

## BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

### MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2004

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 [ A ] Mobus [ P ] Joren [ P ] Harding [ P ]

Also present were Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Borough Clerk/ Administrator Laureen Fellin, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco. There were 9 people in the audience.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin reported that the Personnel Committee met and finalized revisions to the personnel manual and it will be forthcoming to the Council for their review. He announced that the Committee is looking into the possibility of an alternate dental plan for the employees which could save the Borough some money.
2. Police - Councilman Black had no report.
3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus said the Public Works Committee met on November 12th and discussed Capital Improvement projects. In regard to the Washington Rock / Rock Road East Intersection project, Councilman Mobus said the preconstruction meeting was held and the work should begin soon. He suggested residents check the website for the detour plan, as well as the detours planned for the road overlay projects which will also be starting soon. Councilman Mobus announced the approval of the purchase of a roller and new lawnmower. Mayor Ellis asked if the basketball court at Mobus Field will be included in the overlay program and Councilman Mobus said he will let him know.

### 4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs - Councilman Harding noted Resolution R3 on this evening's agenda to support legislation that will enable local authorities to enact stronger local rules pertaining to smoke-free air for all workplaces and public places.

Buildings - In Councilman Otto's absence, there was no report.

5. Fire - Councilman Harding announced that he will continue to be involved in discussions with the Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Mayor as to the security and housing of some rescue vehicles.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said the Recreation Committee has begun to work on the next year's budget. She reported that there is a problem with the Women's Volleyball program, due to new construction in the gym; they are currently unable to situate their nets for play. Ms. Joren also commended all who were involved with the Harvest Festival for making it such a success, and thanked the High School Field Hockey team, who also donated their time. In regard to the Laws and Ordinances Committee, she reported that the proposed Fence Ordinance is being circulated for review, and the proposed Driveway and Planning Board Checklist Ordinances are at the Planning Board for their review.

### REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - Mr. Moody was not present, as he was attending a Cross Acceptance meeting.
8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz said he only had one item which would be discussed in executive session. Mayor Ellis thanked Mr. Cruz and Councilman Mobus for attending a meeting with the Townsend/Shobin - Salz families, which resulted in a settlement that is agreeable to both parties. He commended Mr. Cruz for a job well done.
9. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin announced that the invitations for the Borough Holiday party have gone out. She announced that she has called a department head meeting to begin working on the 2005 budget. She also reported that JIF (Joint Insurance Fund) has notified the Borough that we will be receiving a dividend of \$18,319.22 as the result of a successful program. Mayor Ellis said the Harvest Festival was great and it was well attended. He commended the Recreation Committee for their enthusiasm and hard work.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Adoption of OR:04/24 entitled "BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VARIOUS SEWER AND WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$152,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$144,400.00 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF" 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.

## NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The resolutions listed below were adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin with all voting in favor.

Approval of the following Council minutes:

February 26, 2004

Approval of the following Borough Reports:

Planning Board Minutes - April 13th, April 20th, May 18th, May 25th, June 15th, June 29th, July 20th, August 17th, September 21st, and October 19, 2004

Board of Adjustment Minutes - January 15th, February 5th, March 4th, April 15th, May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, and August 5, 2004

Building Department Report - October, 2004

Recreation Commission Minutes - October 6, 2004

Tax Collector's Report - October, 2004

#145 - Fuat U. Hakaj 10/26/04 E-mail Voicing concerns in regard to the Noon Siren c: Mayor & Council

#146 - Township of Warren 10/25/04 Notice of Hearing on Proposed Zoning Ordinance c: Mayor & Council, LBF

#147 - Township of Bridgewater 10/28/04 Planning Board Resolution amending the Bridgewater Township Master Plan

#148 - James Stout 10/26/04 Voicing concerns regarding split garbage on Borough Streets c: Mayor and Council, LBF

#149 - Township of Montgomery 11/9/04 Requesting support of a Resolution requiring the State to reimburse Municipalities for Property Taxes for Disabled Veterans c: M & C, LBF

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:** The Consent Agenda listed below was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin.

