

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

APRIL 28, 2005

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] Mobus [P] Joren [P] Harding [P] Pote [A]

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

There were 3 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin said the Finance Committee is in the process of finalizing the budget and hope to be able to introduce it at the next Council Meeting on May 12, 2005. He said the deer program for this year has ended, and reported a total of 144 deer were culled; 46 were males and 98 were females.

2. Police - Councilman Black said the Pancake Breakfast had an outstanding turnout, and added that it was nice to see the Police, Fire and Rescue Squads working as a cohesive unit. Councilman Black commended and thanked Mayor Ellis, saying the breakfast would have never come to be if it were not for his efforts.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus said the Road Department is in the midst of Spring Clean-up and have been busy on Meadowlark Drive with stormwater/catch basin reconstruction.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs - Councilman Harding said the Environmental Commission met on Monday and reported that the draft of the forestry plan is done, their grant application is complete, and they are working on plans for a planting seminar for residents. He also reported that the Board of Health met last week and discussed ways to alert residents of emergencies. Councilman Harding said Mayor Ellis has a great idea - a resident "e-mail" notification for residents who wish to subscribe. Councilman Harding thanked all who attended and worked at the Pancake Breakfast and said it was wonderful to see such a turnout. Mayor Ellis thanked Councilmen Harding, Pote, and Black for doing a great job on the Breakfast.

Buildings - Councilman Pote, away on business, e-mailed the following report which Councilman Mobus read into the minutes:

- I want to add my thanks to all who participated in the Pancake Breakfast, It was a great experience working with everyone throughout the organization of this, and I appreciate the turnout of EMS support. It was a lot of work, but a lot of fun. I also want to publicly thank Wilson Memorial Church, Reenie, and Public Works for their help.

- I met with the Rescue Squad to discuss the first draft of the cost/benefit assessment and outlined current state/issues, goals, alternatives, and are now quantifying costs and benefits of each. I am looking to have Rescue Squad members present ideas before Mayor and Council at the end of May as promised.

- I met with the Library Board and facilitated a session which outlined their current issues, established goals, and also started to identify alternatives to reconstruction of the existing building. We will meet again on May 3rd.

- I met with Councilmen Mobus and Harding and representation from the Recreation Commission and Watchung Little League to discuss the usage of a new speaker system at Phillips Field. We agreed to permit this system for notifying parents of lost children, or to ensure proper movement of traffic in and out of the complex, without disturbing the neighbors.

-I met with the Historical Commission and will meet with Buildings and Grounds next week. I want to thank Councilman Mobus for taking the next steps in preparation of the new HVAC equipment for the Library in my absence.

5. Fire - Councilman Harding said all is quiet, however, he wished to commend and thank Officer Dan Lorimor and Rescue Squad Captain Paul Sosman for their help in a recent family emergency. He said you cannot fully appreciate our emergency services until you have a need for them.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said it was great to see everyone at the Pancake Breakfast. She said the Laws and Ordinance Committee met last week with the Planning Board and discussed the revision of the Land Use Ordinance. She also reported that the Recreation Commission is very busy and have been working hard, and thanked Public Works for their assistance in getting the fields ready for spring sports. Councilwoman Joren noted that on this evening's agenda was a resolution which would approve a grant application to the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders. This grant would be used for improvements to the Best Lake area. She also reminded residents that the Community Picnic will be held on May 29th, with a rain date of May 30th.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - No report

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

9. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin had nothing to report. Mayor Ellis said the Little League Opening Day event was great, and said Bobby Thompson was on hand to sign baseballs, adding that Mr. Thompson has been very gracious to the residents of Watchung. Mayor Ellis said he was very pleased with the turnout for the Pancake Breakfast and announced that his original plans were to donate the proceeds to the Recreation Commission, as noted in the newsletter, however, there is a need for a child defibrillator in a police vehicle for use by emergency services and the Recreation Commission graciously agreed that the proceeds should go for that. A very generous couple attending the breakfast heard of the need and will be donating a second one to the Borough. Mayor Ellis said here were so many people to thank for the success of the event, as well as a vendor who generously donated most of the food. He also announced that the e-mail exchange for residents should be up and running shortly and this will be a good way to notify residents of any emergency notices. Mayor Ellis said he plans on sharing this service with the Board of Education, if they are interested. He also announced that at the next meeting, he will proclaim May as Rescue Squad Month in the Borough.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing of OR:05/02 "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" 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 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 Franklin.

