

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2010 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Acting Mayor Gerald Mobus called the meeting to order at 7:45 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, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco. Mayor Ellis was not present.

There were 5 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin reported that a special budget workshop was held prior to this evening's meeting and noted the unfair funding formula for the Watchung Hills Regional High School, explaining that each town's contribution is calculated by the assessed home values, and Watchung still pays more than 20% of the total. He said our portion had been dropping slightly over the past few years but it is now up again.

2. Police - Councilman Mobus reported the Police have reduced their budget by 20% this year, and he has asked that they continue to look for additional places to cut.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls said the budget will be the topic of discussion at Monday's Committee meeting. He announced all roadwork will be postponed, the contractors are finishing up on the improvements on Bayberry and Stanie Glen, and that in regard to equipment, they are looking at maintenance rather than replacement.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote said revisions to the personnel manual are still be worked on, and announced the Historical Committee will be meeting next week.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls reported the State has cut the Public Health funding, and this will affect training programs, equipment purchases as well as many programs such as women's health services. He also announced that to date, Bound Brook has not made an official decision to leave the Middle Brook Regional Health Commission. Councilwoman Joren commented that the Governor's budget is only proposed, and can still be changed.

5. Fire - Councilman Black had no report

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren announced the Recreation Commission met last night and welcomed new member John Pennett, and that Scott Mersereau, to be appointed tonight, was also in attendance. She said the Commission is working on the summer playground program, and that Kim Blackadar is reviewing the applications for counselors and will make recommendations. She reported the new shed will be delivered soon, and that April 17th is Little League Opening Day and parade. Councilman Joren said the Commission reached out for donations to the Community Day picnic and was pleased to announce that some have been received.

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 announced he had one item for discussion in Executive Session.
- 12. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin reported the County plans to mill and pave a section of the Watchung Circle tomorrow morning, so expect delays; and that she attended a meeting at the County with the NJ DOT where alternate access routes from Route 78 to Route 22 were discussed.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance OR:10/08 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 28-401, TITLED "GENERAL ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS", OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG BY AMENDING SECTION 28-401C, TITLED "PROFESSIONAL RESIDENT HOME OFFICES" TO PROVIDE THAT A PROFESSIONAL RESIDENT HOME OFFICE SHALL NOT EXCEED NINE HUNDRED (900) SQUARE FEET." Councilwoman Joren moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and unanimously carried on roll call. Councilwoman Joren explained that this Ordinance will cap the size of the floor area space in a home office.

With no one from the public desiring to be heard, Councilwoman Joren moved the public hearing be closed, and the adoption of this ordinance be carried to the meeting of April 22, 2010, pending review and comments from the Planning Board. 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:
 March 25, 2010 - Regular and Executive Sessions
 March 27, 2010 - Special Budget Workshop Meeting

Approval of the following Borough Reports:

- #27 - Township of Warren 3/29/10 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance No. 10-03 regarding a revision to the Zoning Code entitled "Zoning Violations" c: M & C, LBF, EB, DS
- #28 - Township of Bridgewater 4/1/10 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Master Plan Amendment for the Land Use Element & Economic Element of the Route 22 Corridor c: M & C, LBF, TH, DS
- #29 - Violetta J. DuPont, Valley Road 3/31/10 Complimenting the improvements to the Watchung Circle and suggesting the installation of a traffic light c: M & C, LBF, SW

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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.

- R2:04/08/10 Appointment to Recreation Commission - Scott Mersereau / Alternate
- R3: Authorized Clerk to Advertise for Bids - Janitorial Services
- R4: Appointments to Municipal Wastewater Management Committee - Nehls, Herits, Boyd
- R5: Authorize Final Payment of Accumulated Employee Benefits - Tashon Stepney
- R6: Establish 2010 Sewer Fees

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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.

Proposed Ordinance OR:10/09 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, CHAPTER VI, ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL," SPECIFICALLY SECTION 9-3.7 THEREOF, ENTITLED 'LICENSE FEES; MAXIMUM NUMBER' AS HERETOFORE SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED" was introduced. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. 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 Black and unanimously carried on roll call. Public Hearing to be held on April 22, 2010.

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

R1:04/08/10 Adoption of Ordinance OR:10/08 - Professional Joren Black
Resident Home Office Regulations

Councilman Mobus recused himself from the following vote (R7):

R7: Appointment to Fire Department - Ryan J. Soltis Black Franklin

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Black, Franklin, Joren, Pote, Nehls, "Yes".

R8: Introduction of Ordinance OR:10/09 - Amend Joren Black
Code / Alcoholic Beverage Fees

R9: Executive Session: Franklin Black
Potential Litigation - Objections to Third
Round Housing Element and
Fair Share Plan

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PUBLIC PORTION

Mary Ciccolella, Johnston Drive, suggested the Borough may consider holding a town-wide garage sale as a way of bringing in revenue.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, asked if anything is being done in regard to the inequity of the sewer fees, and Councilman Nehls said it is being reviewed by the Borough's sewer consultant. Mrs. Goldschein asked for an explanation of proposed Ordinance OR:10/09 and Mr. Cruz explained that the law allows for a municipality to raise the renewal fees by 20% each year.

Councilman Mobus offered R9:04/08/10 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Franklin and unanimously approved. Upon return to regular session at 9:50 PM, 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 to the call of the Chair to the special Budget Workshop Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 11:00 AM, a special EPL Training Workshop Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 2010, followed by the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC