

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

AUGUST 19, 2010 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:31 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

Mayor Ellis asked for a moment of silence for long time resident and baseball legend Bobby Thomson who passed away on August 16, 2010.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Administrator/Clerk Laureen Fellin, Attorney Albert Cruz, Engineer Tom Herits, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 5 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin announced the 2010 Municipal budget has been certified and the tax rate has been struck. He said this has been a very tough year financially for the Borough, and next year will be even more challenging, with the implementation of the 2% cap.

2. Police - Councilman Mobus said all were provided a copy of the Police Activity report for the month of July, and Chief Wenzel was present if anyone has a question.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls reported the Department responded to 23 service calls and a new schedule for catch basin cleaning has been implemented, utilizing the new machine purchased jointly with Warren Township. He said safety inspections have been performed, along with a repair to an aerator at Best Lake. He said unfortunately, repairs are needed on the bobcat. Councilman Nehls announced Bob Burns has been re-certified as a Public Works Manager. Mayor Ellis said that he and Mrs. Ellis had sponsored a blood drive last weekend, and thanked Bob Burns and Public Works for the assistance provided.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote announced most of his committees will meet in September, therefore he will report back at the next meeting.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls said that a meeting will be held on Monday evening with the Mayors of all communities that compose the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission to discuss Bound Brook's inability to fund their obligation. He announced this year's September 11th Memorial will be held on Saturday, September 11th at 10:00 am, the time the first tower came down.

5. Fire - Councilman Black said he held a Committee meeting yesterday, and Chief Bell and Fire Official Gary Greves were present, and said many innovative ideas were discussed. He said the Department responded to 200 calls to date this year, and compared that to the total of 260 calls for the entire year of 2009, noting they have been very busy. He reported Gary is adjusting to his new position very nicely and said he is definitely the man you want to represent the Borough. Councilman Black also reported on the last Green Brook Flood Control Commission meeting that he attended. Council President Mobus noted the Fire Department held their 100th Anniversary celebration at Forest Lodge on August 14th and a good time was had by all.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren presented a black and white picture of Moldenke's Castle to Steve Pote, for the Historical Committee, from her Dad, Jack Penn. Councilwoman Joren said that due to the reduction in the Recreation budget, as well as the reduction of the Director's hours, the Recreation Commission continues to look at all of the programs and membership and review which programs benefit most of the Borough. She explained some hard decisions must be made, and announced the cancellation of the Regatta, although she said the Commission will consider suggestions on how this event can continue in the future but serve a better number of residents. She said the Laws and Ordinance Committee met and as a result, there are several Ordinances on this evening's agenda for introduction. She said the Committee is also working on a draft of the "do not knock" ordinance.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Mr. Herits announced the Johnston Drive Phase IV pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 1:30 pm. He reported Free Acres has applied for new water lines and the plans are being reviewed by both Watchung and Berkeley Heights Fire Departments. He said the sewer remediation work on the DeNicolas property is near completion. Mr. Herits noted three DOT grant applications on the agenda, and said that Finne Construction will be paving Valley Road at the end of the month. Mr. Herits said he will check with the County as to the status of the street light lanterns on Somerset Street.

8. Police Chief - Chief Wenzel discussed a memo provided to the Governing Body describing the outstanding detective work by Bill Kelly, apprehending a suspect who has been snatching purses in Watchung and Warren to support his heroin habit.

9. Fire Department - No report was presented.

10. Rescue Squad - No report was presented.

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

12. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin announced that bids have been received for the outsourcing of Janitorial Services, and this should save the Borough approximately \$20,000. per year. She discussed the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee's Deer Herd Population Survey Recommendation and it was the consensus of the Council to invite a representative to the next meeting for further discussion.

Mayor Ellis thanked Borough Engineer Arlene McCoy for the remediation of the algae on Best Lake, and sadly announced that memorial services for Bobby Thomson will be held first in Savannah, and then in New Jersey on August 31st.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance OR:10-14 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." was held. Councilwoman Joren 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. Councilwoman Joren moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and unanimously carried on roll call. There being no one desiring to be heard, Councilwoman Joren 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 Mobus and a second by Councilman Black.

Approval of the following Council minutes:
July 26, 2010, August 3, 2010 - Bid Opening

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Building Department - July, 2010
Planning Board Minutes - June 15, 2010
Tax Collector's - July, 2010
Police Activity - July, 2010
Finance Revenue Report - May, June, July 2010

#70 - James Simpson, Commissioner, NJ DOT 7/20/10 Acknowledging receipt of Resolution R1: 06/24/10
be considered during the current NJDOT evaluation c: M & C, LBF, TH

#71 - Township of Scotch Plains 7/26/10 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance to amend Zoning Permitted Secondary Uses to be held on August 17, 2010 c: M & C, LBF, TH, DS

#73 - County of Somerset 7/30/10 Notice of Grant Award / 2010 Municipal Youth Services Commission - \$5,000. and also the Pursuit of Excellence Competitive Grant - \$5,000. c: M & C, LBF, WH

