

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2006

7:00 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 special notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, Messenger-Gazette and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG, SILENT PRAYER, AND ROLL CALL

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

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

There were 4 people in the audience.

DISCUSSION:

Council Candidate Interview

RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Black offered the following resolution, it was seconded by Councilman Franklin and upon roll call, unanimously carried.

R1SP:01/23/06: Authorize Candidate Interview and Selection

Mayor Ellis prefaced the interview process by stating all three candidates, Emi Havas, Henry Kita, and William Nehls, have served the Borough in one capacity or another, and all are very qualified to fill the position. Candidates were interviewed alphabetically, with the two candidates not undergoing interview remaining in the Mayor's office, with the exception of Mrs. Havas, who was in Florida and interviewed via conference call. The following questions were asked of each candidate.

Mayor Ellis began with why each candidate would like to be considered and what special talent they can bring to the council.

Councilman Pote asked each candidate what their priorities would be.

Councilman Pote asked each what their opinion in regard to the deer problem is.

Councilman Franklin asked if any of the candidates disagreed with the way any particular issued was handled by the current governing body.

Councilman Franklin asked each if they would be willing to run in November.

Councilwoman Joren said that although it appears that the governing body only meets twice a month, there are many other meetings to attend and time consuming obligations and asked each candidate if they have the flexibility in their personal schedules.

Councilman Black said all three candidates were talented and asked each one what sets them apart from the others.

Councilman Mobus asked each candidate specific questions on their past commitments to Borough committees.

Councilman Pote asked how each candidate would handle the confidentially of the position.

Councilman Black offered the following resolution, it was seconded by Councilman Franklin and upon roll call, unanimously carried.

R2SP:01/23/06: Executive Session:

Council Candidate Discussion

Upon return to regular session at 8:15 P.M., all members previously present were again in attendance. The Clerk asked that each council member voice his vote for a member to replace Councilman Harding and William Nehls was selected unanimously.

Mayor Ellis congratulated Mr. Nehls and asked Mr. Kita that he remain active and involved and be there for the future. The same was told to Mrs. Havas via a phone call made after the meeting. Council members expressed their difficulty in making the decision, stating they found all three candidates to be qualified. Mayor Ellis advised Mr. Nehls that he would be officially sworn in at the January 26th Council meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, said all three candidates were excellent candidates and William Nehls was a good choice.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm to the call of the Chair and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held at 7:30 PM on Thursday, January 26, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Clerk