

# BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

## MINUTES

JUNE 8, 2006

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 [ A ] Mobus [ A ] Joren [ P ] Pote [ P ] Nehls [ P ]

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

There were 4 people present from the public.

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

1. Administration & Finance - No report

2. Police - Councilman Black said he has been involved in the hiring process for two new officers and it is very exciting. He said there are incredibly good candidates and is sure Chief Frosoni will make a good decision. Mayor Ellis said only one officer will be hired at this point and the hiring of a second needs to be discussed among the committee.

3. Public Works - In Councilman Mobus' absence, Councilman Pote reported much progress on Anderson Road and on the Johnston Drive sewer projects. He commented that the sidewalks on Stirling Road look great and a pre-construction meeting for the Corey/Sunbright project will be held next Thursday.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote reported that the Memorial Services went well, and thanked Barbara Diem for her assistance, as well as Charlie Gunther and his crew, and Stephanie Stambaugh who sang the National Anthem. He announced that the second session of the Library Workshop was held on Monday evening, June 5<sup>th</sup>. He said he was disappointed in the turnout, especially since the date was changed upon request of many parents. He said the input from the residents he received has been very good. Mayor Ellis said a time line was critical, and it is his intention to appoint a committee by the end of the month, and hopefully have a concept in place by early next year.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls reported that he attended Middle-Brook's annual education session and it was very good.

5. Fire - Councilman Nehls said the annual steak dinner was held last week and was a great success. He said the Department went on 31 calls last month, 108 calls year-to-date.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren reported the Laws and Ordinance Committee is waiting for the draft of the revision to the Land Use Code, which is coming from the Planner. She said the Recreation's Community Picnic was held and it was a beautiful day and very well attended. She said flyers are out for the Women's Softball program which will begin June 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Ellis said he often talks about the wonderful and hard working volunteers the Borough has, and wanted to acknowledge the assistance of the PBA, Recreation members, and Library staff at the picnic.

### **REPORTS - OTHER:**

7. Engineer - No report.

8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz said he has two items for Executive Session.

9. Administrator - Administrator Fellin said that our new security system will be part of two exhibits in Atlantic City and added that a police officer from San Francisco is flying in next week to observe it

first hand. She said the license plate recognition is in place and the facial recognition should be in place shortly at the Police Department.

Mayor Ellis announced Watchung resident Bobby Thomson is leaving the Borough to move to Georgia to be near his daughter. He said a Committee is working on a farewell shindig to be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. He said although the plans are not finalized, they are planning the event to be under a tent at Phillips Field from 4 pm to 7 pm. Mayor Ellis said the announcement will be made once all is final.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Public Hearing of OR:06/15 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 11-3, TITLED "VENDING MACHINES", SECTION 11-3.1, TITLED "DEFINITIONS", OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG" Councilwoman Joren 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. Councilwoman Joren explained that this ordinance will expand the definition of a Vending Machine to include those which will accept paper money and credit cards. Councilwoman Joren 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, Councilwoman Joren 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 unanimously on roll call.

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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 Pote.

Approval of the following Council minutes:  
Library Workshop Meeting - May 18, 2006

Approval of the following Borough Reports:  
Tax Collector - May, 2006  
Building Department - May, 2006

#44- Somerset County Planning Board 5/25/06 Resolution opposing the NY/NJ/Philadelphia Airspace redesign as proposed by the FDA c: M & C, LBF, Pl. Bd.

#45- Jersey Central Power & Light 6/5/06 Notice of Public Hearing on requested Rate Increase M & C, Post

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**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:** The Consent Agenda Resolutions listed below, with the exception of R8 and R9, were unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Pote

R2:06/08/06 Purchases Over \$2,000. - Panasonic Finance Solutions, Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.

R3: Authorize donation of surplus radio equipment from Fire Department to Somerset County

R4: Commending Dr. Gordon Haas - Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey President's Award recipient

R5: Authorizing Interlocal Agreement with Warren - Community Service Director

R6: Authorizing NJDOT Grant Application - Ridge Road, Section 2

R7: Authorizing NJDOT Grant Application - Johnston Drive

Council President Steve Black read the following resolution into the minutes (copy attached):

R8: Congratulating Dorothy and Tony Addario - 50 Years of Marriage

Resolution R8 was moved by Councilman Black and seconded by Councilman Pote, and upon roll call unanimously carried.

Mayor Ellis read the following resolution into the minutes (copy attached)

R9: Honoring Adele Widin for her years of service

Mayor Ellis explained the Adele is leaving Watchung to continue her retirement with her daughter in South Carolina and said not only has she been a long time servant to the Borough, but a dear friend and will be missed. Resolution R98 was moved by Councilman Black and seconded by Councilman Pote, and upon roll call unanimously carried.

Introduction of OR:06/16 entitled “AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MUNICIPAL COURT, RESCUE SQUAD, FIRE, LIBRARY, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS AND POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$116,500.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL SURPLUS” Public Hearing to be held on June 22, 2006. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilwoman Joren explained that this ordinance authorizes the appropriation of funds for the purchase of capital items for various departments. 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 June 22, 2006.

Introduction of OR:06/17 entitled “BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,183,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS .” Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilwoman Joren explained that this ordinance will allow for the funding of various improvements which include Spratford Park; sewer repair at Spencer and Fawn Lanes; road improvements on Lakeview Terrace, Skyline Drive, Anderson Road, Dawn Way, Dawn Way Cul-de-sac, Meadowlark Drive, Phillip Lane, Tall Timbers, Forest Drive, Forest Drive Cul-de-sac, Washington Drive, Johnston Drive East;, and drainage improvements on Skyline Drive, Park Place/Hughes Lane, Rock Avenue at Maple Street, Joan Drive, Ridge Road, Parlin Lane and Phillip Lane. 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 June 22, 2006.

Presentation: 4 Connections LLC  
Request for Right of Way Use Approval

Arlene Scala, Regulatory Manager, explained that 4 Connections LLC is seeking approval from the Borough to use the public right-of-way on Borough roads to attach and install fiber optic cable along existing telephone poles for the purpose of providing telecommunications services. An engineer from this company was also present and answered technical questions from the governing body and Mr. Cruz. Mr. Cruz asked Ms. Scala to forward to him a copy of their recent agreement with Warren. Mayor Ellis thanked them for coming and said this will be discussed and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

**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>
R1:06/08/06	Adoption of OR:06/15 - Expanding definition of Vending Machines to include those operated by paper money or credit card	Joren	Black
R10:	Introduction of OR:06/16 - Acquisitions from Capital Surplus	Joren	Black
R11:	Introduction of OR:06/17 - Bond Ordinance for	Joren	Black
R12:	Accept and Support the Recreation Department’s Policy and Procedures Manual and Parent’s Manual	Joren	Nehls
R13:	Executive Session: Litigation: Borough of Watchung v. Mohammed Badr Bouaichi, et al Contract Negotiations	Black	Pote

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

Cynthia Lubeck, Anderson Road, asked if the governing body received her correspondence in regard to her request for the completion of Stanie Glen and Mrs. Fellin explained that the project has been extended to just north of Stanie Glen, however, in regard to the drainage issues, that would be a separate project and she is unable at this time to provide a time frame, as it is not even in the design stage. Mrs. Lubeck said that the street really needs to be done, that she fell in a hole and twisted her ankle.

No one else from the public desired to be heard.

Councilman Black offered R13:6/08/06 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Pote and unanimously approved.

Upon return to regular session at 8:49 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 8:50 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of June 22, 2006 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco  
Deputy Borough Clerk