

# BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

## MINUTES

JANUARY 26, 2006

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:36 P.M. 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 [ P ] Pote [ P ]

Also present were Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Borough Administrator/Clerk Lauren Fellin, and Engineer Tom Herits.

There were 13 people present from the public.

### **OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE**

William Nehls took the Oath of Allegiance and Office with his daughters Savannah and Scarlett holding the Bible and his wife, Georgia, standing by. Mr. Nehls was selected to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Councilman Michael Harding. Mr. Nehls, a longtime member and President of the Board of Health and Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, was warmly welcomed by all present.

### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin announced the budget process is ongoing and the Borough is striving to stay within the legal cap, noting it is harder and harder due to spikes in line items such as utilities.

2. Police - Councilman Black said the first meeting of the Police Committee was held and communications and the new surveillance cameras were subjects for discussion. Also discussed was the work load of the Detective Bureau, who anticipated handling 230 cases this year. Mr. Black noted the surveillance cameras are a good way of monitoring the outside area of schools.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus reported Public Works rang in the New Year by working New Years Eve to keep the roadways safe. That ice event was followed by 3 snow/ice events this month, along with 2 windstorms which caused downed trees and wires and blocked roadways. All Public Works staff has completed the required initial NIMS IS 100 course. The Library Bridge is completed and will open to the public following Borough Engineer inspection. Prep work is complete for drainage projects on Wetumpka Lane and Johnston Drive Extension, as are preparations for installation of signage at the Police Department and Public Works buildings. He reported on a January 20th meeting with NJDOT to discuss proposed sidewalks along Route 22, noting that several viewpoints were provided by the Borough contrary to the State plans. Mr. Mobus stated sidewalks are not needed on the south side of Route 22.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs - No report.

Buildings - Councilman Pote announced that, with the assistance of the North Plainfield DPW and their bucket truck, all non-working light bulbs in lamp posts on Borough properties were changed. Library renovation/maintenance and painting has been completed. Raised stone planters were built for anticipated installation of the new signage at PW and PD. Mr. Pote informed there is a meeting of the Library Advisory Committee this Friday. Mayor Ellis commented that the Chair of that Committee advised they would make a presentation to the Mayor and Council at the meeting of February 23, 2006.

5. Fire - As temporary liaison to the Fire Dept., Mr. Mobus noted that Shane Bell is being appointed to the Fire Department tonight, bringing another generation of the family on board. Councilman Nehls has been invited to the Fire meeting next Monday as the new liaison.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said a Recreation Committee meeting will be held next week. Regarding the lights at Phillips Field, for security reasons the Little League had lights installed which were on a timer set to go off at 1:00 AM, which was not too offensive when the leaves were on the trees. The lights have now been turned off for the season. She stated that a request

may be put to Little League in the future to place the lights on a motion detector. Regarding the tattered flag at Phillips Field, she informed the Little League had lost the key for the mechanism to raise and lower the flag, but they did not feel it was their flag or pole. Mayor Ellis has directed the Public Works Supervisor to change the flag. Mrs. Joren related that Laws and Ordinance Committee met last Tuesday and had done a final review of the grease trap ordinance. They are awaiting a draft copy of the carbon monoxide detector ordinance as the Fire Prevention Official is incorporating new legislation in the draft which requires inspection for portable fire extinguishers on change of ownership of a property. The Committee will meet with the Borough Planners on February 15 to discuss the Land Development Ordinance. Mayor Ellis commented that a public awareness or notification campaign regarding the new fire extinguisher requirements may be a good Eagle Scout project.

**REPORTS - OTHER:**

7. Engineer - Engineer Tom Herits said he will be scheduling a pre-construction meeting for the Johnston Drive/Stirling Road sidewalk project and hoped to have a notice out next week. Citizens are working on a petition for installation of sanitary sewers on Johnston Drive, Skyline Drive and Grandview. Still to be addressed are the Skyline and Hughes Lane drainage projects and the Spencer/Fawn sewer repair. He reported he had submitted a Community Development Block Grant application for ADA bathrooms at the Arts Center building.

