

The following is a new feature to our website. Following each meeting, the Clerk's Office will post a short synopsis of the highlights for the convenience of residents who may be interested. This should not, in any way, shape or form be used as the official minutes of the meeting.

Meeting in Review

3/24/05

******Councilman Franklin reported on the Budget Meeting held last Saturday and said that Mrs. Fellin will be setting a meeting to discuss the Capital Budget requests. He said he attended a Library Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday and options for the facility were discussed.

******Councilman Black announced the date for the Pancake Breakfast will be April 23rd at the Wilson Memorial Church, from 8 am to 12 noon. More details will be announced shortly.

******Councilman Mobus said that Public Works is moving right along, and hopes we are almost done with the snow, since we are out of salt. He welcomed Tom Herits, the new Borough Engineer.

******Councilman Harding thanked Steve Caruso for obtaining a very generous donation from Shop Rite for the Pancake Breakfast. He reported representatives from the Environmental Committee will be walking the Ness property with Mayor Ellis on April 9th. Councilman Harding praised the Fire Department in regard to the recent house fire on Knightsbridge. He said along with the help of mutual aid from surrounding towns, they were able to prevent what everyone thought would be a total loss. He credited their success to the leadership of the Borough's new Chief, Steve Peterson.

******Councilman Pote said he met with Charles Gunther to discuss the maintenance of the Library and other Borough buildings. He also discussed new software for the Borough which would log resident's concerns.

******Councilwoman Joren reported that the recent meeting of the Laws and Ordinance Committee was very productive, and thanked Construction and Zoning Official Ed Bennett for coming to the meeting and for his input. She said they will continue to work on the fence ordinance and will soon be revising the carbon monoxide/smoke detector ordinance.

******Engineer Tom Herits said he has been busy familiarizing himself with the Borough and tackling many unfinished projects, and working on compliance reviews.

******Administrator/Clerk Fellin reminded everyone that the Council meeting originally scheduled for April 14th has been changed and will be held on April 7th, at the Courthouse on Somerset Street.

******Mayor Ellis reported that he will be walking the Ness Property on April 9th with representatives from the Planning Board, the Open Space Committee, the Recreation Department and the Environmental Committee. He said although the Borough does not own this property, he is looking for input to how this property could best be used to benefit the residents if it is acquired. He said he has been meeting with the trustees of the property and will keep the residents informed of any developments.

The following Official Business was acted on:

- A public hearing was held on Ordinance OR:05/01 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ARTICLE 7-15 ENTITLED 'PARKING AT ALL TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS' OF CHAPTER VII ENTITLED "TRAFFIC" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, ADOPTED 1971, AS HERETOFORE SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED". This Ordinance amends Chapter VII "Traffic" to prohibit parking on the south side of Park Place from its intersection with Cedar Road West to its dead end terminus. With no one from the public desiring to be heard, this ordinance was unanimously adopted.
- Councilman Mobus made a motion to grant approval to Block 501, Lot 2.01 for a street opening permit, explaining that this had been reviewed by the Public Works department. A written resolution which will include specific conditions will be presented to ratify this recommendation at a future meeting.
- A petition was received from Johnston Drive residents, from Block 69.01, Lot 11 to 69.08, Lot 8, requesting a sanitary sewer line be extended to their part of the street. Mayor Ellis informed the residents who were present tonight that the petition be referred to the Public Works Committee.
- A Resolution calling upon Congress to support full and fair funding for TEA-21 was passed
- A Resolution authorizing the Borough to execute a grant application from ANJEC in the amount of \$5,000 to prepare an Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Mayor Ellis read a Proclamation designating March 20th to the 26th as *Poison Prevention Week* in the Borough of Watchung

- Mayor Ellis read a Proclamation honoring Dr. Michael Chen as follows:
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway will hold its Foundation's Annual Rose Ball on Saturday, April 16, 2005; and

WHEREAS, this year the Foundation has the privilege of honoring Watchung residents, Dr. Michael and Mrs. Michele Chen; and

WHEREAS, throughout his busy career as RWJUH Chief of Cardiology, Clinical Professor of Medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Chief of Medicine and Cardiology at JFK Medical Center while also serving on the RWJUH at Rahway's Board of Governors and the State Board of Medical Examiners, Dr. Michael Chen still finds time to lead groups of volunteer physicians and nurses to the Dominican Republic, providing free medical care to rural Dominicans; and

WHEREAS, Michele Chen, Dr. Chen's "best free advisor and assistant," is herself an active member of the RWJUH at Rahway Foundation Board of Trustees, having served as Chairman from 1997 to 1998, she continues to find time to organize and participate in numerous charity fund raising events; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael & Michele Chen not only have dedicated themselves to helping others both at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway and in the community of Rahway, but Dr. Michael Chen also serves the members of his own community as a Board Member of Crime Stoppers of Somerset County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Albert S. Ellis, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, hereby proclaim Saturday, April 16, 2005 as

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Chen Day

in the Borough of Watchung and congratulate and commend Dr. and Mrs. Michael Chen for their outstanding and tireless contributions and endless dedication to health care and the citizens of the communities in which they both work and reside.

Eagle Scout Project Proposal - Michael Riedinger

Michael Riedinger brought to the governing body his proposal to refurbish the Fitness Circuit adjacent to Best Lake. His plans are to dig the existing soil and replace it with "fibar mulch" making it safer. He also plans to clean the mold and algae from the stations and tighten any bolts that may be loose, and replace any wood that may be rotted.

The Recreation Commission endorsed this project and the Mayor and Council was happy to give it the "go ahead" and wished Michael much success in his endeavors.

The meeting was opened to the public and no one desired to be heard.