BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

DECEMBER 22, 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 [P] Mobus [P] Joren [P] Harding [P]

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

There were 9 people in the audience.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin said the Committee is reviewing options for different employee dental plans which may be able to save the Borough some money. He also noted resolutions on the agenda which will authorize the insertion of revenue into the budget, and said that is always nice.

2. Police - Councilman Black said he has asked the Police Department to provide him with a breakdown of summonses for the past several months.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus reported that the overlays have been completed and the work on the Washington Rock Road - Rock Road East project has begun. He said the new Public Works vehicle should be delivered shortly after the new year. Councilman Mobus wished everyone a happy holiday and a good new year.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs - no report

Buildings - Councilman Otto, in his farewell address, said he has served the Borough since 1980 when he joined the Fire Department as a volunteer. He said he served 10 - 15 years on the Board of Adjustment and will continue to serve as OEM Coordinator. He said he has enjoyed serving the residents and will miss it. He said he feels one of the most important issues in this community is the safety of the people's lives and would like to briefly touch on some subjects that need to be addressed, such as the poor maintenance of the Route 78 corridor. He said there have been too many unnecessary deaths and although the Mayor has reached out to DOT many times, some barriers are still missing, guard rails remain unreplaced and the signage is poor.

Mayor Ellis thanked Councilman Otto for his service and said he has brought very interesting and stimulating communication to the Council. Mayor Ellis said that the first time he had met Councilman Otto was when he had borrowed his neighbor's car and it had caught on fire. He said he had to call 911 and Wayne showed up in a tuxedo to help put out the fire. Mayor Ellis then read R:13 into the minutes (copy attached). Mayor Ellis said he would like to add to this resolution that Wayne was the driving force behind Radio Station 1610 and as far as communications and technology is concerned, Wayne is the man to know.

Councilwoman Joren said that Wayne took her under his wing when she first came aboard and he has been a mentor to her. She said she will miss his knowledge, his questioning and his dialog.

Councilman Black told Wayne that his sense of urgency will be missed and was needed to create a sense of balance. He told Wayne that whether he is flying or racing, he will be missed.

Councilman Franklin wished Wayne health and happiness.

Councilman Mobus said that he first met Wayne when he joined the Fire Department and his fondest memory was teaching him how to fish for bass. He commended Wayne on a job well done

5. Fire - no report

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said the winter Recreation programs are up and running and the date of the Mayor's Regatta is September 18th. She said the Laws and Ordinances Committee has been busy working on the proposed fence ordinance.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - In Mr. Moody's absence, there was no report.

8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz said he has 2 items for Executive Session.

9. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin said she had nothing to report this evening. Mayor Ellis said he was happy to have received the grant for the sidewalks on Stirling Road and the Borough will be moving on that quickly. He said that the Borough has also received funding through our technology consortium for software for the Recreation Department. This will enable residents to register for programs online. Mayor Ellis thanked our CFO Bill Hance for getting the support for this program.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:04/23 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 138, ENTITLED "ZONING" AND REPEALING SECTIONS 17-2.1 THROUGH 17-2.5 ENTITLED "DRIVEWAYS" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, ADOPTED 1971, AS HERETOFORE SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED"

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 moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Mobus and unanimously carried on roll call.

Robert Scalera, Park Place, said he read about this proposed Ordinance in the Courier News and recommended that they be posted on the website. He asked if this ordinance will maintain the setbacks the same as a house, and Mr. Cruz replied they would, adding that existing homes would be grandfathered in. Mayor Ellis added that the purpose is to maintain a buffer between properties and to maintain character. Councilwoman Joren explained that the intent is to put the driveway within the building envelope, and is mainly for new construction.

With no one else 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.

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

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 moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Mobus 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 Franklin.

