTERSECTIONS” OF CHAPTER VII ENTITLED "TRAFFIC" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, ADOPTED 2004, AS HERETOFORE SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED.” Councilman Franklin 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. Councilman Franklin moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and unanimously carried on roll call.

With no one desiring to be heard, Councilman Franklin moved the public hearing be closed, the ordinance be adopted, and the Clerk be directed to publish the notice of adoption. Councilman Nehls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on roll call

Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance OR:09/10 entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.” Councilman Franklin 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. Councilman Franklin moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and unanimously carried on roll call.

With no one desiring to be heard, Councilman Franklin moved the public hearing be closed, the ordinance be adopted, and the Clerk be directed to publish the notice of adoption. Councilman Nehls 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 and a second by Councilman .

Approval of the following Council minutes:
May 28, 2009, Regular and Workshop Meetings

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Building Department - May, 2009
Police Activity - May, 2009

49 - Township of Warren 6/2/09 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance #09-13,

amending Zoning Ordinance, Section 16-6, entitled "Affordable Housing Unit Regulations" and Ordinance #09-14, amending "Land Use Procedures and Development", Section 15-9, entitled "Streets and Right-of-Way Areas soil Movement/Construction Debris/Drive-Way Construction" c: M & C, LBF, Eng., Pl. Bd.

#50 - US Bicycling - Hall of Fame 6/3/09 Letter of gratitude for continued support of their annual "Super

#51 - PSE&G 6/5/09 Notice of Petition for approval on an Increase in Electric and Gas Rates, and public h

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda resolutions listed below, with the exception of R3, were unanimously adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Franklin and a second by Councilman Nehls.

R3:6/11/09 Appoint Jr. Member - Watchung Volunteer Fire Department / Logan Taylor

Council President Mobus requested this resolution be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration, and read Resolution R3 into the minutes (copy attached). Council President Mobus said Logan Taylor has been a Boy Scout, is now an Eagle Scout, and will be a fine asset to our Fire Department. Councilman Franklin moved R3 for its adoption, it was seconded by Councilman Nehls, and unanimously carried upon roll call vote.

R4: Authorize Clerk to Issue Raffle License - Sisters of Mercy of The Americas
Rahway PBA Civic Association, Inc.

R5: Authorize Clerk to Advertise Public Sale of Surplus Items

R6: Award of Bid - Sanitary Sewer Extensions, Valley Road Area / Finne Building &
Investment Inc.

R7: Authorize Liquor License Renewals

R8: Authorize NJDOT Grant Application Submission - Bayberry Lane Pedestrian
Crosswalk Lighting Improvement
Project

R9: Authorize NJDOT Grant Application Submission - Ridge Road Improvements Project

R10: Authorize Appointment to Full-Time Position - Clerk to the Zoning Official, Tax
Collector, and Board of Adjustment -
Catherine Hammel

R11: Authorize Borough's Membership in the New Jersey Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting
(NJSEM) and designation of Representative - Hans Juette

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA: Items listed below will be individually addressed and acted upon accordingly. Council reserves the right to refer an item to Committee for further review and discussion.

#52 - Sachin Gupta 6/3/09 Request to obtain a revocable license to allow for a drainage pipe to cross
the existing sanitary sewer easement, Block 1304, Lot 5 c: M & C, LBF, AC, TH

#53 - Neeraj Gupta 6/3/09 Request to obtain a revocable license to allow for a drainage pipe to
cross the existing sanitary sewer easement, Block 1304, Lot 4 c: M & C, LBF, AC, TH

Introduction of Proposed Ordinance OR:09/11 entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG CH. 5-12.76 ET SEQ. THEREOF "PERSONNEL POLICY," AND TO FIX AND DETERMINE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES AND COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES." Councilman Franklin moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilman Franklin explained this ordinance sets the minimum and maximum base salaries and compensations to be paid to certain employees.

Councilman Franklin 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 Nehls and unanimously carried on roll call. Public Hearing to be held on June 25, 2009.

