

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 29, 2004

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] Otto [A] Mobus [P] Joren [P] Harding [P]

Also present were Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Borough Administrator/Clerk Lauren Fellin, Borough Engineer Richard Moody, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 6 people in the audience.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin reported that the Council Members are in receipt of the Personnel Policy and Procedures manual for their final review. He said he met this week with the Personnel Committee and they are gathering information on the possibilities of a different employee dental plan.

2. Police - Councilman Black reported that he has received \$5,000. to date in donations for the portable radar detector. He also said that he received the statistics on the summonses issued for traffic violations, however, he only has the total and will request a breakdown for the circle only, for the next meeting.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus announced that the road overlays should be done this month and that the new truck for Public Works is on target for December delivery. He reported that the bid packs for Anderson Road and Phillips Lane should be ready to go to legal for review soon.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs - Councilman Harding said that the Environmental Commission was also meeting tonight. He reminded residents that Saturday, December 4th is the annual Tree of Lights celebration and said that if anyone had attended last year's, they remember how nice it was. He said last year's celebration was a picture-perfect evening as it had snowed and the children were sleighing, the tree was lighting, and the fireworks were going off, all at the same time. He said it was beautiful.

Buildings - In Councilman Otto's absence, there was no report.

5. Fire - Councilman Harding announced that tomorrow evening he will continue to participate in discussions with the Fire Department and Rescue Squad in regard to the housing of vehicle 80. Mayor Ellis added that he was happy to hear that the departments are working together.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said that both the Recreation and the Laws and Ordinances Committees will be meeting this week, so she has nothing to report at this time.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Mr. Moody said that at the Public Works Committee meeting this morning the Berkeley Heights sewer agreement was discussed and he will be following up on this discussion with Planning Board Attorney Robert Rusignola. He reported he is looking into other options for the Corey/Sunlight easement project. Mayor Ellis asked if progress was being made with the Jessen easement and Mr. Moody said he is reviewing other options. Mayor Ellis asked for the status in regard to the Shobin/Townsend sewer easement and Mr. Moody said he did meet with the engineers and they walked the possible sites, however they have still not come to an agreement.

8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz said he had one item for executive session.

9. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin announced that the COAH request for extension of Substantive Certification is on file in her office for review and will be delivered to Trenton before the December 13th deadline.

Mayor Ellis announced that the Borough will soon be soliciting people for the new "return mail" program which will enable the Borough to notify residents via e-mail of any new or important information as it arises. He said he will also be contacting the Board of Education to see if they would like to participate, as this would be a helpful tool for them as well. Mayor Ellis said he would like to duplicate historic paintings of the Borough and distribute them to the Library, Borough Hall, and other various Borough buildings. He asked if any residents have any paintings that they would like to lend for duplication, to contact him.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The resolutions listed below were adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin with all voting in favor.

Approval of the following Council minutes:

Approval of the following Borough Reports:

- Police Department Activity Report - October, 2004
- Historical Committee - Minutes of 10/13/04
- Board of Health - Minutes of 9/22/04

#150 - Township of Warren 11/15/04 Notice of Adoption of Zoning Ordinance c: Mayor & Council, R. Moody, Pl. Board

#151 - Borough of North Plainfield 11/19/04 Notice of Public Hearings of two Proposed Zoning Ordinances

#152 - Historical Committee 11/19/04 Guidelines for Veteran's Memorial c: Mayor & Council, CG

#153 - Dorothy Addario 11/22/04 E-mail regarding Little League Sign c: Mayor & Council, LBF

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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.

R1:11/29/04 Purchases Over \$2,000. - Absolute Fire Protection, Waterway, Inc., Tilcon NY, Inc.

R2: Request for Extension of COAH Substantive Certification

R3: Approving Public Works Shared Services Agreement with Somerset County and their Municipalities

R4: Amending Agreement with Watchung Board of Education for Transfer of Vehicle

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Introduction of OR:04/25 - "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 119 ENTITLED "SUBDIVISION OF LAND AND SITE PLAN REVIEW"

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 will be held on December 22, 2004.

Mayor Ellis explained that this ordinance will set certain guidelines for the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment and expedite the application process.

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted on roll call as below, with offering and seconding as follows:

		Offered	Seconded	Abstain
R5:11/29/04	Introduction of OR:04/25 - Amending and Supplementing Chapt. 119 - Subdivision Site Plan Review - Checklist Requirements	Joren	Black	
R6:	Waive Chapter 46 - Gray's Florist	Mobus	Franklin	Black
R7:	Payment of Bills	Franklin	Mobus	
R8:	Executive Session - Property Acquisition, Block 3.01, Lot 29	Black	Franklin	

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PUBLIC PORTION

Lee Ehrenworth, Canterbury Lane, asked for an explanation of OR:04/25 and Mayor Ellis explained that residents often need to go before the Planning Board and/or Board of Adjustment and there are certain requirements to be met when they do, but they often come into the office and request the Borough Engineer's assistance. This will streamline the process because applicants will have to fulfill all of the requirements on their own.

Mr. Ehrenworth then suggested that the Borough consider adding a Department of Aging to its offices as he feels someone needs to represent the seniors. He said he feels some seniors are afraid to speak up in regard to tax hikes. Mayor Ellis said that he is always in touch with the seniors and currently has ongoing dialog regarding a new facility. Mayor Ellis said that the Borough gives the seniors check every year. Mr. Ehrenworth said that many seniors are looking for assistance and Mayor Ellis said he will explore options.

Emi Havas, Valley Drive, asked what we are paying Berkeley Heights for sewer charges and Mayor Ellis explained that we are working on an agreement with Berkeley Heights to increase the amount of gallons of flow per day that we are allowed, as well as reducing the rate. Mrs. Havas said she will contact Mrs. Fellin for the exact figures. Mrs. Havas asked for the status of the east end sewers and Mayor Ellis explained that this is a very complicated process. He said an ordinance was passed at the last meeting which appropriated monies for "permit engineering" only for a Route 22 interceptor, Terrill Road pump station, Bonnie Burn road sewer extension, and Johnston Drive sewer extension. Mrs. Havas asked how much it cost to reproduce one of the paintings and Mayor Ellis said it was about \$175.00. Mrs. Havas asked what the Borough's policy on signs was and Mayor Ellis explained that signs need approval from the Board of Adjustment.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Road, said that she remembers the Fire Department was getting money for a new truck and in turn they were supposed to get rid of two old ones. Mayor Ellis explained that one vehicle was given to the County and the other one is still being discussed. Mrs. Goldschein said that she lives on the east end of town and because there is a problem securing culling sites in this area, they are not going to benefit from the deer hunt. She said that she knows many in her area of town who would give permission for the "net and bolt" program, however the application would then have to be amended. Mayor Ellis said that he is optimistic that more residents will be willing to offer their property as a culling site.

Mayor Ellis called for a five-minute recess at 8:15 PM. Upon reconvening at 8:25 PM, all members previously present were again in attendance. Councilman Black offered R8:11/29/04 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Franklin and unanimously approved. Upon return to regular session at 9:13 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 at 9:15 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of December 22, 2004 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Borough Clerk