

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

MAY 26, 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 [P]

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

There were 5 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin reported the budget sessions with the High School are complete and Watchung Hills Board of Education passed a resolution accepting the recommendation made by the three towns. He also announced that a public hearing of the 2005 Municipal Budget will be held on June 9th and, hopefully, adopted.

2. Police - Councilman Black announced that there will be a meeting of the Police Committee next week to be held at the Police Station.

3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus had nothing to report.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs - Councilman Harding announced that the Environmental Commission's Forestry Management Plan will be discussed, noting that a lot of work has gone into this plan and its purpose is to protect our trees now and in the future. He added that it will be a good tool to educate residents, especially the new ones who do not have a memory of when the Borough was mostly trees. He also announced that the contract for the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission will be renewed tonight and explained that sharing this service is saving the Borough a lot of money, adding that they do an excellent job for the Borough.

Buildings - Councilman Pote reported that he has met several times over the last month with the Library Board, and has another meeting scheduled for May 31st. He said that together they have outlined a number of alternative approaches for the future of the Library and are presently securing more information in regard to the cost of such proposals. Councilman Pote thanked Councilman Mobus for his expertise in the bid process for the purchase of a new HVAC system for the Library and said he hopes to have it installed soon. He said funding for the Best Lake Dam design project should be approved at the next meeting. He said they are looking into the possible replacement of windows both at Borough Hall and the Fire House, which would make the buildings more energy efficient. Councilman Pote said he continues to discuss possible expansion plans with the Rescue Squad and they are preparing a presentation for the next Council meeting. He reminded all that the Memorial Day Observance will be held on Monday, May 30th at the Veteran's Memorial, after a brief ceremony at the Firemen's Exempt Hall.

5. Fire - Councilman Harding said he is planning on attending a live fire drill early this summer and reported that Chief Peterson is planning to do an inventory on keys, adding that it is a big job.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren reminded all of the Recreation Picnic scheduled for this Sunday at Mobus Field from noon to 3 PM. She said the Department is busy preparing for the summer park program and they have a lot of good things planned. Councilwoman Joren said in addition to many good counselors, Katie Blackadar will be back this summer as head leader. In regard to Laws and Ordinances, the Planning Board has outlined changes on the land use ordinance and the Committee has just received them. She said she will discuss with Mr. Cruz the best way to handle the review. Councilwoman Joren also reported that the Youth Services Commission's grant is due at the County tomorrow and thanked Chairperson Louise Lindenmeier for doing a great job. She said they hope to be able to apply for an incentive grant which would fund bus transportation to the children who live in Crystal Ridge, as many of them are unable to attend after-school activities due to lack of transportation.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Tom Herits announced that the County's comments have been worked into our storm-water management plan. He said the State is reviewing the plans for Anderson Road, sections 1 & 2 and it should be ready to go to bid soon; Bohler has prepared several drainage projects which also should be out to bid soon. He said he will be reviewing the plans for Spratford Park soon and will be getting the specs ready. Mr. Herits said he will be reviewing the plans for the sanitary sewer repairs for Spencer Lane with the Public Works Committee and Mrs. Fellin will soon be receiving the proposals for Johnston Drive and Stirling Road. Mayor Ellis and Councilman Mobus spoke briefly about the "cross-acceptance" program and said although there are a few concerns, there were a lot of good comments at the meeting attended by Mayor Ellis.

8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz said he has two items to be discussed in Executive Session.

9. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin announced on tonight's agenda is a resolution authorizing an inter-local agreement with the Township of Warren for the shared services of Community Service Director.

Mayor Ellis announced that the Borough has been granted access to "SAGE" which is an electronic grant submission program through the Department of Community Affairs. He also reminded residents that Somerset County Recycling is sponsoring "Curb Hunger" month in June and explained that any food donations can be put out with their recycling and will be donated to the food bank. Mayor Ellis also advised residents that the Somerset County Crime Stoppers will be using Mobus Field playground to do a cable video shoot on Sunday, June 5th.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing of OR:05/03 entitled "ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK" 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.

Lee Ehrenworth, Canterbury Lane, asked for an explanation of this Ordinance and Mrs. Fellin said that the cap on the budget is 2 1/2 % and this Ordinance gives the Borough the authorization to go to 3 1/2% with any surplus going into a "cap bank" which can be saved for two years.