Approval of the following Council minutes:
October 28, 2004
March 19, 2005

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Recreation Minutes - March 2, 2005
Police Activity - March, 2005
Tax Collector's - March, 2005
Youth Services Commission - April 12, 2005
Board of Health Minutes - February 16, 2005
Building Department - March 2005

- #56- Borough of No. Plainfield 4/7/05 Ordinance amending their Code entitled "Land Development" Develop
- #57- Borough of No. Plainfield 4/7/05 Ordinance amending their Code entitled "Land Adj., Pl. Board, Engineering" Develop
- #58- Joseph and Marlene Ciklamini 4/12/05 Inquiring why their property was marked and surveyed without their knowledge c: M & C, LBF, AC, Eng.
- #59- Ronald and Linda Nelson 4/12/05 Requesting approval to place a retaining wall within the Borough right-of-way c: M & C, LBF, AMc
- #60- Township of Lumberton 4/18/05 Resolution requiring the State to reimburse municipalities for the reimbursement of property taxes for exempt disabled veterans c: M & C

#61- Jayson Friedman 4/18/05 Student requesting permission to hang environmental posters
C: M & C, 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 Mobus.

- R2:4/28/05 Appointment to Village Center Historical Preservation Commission - Jake Ginter
- R3: Approving request to use a grill at Mobus Field - Big Hearts, Big Strides fundraiser
- R4: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Warnock Dodge, Inc., American Innovations, Inc.
- R5: Accepting Donation of 19" Computer Monitor from D. Gill
- R6: Resolution ratifying action taken March 24, 2005 authorizing street opening permit - William N. Scott
- R7: Authorizing final payment of benefits to Police Officer Maria Hamlin upon her resignation
- R8: Resolution ratifying action taken March 24, 2005 approving Little League's request to
- R9: Resolution ratifying action taken March 24, 2005 approving Little League's request to
- R10: Appointment of Seasonal Laborer to DPW - Anthony Vitelli
- R11: Authorizing Stormwater Detention Facility Management Agreement - Block 57.02, Lot 5.01
- R12: Award of Professional Planning Services Contract - Heyer, Gruel & Associates

Mayor Ellis commented, in regard to R7, that Maria Hamlin has resigned from the Watchung Police Department to take a position in her home town of Nutley, which will allow her to work closer to her family. Mayor Ellis said that not only has she served the Borough well, but all of America by serving in the Air Force reserves, and she will be missed.

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Proclamation - Proclaiming May *Asian-American Heritage Month*
Mayor Ellis proclaimed May as Asian- American Heritage Month in the Borough of Watchung and read the proclamation into the minutes (copy attached).

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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>
R1:4/28/05	Adoption of OR:05/02 Accepting Utility Easements from PSE&G, Block 69.09, Lot 32	Joren	Black
R13:	Authorizing Grant Application for the Recreation Committee from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders	Joren	Black
R14:	Authorizing Tax Collector to issue a check for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #1-2003; Block 1302, Lot 3	Franklin	Black
R15:	Payment of Bills	Franklin	Black
R16 :	Executive Session: Property Acquisition - Block 3.01,	Black	Franklin
		Lot	29

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PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Mobus said that he would like to comment on the recent school board election, saying that he was happy with the 24% voter turnout, which he believes was the largest ever. Mayor Ellis added that the governing body has received a very large budget package and almost a years worth of supporting documents with only a couple of weeks to review it and make a decision as to where it can be reduced. He said the voters have spoken and now it is the governing body's responsibility to react. He

said a joint meeting is scheduled for May 4th with the Board of Education, Warren, and Long Hill. Councilman Mobus announced that a resident brought to his attention notice of a hearing for the Villa Maria in North Plainfield and said this may impact Watchung residents. He said he will be unable to attend, however, he feels Watchung should have representation.

Marie Bradley, Green Brook, explained that Green Brook is planning to erect a September 11th Memorial in a park in the Top of the World development which she said is located very close to Watchung. She handed out pamphlets and said any donations would be appreciated.

Councilman Black offered R16:4/28/05 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Franklin and unanimously approved. Upon return to Regular session at 9:05 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 9:07 P.M. to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of May 12, 2005 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Clerk