8. Attorney - No report.

9. Administrator - Administrator Fellin stated Budget Saturday will be scheduled within the next month. Requests are out for newsletter articles and submissions should be back to her before February 15.

Mayor Ellis informed that he and all Council members had met Mary Louise Malyska, the new Superintendent of Schools, earlier this evening. The Mayor advised he held a meeting with all Department Heads and members of both school boards last Saturday, where topics of discussion were the Library and the High School referendum.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Public Hearing of OR:06/01 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER VI ENTITLED POLICE REGULATIONS, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 6-2.10 ENTITLED DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS, DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES, WEAPONS OR CAPS PROHIBITED; DISCHARGE OF BOWS AND ARROW RESTRICTED OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, ADOPTED 2003, AS HERETOFORE SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED

Councilman Franklin 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. Councilman Franklin moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and unanimously carried on roll call. With no one from the public desiring to be heard, Councilman Franklin 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 on roll call as follows:

AYE: Black, Franklin, Mobus, Pote, Nehls                      NAY: Joren

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**NEW BUSINESS**

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:  
October 27, 2005 - Executive and Regular  
November 28, 2005  
December 8, 2005 - Executive and Regular

Approval of the following Borough Reports:  
Police - December, 2005  
Bd. of Adjustment - January 6, 2005 thru December 1, 2005  
Village Center Preservation Commission - December 7, 2005  
Tax Collector - December, 2005  
Board of Health - November 30, 2005

#4 - Township of Berkeley Heights 1/23/06 Public Notice of Affordable Housing Availability  
c: M & C, Post

#5 - Cablevision 1/23/06 Remittance of Borough's Franchise fee payment c: ASE, LBF

Mayor Ellis commented a \$17,200.00 check was received from Cablevision this week, generated by the franchise agreement providing the Borough with 2% of the cable subscriptions in town.

#6 - Terrence O'Connor 1/23/06 Voicing his concerns in regard to the New Providence Road Improvement project c: ASE, LBF

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**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:** The resolutions listed below, were adopted unanimously upon roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin.

R2:1/26/06 Award of Professional Services Contracts - Attorneys, Auditor, Bond Counsel

R3: Award of Professional Services Contracts - Land Use Board Consultants

R4: Appointment to Wildlife Management Advisory Committee - Paul Michaelis

R5: Adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS)  
Emergency Management Coordinator Wayne Otto informed those present that NIMS is an out-growth of a system used by the Bureau of Fire Management in the west. After 9/11, the President adopted NIMS as the national emergency management system and this summer Governor Codey issued Executive order 50 mandating usage of the system statewide. The system must be implemented by all volunteer and paid emergency services groups and responders and sets deadlines for the mandatory compliance training required. The system will standardize the terminology and process for all national, state and local emergency events. Mr. Otto responded to several questions on the process presented by Councilmen Black and Mobus.

R6: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Buchalski, Reynolds & Brodowski, Kustom Signal

R7: Appointment to Fire Department - Shane J. Bell

R8: Appointment of Community Development Block Grant Representatives - Tom Herits, Laureen Fellin (Alternate)

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**AGENDA**

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**NON-CONSENT**

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**NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

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

R1:1/26/06 Adoption of OR:06/01 - Amending Borough Code, Section 6-2.10, entitled Police Regulations to include Bow Hunting by Permit Franklin Black

R9: Award of Contract - Additional Engineer Services for Anderson Road Project to Bohler Engineering Mobus Black

R10: Payment of Bills Franklin Mobus

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

The meeting was opened to the public and Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Dr. queried as to trees coming down in the Stirling Rd. sidewalk project and Engineer Tom Herits responded that trees will come down, but will be replanted. Mrs. Goldschein asked whether the flag at Phillips Field, which stays up all the time, was illuminated. Mayor Ellis noted that is another reason to determine who owns it. Dan Rindner, Woodledge Rd, asked on the process for obtaining a bow permit under the new ordinance and Mr. Franklin provided an explanation.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of February 9, 2006 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laureen B. Fellin, RMC  
Borough Clerk