

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2010 - 8:00 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Albert Ellis called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR TROOPS

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Administrator/Clerk Laureen Fellin, Attorney Albert Cruz, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco. Although not present at roll call, Councilwoman Joren arrived at 8:15 P.M.

There were 4 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin said the 2011 budget process has begun and department requests are due tomorrow. He announced that he and Councilman Mobus attended a "budget cutting" seminar and said some of the suggestions were very general, and some have already been implemented. Councilman Franklin said the State's "best practices" survey results are in and fortunately, the Borough did not get a reduction in aid. He said resumes are being reviewed for the position of tax collector, as Catherine Park is retiring at the end of the year.

2. Police - Councilman Mobus reported the Police Department's budget has been discussed at several meetings, and it will be flat for 2011. He said they will meet again before the holidays and discuss hiring a replacement in March for Mike Sugalski, who is retiring at the end of this year.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls said Public Works is moving ahead with winter preparations and the Department is awaiting the report on the status of their vehicles. In regard to Public Affairs, Councilman Nehls said the Tree of Lights was very well attended and the fireworks were great. He said Middle-Brook will officially be moving their offices to Green Brook.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote reported the Historical Committee met with Engineer Tom Herits and Mrs. Fellin to review the proposals received for renovations to the Texier House, and, unfortunately, all bids came in higher than anticipated, therefore, they will be re-working the scope of the project. Councilman Pote announced local historian Robert Selig produced a document confirming Colonel Lamb of Washington's army, did indeed come through Watchung while marching to victory. Councilman Pote said the Library Advisory Study Committee is happy to be awarding a contract to the Foreman Group this evening, and said the Rescue Squad is very grateful for the generous donations received from the Tree of Lights fundraiser.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls said the Tree of Lights was very well attended and the fireworks were great. He said Middle-Brook will officially be moving their offices to Green Brook.

5. Fire - In Councilman Franklin's absence, Mayor Ellis noted there was a resolution of appointment on the agenda for a new member of the Fire Department - Albert DeSandolo.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren announced that the Recreation Commission met last night and worked on their 2011 budget, and were able to shave 10% from last year's.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - No report presented.

8. Police Chief - Lt. Cina reported the Police Department has been working diligently on their 2011 budget, in an attempt to keep it under the 2% cap. He said Black Friday went well, crediting some changes that Wal-Mart made; and also reported the Detective Bureau has been busy investigating burglaries. Lt. Cina said the reverse 911 service that is going to be shared with Warren is up and ready to go, and training will be held on Tuesday morning.

9. Fire Department - No report presented.

10. Rescue Squad - No report presented.

11. Attorney - Mr. Cruz announced he had one item for discussion in Executive Session.

12. Administrator - Administrator Fellin reported she and Bill Hance attended an energy team meeting to discuss items to be submitted to the State for grant funding. She advised that a special meeting may have to be called to obtain authorization to proceed with the submission of the application. She said the team is focusing on the lighting in the buildings, and the implementation of sensors, hopefully without any out-of-pocket expense.

Mayor Ellis called forward long-time resident and Rescue Squad volunteer Claire Ohl and presented her with Resolution R1, honoring her on her 90th Birthday. Mayor Ellis said that he and Claire have known each other a very long time and share a special relationship. Councilman Pote said Claire is an amazing woman, adding that she is very "sharp." He said the Rescue Squad needs her for another 20 years.

Mayor Ellis said Mrs. Fellin received information today from the DOT that Bonnie Burn Road will have both north and south bound lanes opened by December 17th.

=====

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

=====

=====

NEW BUSINESS

=====

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda listed below was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Mobus and a second by Councilman Franklin.

Approval of the following Council minutes:
November 29, 2010 - Regular and Executive Sessions
Bid Opening November 23, 2010

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Finance Department Revenue Report - October, 2010

#98 - PSE&G 11/29/10 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Rate Increases c: M & C, LBF, WH, Post

#99 - Township of Berkeley Heights 11/29/10 Notice of public hearing on three proposed zoning ordinance revisions: amendment to Land Use applications, amendment to Land Use application check lists, revision to zoning ordinance pertaining to minimum side yard rear yard setbacks c: M & C, LBF, TH, DS

#100 - Kevin Tekel 11/30/10 Letter complimenting the glow and the design of the street lamps on Somerset Street c: M & C, LBF, TH

#101 - Darnell Williams 12/3/10 Letter of thanks to Judge Gasiorowski for making his court appearance for a traffic violation, a not so pleasant experience, a pleasant one c: M & C, LBF

=====

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda listed below, with the exception of R8, was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Mobus and a second by Councilman Franklin.

R1:12/9/10 Honoring Claire Ohl - 90th Birthday

R2: Authorize Return of Bow Hunt Permit Fee - Thomas Verducci

R3: Award of Contract / Information and Preliminary Design Plan - Watchung Library - Foreman Group

- R4: Purchases Over \$2,000. - SwissPhone, Inc.
- R5: Authorize Towing Application - Somerset Hills Towing

=====

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.

Proposed Ordinance OR:10/19 entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6-2.10 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG TITLED, “DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS, DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES, WEAPONS OR CAPS PROHIBITED; DISCHARGE OF BOWS AND ARROWS RESTRICTED” BY (I) AMENDING THE TITLE OF THE SECTION TO REMOVE THE WORDS “DISCHARGE OF BOWS AND ARROWS RESTRICTED”; AND INSERTING “BOW AND ARROW HUNTING PROHIBITED”; (II) PROHIBITING ALL BOW AND ARROW HUNTING WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG; AND (III) ADDING NEW SECTION 6-2.10.1 TITLED, “COMMUNITY DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.” was introduced. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilwoman Joren explained this Ordinance amends Section 6-2.10 of the Borough Code titled "Discharge of Firearms, et.seq." by prohibiting bow and arrow hunting, creating a Community Deer Management Program to be operated by the Borough, and allowing for deer culling rules and regulations to be adopted by Resolution of the Borough Council. Councilwoman Joren 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 Mobus and unanimously carried on roll. Public Hearing to be held on December 27, 2010.

=====

NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS - The resolutions listed below, were unanimously adopted on roll call with offering and seconding as follows:

<u>ed</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Offer-</u>
R6:12/9/10	Introduction OR:10/19 -	Joren
Mobus	Amendment to Code - Sec. 6-2.10 / Prohibits Bow Hunting, Creates a Community Deer Management Program to be operated by the Borough, Allows Deer Culling Rules and Regulations to be Adopted by Resolution	

Councilman Mobus recused himself from the following vote:

R7:	Appointment to Fire Department - Albert DeSandolo	Joren	Nehls
R8:	Executive Session:	Mobus	
Franklin	Contract Negotiations – Watchung Arts Center		

=====

PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the public desired to be heard.

Councilman Mobus offered R8:12/9/10 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Franklin and unanimously approved. Upon return to regular session at 9:51 PM, all members previously present were again in attendance.

=====

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 P.M. to the call of the Chair and the next scheduled meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, December 27, 2010.

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Deputy Clerk