

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2006

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:30 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, Messenger-Gazette and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER

ROLL CALL

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

Although not present for Roll Call, Councilwoman Joren arrived at 7:38 P.M.

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

There was 1 person in the audience

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin reported that the Budget process is on-going, explaining that the Borough is waiting to hear from Trenton in regard to the State aid figures.

2. Police – Councilman Black had nothing to report this evening.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus said the final conceptual plans for Best Lake have been discussed and the project is ready for the final design. He announced that the sign dedication ceremony for Donald R. Scotti will be held on Saturday morning, March 4th, at approximately 11:30 am, with lunch following at the Mobus'. He said the New Jersey Transit Planning Authority has scheduled the replacement of the bridge on the circle, and this he found out by way of the newspaper. He said a resident had suggested a re-configuration of the walkway by moving it to the Valley Furniture side of the circle, and this suggestion is being considered. Councilman Mobus said a petition is being circulated for Johnston Drive residents for the installation of sewers.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs -

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the Borough and said it is his honor to represent the residents of Watchung.

Buildings - Councilman Pote reported that he attended a meeting with the Administrator, Councilmen Mobus and Franklin, and Asst. Engineer Arlene McCoy, and was pleased with some of the changes made to the plans and designs for Best Lake, finding them both functional and esthetically pleasing, and will keep the public up to speed with the costs that will be involved. In regard to the Library, he said he met with the Librarian to review the material the Board is putting together for their presentation to the governing body in March. Councilman Pote said the Historical Committee is moving forward with the procedures for the reprint of the Watchung Book as well as stationery with prints of Bill Titus' art. He reported that the Emergency Services Dinner was quite an event and he was impressed with the statistics and stories that accompanied some of the well-deserved awards received by both Fire and Rescue Squad volunteers. In regard to Rescue Squad activity for the month of January, the Squad responded to 36 calls, 11 of which required a medic unit; one ambulance and vehicle 8-0 also responded to 2 fire calls.

5. Fire - Councilman Nehls said he has met with the Fire Chief and attended one Fire Department meeting as liaison, and said he felt very welcomed and found the meeting very informative. He read some statistics for the month of January: the members responded to 18 calls, 2 drills for a total of 335 man-hours. Councilman Nehls thanked the towns who provided mutual aid at the recent fire at Sleepy's and said it was fortunate that no one was injured.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said neither of her Committees met, however, she will have something to report at the next meeting.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – No Report.

8. Attorney – Mr. Cruz said he has three items to be discussed in Executive Session, one being "Litigation: SORT vs Borough of Watchung". Mr. Cruz explained that an "Order to Show Cause" had

been received by the Borough with the intent to prevent the deer hunt from proceeding. The Borough needed to reply by February 7th, and the Plaintiffs by February 10th. He explained that the Borough did reply by February 7th and received a call that the Plaintiff's withdrew the "Order to Show Cause". Mr. Cruz said this would be discussed further in Executive Session.

9. Administrator – Mrs. Fellin had nothing to report this evening.

Mayor Ellis said he was very excited for the Best Lake Dam improvements, as he has seen the plans and they are exactly what he was hoping for. He said he attended the Firefighters Installation Dinner on Saturday and said it was a wonderful evening, and thanked the Echo-Sentinel for the good coverage. Mayor Ellis said he is reaching out to the president of Sleepy's to see if the Borough can help them through this time, adding that they have always been a good neighbor. He said he will be reaching out to the County in regard to making a "no passing" zone on Mountain Boulevard. Mayor Ellis said he has set March 25th as a tentative date for a second Emergency Services Pancake Breakfast, as he would like to make it an annual event.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

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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:
November 10th, Special Meeting of December 8th, December 22nd, 2005
January 12th and 26, 2006

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Tax Collector - January, 2006
Building Department - January, 2006
Historical Committee - Minutes of January 5, 2006

- #7 - Ruth Rillo 1/23/06 Voicing her concerns about the safety of the circle c: M & C, PD
- #8 - Borough of North Plainfield 1/31/06 Notice of Public Hearing on March 13, 2006 for proposed Amendment and Revisions to Land Development Ordinance, specifically "Zoning" and Designation of Age Restricted Community c: M & C, LBF
- #9 - Jeffrey Tobey, Sundance School 1/26/06 Expressing concerns of over development in the Borough c: M & C, Planning Board

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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.

- R1:2/09/06 Authorizing final payment - Washington Rock Road/Rock Road East Intersection Project
- R2: Authorizing release of Performance Guarantees and Acceptance of Maintenance
- R3: Temporary Appointment of Plumbing Sub-Code Official - Joseph Nicastro
- R4: Authorize Release of Performance Bond - Block 44.01, Lot 11
- R5: Award of Professional Services Contract - Land Use Board Consultant
- R6: Recognizing Claude Ford and Al Seidel on their receipt of the Honorary Chief's Award
- R7: Authorize submission of Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to NJDEP
- R8: Appointment of Alternate Public Defender - August N. Santore, Jr.
- R9: Authorize return of Escrow moneys - Engineering Inspection Fees, Performance Guarantees, and Planning and Zoning Board Applications
- R10: Authorizing Fire Chief's signature for implementation of Firefighter Certification Program

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Introduction of OR:06/02 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN ACCESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT FROM PHILLIP C. WHITTING AND DOROTHY F. WHITTING TO THE

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG” 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 February 23, 2006.

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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>Offered</u>	<u>Second</u>
R11:2/09/06	Introduction of OR:06/02 - Accepting an access and utility easement - Block 40.01, Lots 6.01, 6.02, 6.03 and 6.04	Joren	Black
R12:	Executive Session: Council Personnel Litigation: SORT vs Borough of Watchung Property Acquisition - Block 3.01, Lot 29	Black	Franklin

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PUBLIC PORTION

Lee Ehrenworth, Canterbury Lane, asked Councilman Pote if his comments implied that the Borough is intending to keep the Library and Councilman Pote replied that all options are being considered at this time.

Councilman Black offered R12:2/09/06 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Franklin and unanimously approved.

Upon return to regular session at 9:29 PM, all member 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 at 9:30 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of February 23, 2006 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Borough Clerk