R2:11/15/04 Waive Chapter 6-2.11 - Watchung Rescue Squad

R3: Supporting Statewide Smoke-Free Air Legislation

R4: Approval of Special Permit for Social Affair to Mt. St. Mary's Father's Club

R5: Approval of Raffle License for Mt. St. Mary's Father's Club

R6: Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantee - Block 1401, Lot 2

R7: Purchases Over \$2,000.00 - Ray's Sport Shop, Municipal Information Systems, NJ Fire Equipment, Absolute Fire Protection, Vespia Fire Center, Communications Advantage, Watchung Service Center, Bobcat of Central Jersey and Mobile Lawnmower

R8: Authorizing the disposal of Fire Department surplus property

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### NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Introduction of OR:04/25 - "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 119 ENTITLED "SUBDIVISION OF LAND AND SITE PLAN REVIEW" **WITHDRAWN**

Eagle Scout Project Proposal - Eagle Scout candidate Matt Rowe proposed the following project to fulfill his scouting requirements. He proposed to paint a fish symbol and "no dumping" labels on the sewer drains around Watchung Lake to remind people to think twice before putting anything into a drain. He plans to run articles in the local newspapers to bring public awareness to the meaning of the project and hopefully reduce water pollution.

A motion was made by Councilman Black to accept the proposed project. It was seconded by Councilman Franklin and unanimously carried. Mayor Ellis congratulated Mr. Rowe and wished him luck. Councilman Franklin said he has spoken to Rich Brown, Scout Master, who had advised him that he has about 10 more scouts coming to Mayor and Council with possible projects. Mayor Ellis said that this was great news, as he has a lot of projects in mind.

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### NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted on roll call, with the exception of R10 where in Mr. Black abstained, with offering and seconding as follows.

Offered   Second

R1:11/15/04   Adoption of OR:04/24 - Permit Engineering for Various   Joren   Black  
Sewer and Water Projects

R9: **Withdrawn**   Introduction of OR:04/25 - Amending and Supplementing  
Chapt. 119 - Subdivision Site Plan Review - Checklist  
Requirements

R10:   Waive Chapter 46 - Gray's Florist   Franklin   Mobus

R11:   Executive Session: Litigation - Valley Drive   Black   Franklin

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### PUBLIC PORTION

Walter Niegisch, Tuttle Road, asked what borough ordinance was being waived for the Rescue Squad and why, as per R2 on the Consent Agenda. Mayor Ellis explained that this resolution waives the prohibition on the discharge of fire works and was for the Tree of Lights celebration on December 4, 2004.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Road, said that Mr. Moody said a CO was granted for the home next to the Old Somerset Trail and she thought that it was not supposed to be given until the trail was approved. Mayor Ellis said the Public Works Committee is discussing this and it is a legal matter. Mrs. Goldschein said that the Open Space Committee wants to know if the steps for the trail were built to code. Mayor Ellis said that this would be addressed by Buildings and Grounds. Mrs. Goldschein asked if the Eagle Scout project was for the whole town or just around the lake and Matt Rowe replied that it would be just around the lake. Mrs. Goldschein asked for the status of the donations being received for the portable radar unit and Councilman Black said he is still receiving contributions, and has spoken to the Chief who has committed to increasing the enforcement of traffic violations. He added that the portable radar equipment will be used to deter speeding. Mrs. Goldschein asked Councilman Black for a status report on the number of tickets issued for speeding recently compared to previous months and he said he would have that by the next meeting.

Councilman Black offered R11:11/15/04 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Franklin and unanimously approved. Upon return to regular session at 9:26 PM all members previously present, with the exception of Councilman Harding, were again in attendance.

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### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM to the call of the Chair or the next scheduled meeting of November 29, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michelle DeRocco  
Deputy Clerk