

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

APRIL 7, 2005

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: In Mayor Ellis' absence, Council President Steve Black called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 [A] Harding [P] Pote [P]

Also present were Attorney Albert Cruz, Administrator/Clerk Laureen Fellin, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco. Mayor Ellis arrived at 7:53 P.M.

There was one person present from the public.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin said the Administration and Finance Committee will be meeting next week to discuss personnel. He commented that he was happy to see correspondence on the agenda from the Department of Environmental Protection announcing the Clean Communities entitlement to the Borough.

2. Police - Councilman Black read a commendation from Chief Frosoni for the efforts of Officers Lyons, Lorimor, Kimock, and also Dispatcher Howell for their quick response which resulted in the resuscitation of an elderly resident's life who was choking on food. He said unfortunately, the resident passed away the following day, however, he applauds the efforts of the officers involved. Councilman Black said, "we may be very small, but we are very, very strong".

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus said the Public Works Committee will be a meeting tomorrow with residents of Skyline Drive and Borough Engineer Tom Herits. He reminded residents that the Borough has a tree ordinance and regardless of what was done in the past, it will be enforced, along with any stormwater violations.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs - Councilman Harding said the Environmental Commission continues to work with the consultant and hopes to complete the forestry plan by May or June. He announced that the plans for the Pancake Breakfast are coming together and the date will be April 23rd at Wilson Memorial Church.

Buildings - Councilman Pote said the Buildings and Grounds Committee met last week and agreed to go out to bid for the replacement of the heating and cooling equipment for the library. He added that he met with Library Director Doug Poswencyk and discussed maintenance and the need for immediate repairs. In regard to the Library Advisory Board, Councilman Pote said they will be meeting again later this month to continue discussion on facility alternatives. He said he will be meeting with the Rescue Squad members to discuss the status of their assessment, along with the details of the Pancake Breakfast. The next Historical Commission meeting will be held on April 13th.

5. Fire - Councilman Harding reported the Fire Department answered 19 calls in the month of February and they will be scheduling their live burn training soon, which he personally plans to attend.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - In Councilwoman Joren's absence, Councilman Franklin reported that the Laws and Ordinance Committee met this week and will be meeting again next week with members of the Planning Board.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - In Tom Herit's absence, Mrs. Fellin reported that he has provided three DOT applications which are on the agenda this evening for authorization.

8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had no report.

9. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin said she has been in contact with the Township of Warren in regard to courtroom security. She added that the Court Administrator is looking into getting a camera installed because when people enter the building she cannot see who came in from her window. Mrs. Fellin also reported that a restraining order has been issued to the man who caused the outburst in the courtroom.

Mayor Ellis noted that in the spring newsletter recently sent to residents, it was stated that the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast would go to the Recreation Department, however, there is a need for a pediatric defibrillator and the proceeds will be used for that piece of equipment.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

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CONSENT AGENDA: The resolutions listed below were adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Franklin and a second by Councilman Mobus.

Approval of the following Council minutes:
Special Meeting and Regular Meeting - March 10, 2005
Executive Session - March 19, 2005
Regular Meeting and Executive Session - March 24, 2005

Approval of the following Borough Reports:

- #51- Gary Reece, Superintendent, WHRHS 3/22/05 Replying to questions posed at the 3/10/05 Council Meeting c: M & C, LBF
- #52- 9th District Assemblymen 3/24/05 Regarding Proposed Constitutional Convention c: M & C, LBF
- #53- Borough of No. Plainfield 3/30/05 Resolution objecting to cut to Community Development Block Grant Funds c: M & C
- #54- Watchung Little League 3/31/05 Invitation to join in Opening Day Activities on April 16, 2005 c: M & C, LBF
- #55- State of NJ, DEP 4/1/05 Notification of 2005 Clean Communities entitlement c: M & C, LBF, WH, SF

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The resolutions listed below were adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Franklin and a second by Councilman Mobus.

- R1:4/7/05 Authorizing disposal of Air Conditioner from Library
- R2: Authorize Grant Application to DEP - Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
- R3: Authorize Grant Application to DOT - Valley Road School Walkway/Bikeway Safety Improvements
- R4: Authorize Grant Application to DOT - Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Improvements
- R5: Authorize Grant Application to DOT - Ridge Road Reconstruction

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

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Introduction of OR:05/02 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THREE UTILITY EASEMENTS FOR A PORTION OF LOT 32 IN BLOCK 69.09 FROM PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY TO THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG" Councilman Franklin moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilman Franklin 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 Pote and unanimously carried on roll call. Public hearing will be held on April 28, 2005.

Proclamation - April 4th - April 10, 2005 *National Public Health Week*
Council President Black read the proclamation into the minutes (copy attached).

Recreation Commission's recommendation on Little League request to replace PA System at Phillips Field

The Recreation Commission's recommendation that Little League be able to replace the PA System at Phillips Field was discussed, as was the need to have this approved in time for opening day which is scheduled for April 16th. Sound decibels, possible disturbance to area residents, the times the system would be used, who would be doing the announcements, and Board of Education approval were all factors the governing body said would need to be agreed upon prior to granting this request. It was discussed and unanimously decided that the Buildings and Grounds Committee would meet with Little League to discuss the conditions prior to opening day. Councilman Franklin made a motion to grant permission to replace and use the PA System on April 16th for the Opening Day Ceremonies, after provisions and specific conditions are agreed upon after meeting with the Buildings and Grounds Committee and subject to subsequent approval by the Watchung Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mobus and unanimously carried.

Recreation Commission's recommendation on Little League request to alter current configuration of Scotti Field at Phillips Field

The Recreation Commission's recommendation that Little League be allowed to reconfigure Scotti Field at Phillips Field was discussed. The request stated that the scope of work consists of no changes to the actual size of the field, however they want to make the infield bigger, changing the use of the field from a T-ball field to a minor league field. The governing body discussed and agreed that this would be allowed providing the Little League supplied all of the materials and labor, and upon approval by the Board of Education. Councilman Franklin made a motion to allow Little League's request to reconfigure Scotti Field with the condition that Little League supply all of the material and labor, and subject to subsequent approval by the Watchung Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mobus and unanimously carried.

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS
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The resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted on roll call with offering and seconding as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Resolution ID, Description, Offered, Second. Rows include R6:4/7/05 and R7: Honoring Dr. Catherine Rock.

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PUBLIC PORTION
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No one from the public desired to be heard.

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ADJOURNMENT
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of April 28, 2005 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Clerk