- #74 - Cozen O'Conner, Representing NJ American Water 7/22/10 Notice of Filing of Proposed Rate Increase
- #75 - Harriet Stambaugh 8/4/10 Letter commending the professional, courteous, and efficient service rendered by TACO Carolyn Taylor and Electrical Sub-code Official Martin McMorrow c: M & C, LBF, EB, CT, MM, PHF
- #76 - Township of Berkeley Heights 8/4/10 Notice of Adoption of Zoning Ordinance Revision #8-2010, pertaining to Affordable Housing Fees c: M & C, LBF, TH
- #77 - Jersey Central Power & Light Company 8/9/10 Notice of Public Hearing re: filing of petition to establish
- #78 - PSE&G 8/9/10 Notice of Public Hearing re: filing of petition to establish recovery level for the 2010/2011 USF (Annual Universal Service Fund) Program year c: M & C, LBF, Post
- #79 - PSE&G 8/11/10 Notice of Public Hearing re: filing of petition to for approval of changes in its Electric
- #81 - Senator Thomas Kean 7/30/10 Thanking the Borough for it's participation in the NJ DOT's "Beautiful New Jersey" program c: M & C, LBF

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

- R2:08/19/10 Authorize Revocable License Agreement - Hector, 117 High Oaks
- R3: Authorize Return of Construction Permit Overpayment - #10-0164
- R4: Establishing 2010 Employee Base Salaries
- R5: Authorizing the Clerk to issue Raffle License - Rawhide Rescue, Inc., St. Mary's Church Stony Hill
- R6: Appointment of Fire Official, Assistant, Liaison to Fire Prevention, Fire Department - Gary Greves
- R7: Authorizing Submission of NJ DOT Grant - COP-2011 / Mountain Boulevard Pedestrian Sidewalk Extension
- R8: Authorizing Submission of NJ DOT Grant - SST-2011 / Bayberry Lane Pedestrian Crosswalk Lighting Improvements
- R9: Authorizing Submission of NJ DOT Grant - MA-2011 / Improvements to Johnston Drive Phase V
- R10: Award of Bid / Janitorial Services - Shamrock Maintenance Co., Inc.
- R11: Authorizing the Placement of Proposition on the Ballot at the General Election to be Originally Authorized by Public Question in 1998

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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.

Introduction of Proposed Ordinance OR:10/15 entitled "AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING UNDERAGED POSSESSION OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY" Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. This Ordinance prohibits underaged possession or consumption of private property and establishes the penalties associated with a violation. 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 September 16, 2010.

Introduction of Proposed Ordinance OR:10/16 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FIRE LANES AND FIRE ZONES IN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG." Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. This Ordinance establishes fire lanes and fire zones in the Borough, designates the Police Department as the enforcement agency, and sets the penal-

ties for violations. 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 September 16, 2010.

Introduction of Proposed Ordinance OR:10/17 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 18-8, TITLED "SANITARY SEWER CONNECTION FEES", TO INCREASE SEWER CONNECTION FEES, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG." Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. This Ordinance amends the Borough Code to implement an increase in the sewer connection fee from \$2,000.00 to \$3,100.00 for all new residential and non-residential connections to the sanitary sewer collection system. 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 September 16, 2010.

#72 - Watchung Wildlife Management Advisory Committee 7/28/10 2010 Deer Herd Population Survey Recommendation c: M & C, LBF

Councilman Nehls noted if a survey is to be done, it needs to be done while the trees are bare. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Governing Body to request the Committee make a presentation at the meeting of September 16th.

#80 - Robert "Mike" Weldon 8/9/10 Request to relocate sewer pipe and easement on property, located at 77 Knollwood Drive c: M & C, LBF, TH

Councilman Nehls forwarded this request to the Public Works Committee and Engineer Tom Herits for further review.

Proclamation - September, 2010 / Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Ellis read a Proclamation proclaiming September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in the Borough, and thanked local members of the Northern New Jersey National Ovarian Cancer Coalition Lynn Franklin and Lynn Stahl for working so hard and being successful in getting the word out to raise awareness of this often fatal disease.

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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>ed</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Offer-</u>	<u></u>
R1:08/19/10	Adoption of Ordinance OR:10/14 - Set Minimum/Maximum Salaries for Employees	Joren	Black
R12:	Introduction of Ordinance OR:10/15 - Alcoholic Beverages / Private Property	Joren	Black
R13:	Introduction of Ordinance OR:10/16 - Establishing Fire Lanes, Fire Zones	Joren	Black
R14:	Introduction of Ordinance OR:10/17 - Amending Sanitary Sewer Fees	Joren	Black
R15:	Payment of Bills	Franklin	Black

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PUBLIC PORTION

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, inquired to the reduction of the Recreation Director's position, and Councilwoman Joren advised the hours have been cut to 20 per week.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. to the call of the Chair and the scheduled meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, September 16, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Deputy Clerk