With no other 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:05/04 entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG CH.V THEREOF, "SALARIES," AND TO FIX AND DETERMINE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES AND COMPENSATIONS TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES" 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. Mrs. Fellin advised Mr. Cruz that when this ordinance was originally written it had referred to Chapter 38 of the Borough Code which was the chapter number prior to the Borough Code being revised. Mr. Cruz said it was OK to proceed. 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:

Executive Sessions:

October 28th, December 22, 2004, January 27th, April 28th, May 12, 2005

Regular Meeting - May 12, 2005

Approval of the following Borough Reports:

Building Department - April, 2005

#67 - Township of Warren 5/10/05 Notice of Adoption of Stormwater Mgt. Plan c: M & C, LBF, Planning Board

#68 - Krystian Januszko, Brandon Jacques, Yana Balich 5/10/05 Requesting permission to plant Flowers in Watchung Park for school project c: M & C, LBF, T & B

#69 - Residents of Joan Drive 4/20/05 Petition requesting action on repaving project c: M & C, TH, AMc

#70 - County of Somerset 5/16/05 Notice of Public Hearing - 2006 Application to NJ Transit for

- #71 - Township of Long Hill 5/16/05 Resolution Determining the Amount of General Fund Tax Levy for Watchung Hills Regional High School c: M & C
- #72 - John Shpunder, Jr. 5/16/05 Letter regarding work performed at his son's property - 41 Ellisen Road c: M & C, LBF, TH, EB, CG
- #73 - Geri & Raymond Vesey 4/15/05 Request to reserve Mobus Field for a personal event C: M & C, LBF, MB
- #74 - Somerset County 5/18/05 Request for assistance during "Curb Hunger" month in June c: M & C, LBF, CG, WH
- #75 - Township of Warren 5/18/05 Notice of Public Hearing on Ordinance #05-14, amending Land Use professional fees c: M & C, LBF, Eng., Pl. Bd

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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.

- R3:5/26/05 Approval of Change Order #2 for Pave King, Inc.
- R4: Authorize execution of agreement with Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission
- R5: Purchases over \$2,000. - Pinto Brothers, Mid-Atlantic Truck Centre, Inc., - Victor's Air Conditioning, Inc.
- R6: Expansion of Professional Services Contract - PMK Group
- R7: Authorize Interlocal Agreement with Warren Twsp. - Community Service Director
- R8: Authorizing the waiver of the nepotism prohibition policy in the Policies and Procedures Manual for Summer Recreation Program employee
- R9: Appointments for Public Works Seasonal and Summer Recreation Program
- R10: Authorize contract with Somerset County to provide participation in Community Block Grant and Home Investment Program Activities
- R11: Approving request to use a grill at Mobus Field - Geri Vesey
- R12: Endorsing Stormwater Management Plan
- R13: Honoring "Celebrate New Jersey!" Month
- R14: Appointments to Wildlife Management Advisory Committee
- R15: Authorize Issuance of Raffle License for Prevent Child Abuse - New Jersey
- R16: Authorize Professional Services Contract - Bohler Engineering

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Discussion on Community Forest Management Plan
Letter of Recommendation Received from Environmental Commission

Councilman Harding explained that many people have questions as to what exactly a forest management plan is and said that, although it first and foremost tracks trees on public property, it also serves to educate the public as to what they can and cannot do. He said it underlines what the Environmental Commission sets out to do, which is to get people to think about the preservation of trees. He said it provides new residents with a history of the borough and emphasizes the importance of trees to the borough. Mayor Ellis said he would like to see a link on our web site for the forestry plan and will have copies available to the public upon request. Mayor Ellis commended the Environmental Commission and said they did a great job. Councilman Pote said the need for enforcing the laws must be reiterated and police enforcement must be supported as incentive to others to comply. He suggested to look into the possibility of increasing the fines for violations.

Eagle Scout Project Proposals - Joseph Suh
Zach Brown

Scout Master Rich Brown explained that the life scouts have completed all of their merit badge requirements and their proposed Eagle Scout projects will go hand in hand with the Borough's stormwater management plan. Zack Brown said that he plans to divide the map of the Borough into 4 sections and mark each storm sewer with the drain and flow direction. He said he will compile the information into a data base and this will be beneficial to public works. Joseph's proposed project will fall into

place after Zack's, as his proposal is to attach an epoxy fish symbol to the storm drains which will help bring public awareness to prevent pollution.

Engineer Tom Herits said that the County is supplying hand-held GIS units which could take these proposed projects to the next level and introduce the scouts to global mapping. He said this is a wonderful experience for them. Mayor Ellis added that new borough maps are desperately needed and this project could drive that need to fruition. Councilman Mobus commended both Joseph and Zach and wished them luck with their projects. The scouts received the approval from all of the governing body.

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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>
R1:5/26/05	Adoption of OR:05/03 - Establish a "Cap" Bank	Joren	Black
R2:	Adoption of OR:05/04 - Set Minimum/Maximum Salaries for Employees	Joren	Black
R17:	Payment of Bills	Franklin	Black
R18:	Executive Session: Litigation - Fuentes vs Borough of Watchung - Disch vs Borough of Watchung	Black	Franklin

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PUBLIC PORTION

Lynda Goldschein, asked for an explanation of a "temporary CO" and Engineer Tom Herits said it is given by the Construction Official and allows someone to live under new construction for a period of ten days. Mrs. Goldschein asked if the governing body will be moving forward with the "net and bolt" method of deer reduction and Mayor Ellis explained that it is being discussed and no decision has been made.

Councilman Black offered R18:5/26/05 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Franklin and unanimously approved. Upon return to Regular session at 9:18 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 9:20 P.M. to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of June 9, 2005 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Municipal Clerk