

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG**

**MINUTES**

**JUNE 25, 2009 - 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, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER**

**ROLL CALL**

Mobus [ A ] Black [ P ] Franklin [ P ] Joren [ A ] 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 42 members of the public present until the completion of the Police Ceremony, after which 2 members of the public remained.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE**

Heidi Faust - Probationary Police Officer

Councilman Franklin called forward Heidi Faust to administer the Oath of Office as Probationary Police Officer, as husband, soon to be retired Sgt. Tim Faust. held the bible. Ms. Faust's brother, recently retired Officer Jeff Skibenes and other family members observed.

Chief Whelan congratulated Heidi on behalf of Council President and Police Liaison Gerald Mobus who was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Chief Whelan said this night is bittersweet, as he is sad to say goodbye to Lt. Tim Faust who is a good friend and will be missed, however, he is happy to welcome his wife Heidi as a member of the Department.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin said the 2009 Municipal Budget is scheduled for adoption this evening, and also the Min/Max Ordinance for municipal employees. He said he was in receipt of the Tax Collector's annual report and announced a phenomenal collection rate of 99.2% for 2008.

2. Police - No Report

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls presented the Public Works report, noting the Department has fielded 95 service calls since the last Council meeting, and generated 133 work orders. He reported the curbside bulk pick up program is complete, the Department has begun training with the new catch basin cleaner, the Girl Scouts have installed the two nesting boxes on Best Lake, and the radio upgrade has been completed.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote reminded all that the Rescue Squad's wetdown is Saturday at 2:00 PM at the Exempt Hall. He said the Library Committee is finalizing their recommendation and will then begin to outline the next steps. He reported the Historical Commission is discussing their plans for the Texier House with Mrs. Fellin and Charles Gunther, who have been very helpful. He reported the Department continues to maintain the fields, graffiti has been removed and thanked Fire Chief Skip Bell for the new memo board by the tree of lights, replacing the one recently damaged by vandalism. Councilman Pote announced the Borough is moving forward with the installation of an overhang by the new entrance to the Tax and Construction Offices.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls reported Middle Brook held their annual training program and commended Health Officer Kevin Sumner for his selection of NJ American Water Company as a speaker, noting that it was a very interesting session.

5. Fire - Councilman Black had no report.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - No Report

**REPORTS - OTHER:**

7. Engineer - In Mr. Herits' absence, Councilman Nehl's reported the Somerset Street Gateway pre-construction meeting was held and the work will begin in about 2 weeks, noting 2-way traffic will continue at all times during the construction. In regard to the bridge replacement, the funding has been released and the project is going to bid, and an award of contract is anticipated in August. He said the paving of Hillcrest is scheduled for the summer and the contract for the Valley Road Sanitary Sewer Project has been awarded to Finne Construction. The Bayberry/Stanie Glen Improvement Project has been advertised and the contract will probably be awarded in July. Councilman Nehls said Phillips Field has been graded and seeded, the Johnston Drive/Skyline Drive residents have begun to connect to the sanitary sewer, and the construction of pedestrian crossing improvements will commence soon.

8. Police Chief - No report

9. Fire Department - No report

10. Rescue Squad - No report

11. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had no report.

12. Administrator - Administrator Fellin reported that the installation of the new rolling files for the Tax, Construction and Engineering Departments is almost complete. Mrs. Fellin announced that in a effort to contend with the problems of unkempt properties during foreclosure, a resolution will be presented at the next Council meeting that would give jurisdiction to Ed Bennett to have the property maintained either by Public Works or a private contractor resulting in a lien placed on the property for the incurred costs.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC HEARING OF 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**R1A:Determining Budget to be Read by Title**

Councilman Franklin read R1A (copy attached) and it was seconded by Councilman Black. Upon roll call vote, R1A was unanimously approved.

**R1B:Resolution to Authorize Budget Self-Examination**

Councilman Pote read R1B (copy attached) and it was seconded by Councilman Franklin. Upon roll call vote, R1B was unanimously approved.

**Adoption of 2009 Municipal Budget**

Councilman Franklin made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2009 Municipal Budget, Councilman Black seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously approved.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Road, asked if the Borough has increased its staff and Mrs. Fellin explained that recently a part-timer was let go and another part-timer moved up to full time. Mrs. Goldschein said she has previously discussed the discovery of \$13 million dollars in new ratables with CFO Bill Hance, who was able to account for \$3 million of it. Mr. Hance reiterated his conversation with Mrs. Goldschein and said he is awaiting a response from the Assessor, Ed Kerwin.

With no one else desiring to be heard, Council President Franklin made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2009 Municipal Budget, and Councilman Black seconded the motion. Upon roll call the vote this motion was unanimously approved.

**R1C:Resolution of Adoption**

Council President Franklin made a motion to adopt the 2009 Municipal Budget. Councilman Black seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, "Yes".

Public Hearing of OR:09/11 entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES" Councilman Franklin called for a second and reading of the ordinance. The Clerk read the ordinance by title and produced an affidavit of tion, certification of posting and availability of copies. Councilman Franklin moved a public be held with a second by Councilman Black and unanimously carried on roll call.

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hearing

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 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 Black and a second by Councilman Franklin.

Approval of the following Council minutes:  
June 11, 2009, Bid Opening of May 19, 2009

Approval of the following Borough Reports:  
Tax Collector - May, 2009, Annual Report for 2008

#54 - Stephen Dilts, Commissioner, NJDOT 6/16/09 Acknowledging recent correspondence in regard to the I-78 & Diamond Hill Road Interchange Project, and advising that all alternatives will be

#55 - NJ Transit 6/19/09 Public Hearing Notice concerning programs for Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation c: Post

#56 - NJ American Water 6/22/09 Notice of Petition to change Purchased Water Adjustment and Wastew

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**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:** The Consent Agenda resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin.

R3:6/25/09 Authorize Police Department Appointment - Heidi Faust / Probationary Patrol Officer

R4: Purchases Over \$2,000. - All-Ways Advertising

R5: Accept Project and Authorize Final Payment - Best Lake Dam and Spillway Rehabilitation Project / Compass Construction

R6 Authorize Revocable License Agreement / Block 1304, Lot 4

R7: Authorize Revocable License Agreement / Block 1304, Lot 5

R8: Support and Endorsement of Transportation Improvements to I-78 /Diamond Hill Road

R9: Establishing 2009 Employee Base Salaries

R10: Award of Professional Services Contract - Municipal Prosecutor / Richard J. Guss

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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.

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