Approval of the following Council minutes:
Workshop Meeting of April 15th, Regular Meetings of September 9th, November 15th, 29th, 2004
Executive Session Meeting of November 29, 2004

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Recreation Commission - Minutes of November 3, 2004
Police Department - November 2004 Activity Report
Building Department - November 2004

#154 - First Energy 12/8/04 Notice of Strike by unionized workers at JCP&L c: Mayor & Council, LBF, RWM, CG, PD, FD

#155 - Robert Scalera 12/10/04 Requesting the designation of the south side of Park Place as "No Parking" c: M & C, LBF, JF, RWM

#156 - NJ State League of Municipalities 12/1/04 Asking for support of a Property Tax Reform Convention

#157 - Verizon 12/13/04 Notice of Public Hearing for Rate Revisions c: Mayor & Council, LBF, WH

#158- Watchung Planning Board 12/15/04 Resolution PB 04-22 approving and recommending OR:04/
-Checklist Requirements c: Mayor and Council, LBF, AC, RWM, EB

#159 - State of NJ - DOT 12/16/04 Notice of Grant Award for Johnston Drive (Sec. 2) in the amount of $150,000. c: ASE, GM, TF, WO, LBF, RWM

#160 - State of NJ - Dept. of Law & Public Safety 12/16/04 Resolution supporting the Rights of our Immigrant Neighbors and Resolution for Establishment of NJ Arab Heritage Commission c: Mayor & Council, LBF

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The resolutions listed below, with the exception of R12 which was pulled from the Consent Agenda, were adopted unanimously upon roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin.

R3:12/22/04	Purchases Over $2,000. - Gateway Major Accounts, Inc., International Salt Co., Warner Communications, Airpower International
R4:	Approval of Soil Removal Permit - Block 5.01, Lot 2.01
R5:	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue in Budget - 2004 Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation & Enforcement Grant
R6:	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue in Budget - 2004 Youth Services Grant
R7:	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue in Budget - 2004 Stormwater Grant
R8:	Insertion of Special Item of Revenue in Budget - 2004 Recycling Tonnage Grant
R9:	Adoption of Personnel Policies and Procedures
R10:	Approval of Amendment to Sewer Agreement
R11:	Approval of Change Order #1 for Pave King, Inc.
R12:	Award of Professional Service contract - Maser Consulting ***Removed From Consent Agenda***

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

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

		Offered	Second
R1:12/22/04	Adoption of OR:04/23 - Amending Chapter 138, Section 17-2.1 through 17-2.5 Entitled "Driveways"	Joren	Black
R2:	Adoption of OR:04/25 - Amending and Supplementing Chapt. 119 - Subdivision Site Plan Review - Checklist Requirements	Joren	Black
R13:	Honoring Wayne Otto for his Dedication & Service to the Borough	Ellis	Black
R14:	Authorize refund of Tax Sale Certificate #7-2004; Block 7100, Lot 2.02	Franklin	Mobus
R15:	Approval of Soil Removal Permit - Block 65.01, Lot 2.01	Mobus	Franklin
R16:	Payment of Bills	Franklin	Black
R17:	Executive Session: Litigation - Valley Drive Property Acquisition - Block 3.01, Lot 29	Black	Franklin

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PUBLIC PORTION

Robert Scalera, Park Place, referring to his Correspondence #155 on the agenda, asked what he can do

to move it along and Mayor Ellis said he will be referring this to the Police Committee.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, expressed her disappointment with the governing body for ignoring the committee's recommendation to move forward with the "net and bolt" method of deer management. She asked when the Mayor will let the public know what the plans are for the Ness property and Mayor Ellis replied that he cannot comment at this time. Councilwomen Joren said she was unaware of anyone being appointed to the "committee" and Mayor Ellis explained that there has not been any appointments to the Wildlife Committee to date and said Mrs. Goldschein is talking about a group of people who were trying to assist the Borough in obtaining sites. Councilman Otto said that since no formal resolution was passed accepting appointments to the Wildlife Committee, these people are operating at a risk to the Borough. Councilwoman Joren asked Mrs. Goldschein for the date of the report she referred to which recommended the "net and bolt" and Mrs. Goldschein said there was no report.

Mayor Ellis called for a five-minute recess at 8:45 PM. Upon reconvening at 8:50 PM, all members previously present were again in attendance. Councilman Black offered R17:12/22/04 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Franklin and unanimously approved. Upon return to Regular session at 9:35 PM, all members previously present were again in attendance.

Resolution R12 was adopted upon roll call with an offering and seconding as follows:

		Offered	Second
R12:	Award of Professional Service contract - Maser Consulting	Black	Mobus

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM to the Reorganization meeting to be held at 12:00 Noon on January 1, 2005 with the next regular Council meeting scheduled for January 13, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Borough Clerk