

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:32 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, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER

ROLL CALL

Mobus [P] Black [A] Franklin [P] Joren [A] Pote [A] Nehls [P]

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

There were 37 members of the public present for the special presentation to Claude Ford, and afterward 7 remained.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Birthday Proclamation - Claude "Red" Ford

This meeting began with a special presentation of a Resolution to long time resident and fire fighter Claude "Red" Ford on his 90th birthday. Mr. Ford, was present with his wife, son Rodney and his wife Kathy, and many active members of the Department. Council President Gerald Mobus read the resolution into the minutes (copy attached) and said he and Red go way back, as Red was his Little League coach. Mr. Ford thanked his wife, the Fire Department, and God, and asked for a special blessing for all of the men and women who are serving our Country overseas.

Mayor Ellis deviated from the agenda to make the following presentation:

Councilman Nehls read R2 (copy attached) into the minutes and presented the Borough's Health Officer, Kevin Sumner, with a presentation copy of the resolution honoring him for being named "Health Officer of the Year".

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin reported the Council will be authorizing budget transfers this evening, the State is withholding December's State aid payment, and the State Commission is studying the school funding formula.

2. Police - Councilman Mobus announced receipt of the Police Activity report, noting the number of juveniles detained this year is almost double from last year, and he read a letter into the minutes from the Weldon Corporation to Chief Whelan commending the actions of Officers Lacaillade and Emerick for their prompt and thorough response to an accident that took place at their quarry involving an outside trucker and a Weldon employee (copy attached).

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls reported the Borough will see a savings from PSE&G for the lighting on Somerset Street, the DOT hosted an information session today in Scotch Plains in regard to the Bonnie Burn/Rt. 22 Improvement Project and noted they intend to keep at least one lane of Bonnie Burn Road open during the construction, and said listed on this evening's agenda is a discussion of stormwater management.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings - Councilman Pote had nothing to report this evening.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls reported the Environmental Commission met and discussed "vehicle idling", and Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission will be meeting in January.

5. Fire - No report.
6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - No report.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - No report.
8. Police Chief - No report.
9. Fire Department - No report was presented.
10. Rescue Squad - Although no report was presented, Mayor Ellis commented that the annual Tree of Lights ceremony was wonderful and the fireworks display outdid all previous years.
11. Attorney - Mr. Cruz said he had one item for discussion in Executive Session.
12. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin reported she attended a Somerset County Managers' meeting and the Business Partnership's shared services report was discussed. She noted the Borough's services with Middle-Brook is working well and can be viewed as a "model" for shared services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wildlife Management Advisory Committee - Discussion

- Community Sponsored Sports Club Bow and Arrow Deer Hunting Recommendation for the 2009 - 2010 Season
- New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife - Position Paper

Hans Juette, Chairperson of the Borough's Wildlife Management Advisory Committee, was present and discussed the Committee's recommendation of Bow and Arrow Hunting for the 2009-2010 season. Reading the State's Fish and Wildlife Division's mission statement, Mr. Juette said the State is encouraging more hunting and the Borough's Committee clearly looks at what is best for Watchung. He introduced Joe Nappe from the Warren Blue Ridge Sportsmen club who explained their procedures for bow and arrow hunting and fielded questions from the Governing Body. Councilman Nehls read a statement into the minutes from Councilwoman Debra Joren who was unable to attend this evening's meeting, questioning the need for this additional form of hunting and requesting the Committee re-evaluate the Borough's deer population goals. Mr. Nappe addressed some of Councilwoman Joren's concerns. As only 3 Council people were present, Councilman Mobus made a motion to postpone a decision on the Wildlife Management Committee's recommendation until the next meeting. Councilman Franklin seconded the motion and upon roll call vote, unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:
November 30, 2009, Regular and Executive Sessions

Approval of the following Borough Reports:
Board of Health Minutes - September 16th and October 26, 2009
Building Department - November, 2009
Tax Collector - November, 2009
Police Activity - November, 2009

#85 -PSE&G 11/30/09 Notice of Public Hearing on proposed Capital Adjustment Charges and

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda Resolutions listed below was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Mobus and a second by Councilman

R1:12/10/09 Honoring Claude "Red" Ford - 90th Birthday

- R2: Commending Kevin Sumner - Health Officer of the Year
- R3: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Triangle Communications, LLC.
- R4: Authorize Contract Renewal - Valley Health Medical Group / CDL Drug & Alcohol Testing
- R5: Budget Transfers
- R6: Appointment to PARSA (Plainfield Area Regional Sewer Authority) - Albert S. Ellis

NON-CONSENT AGENDA: Items listed below will be individually addressed and acted upon accordingly. Council reserves the right to refer an item to Committee for further review and discussion.

Stormwater and Drainage Issues

Councilman Nehls announced that at this morning's Public Works Committee meeting, a discussion in regard to stormwater on private property and private roads ensued. He said the LDO does not adequately address construction on private roads. Councilman Nehls deferred the following question to Mr. Cruz - should the Borough be responsible to rectify a problem that it did not cause? Mr. Cruz suggested, and the Councilmembers present agreed, that this question be given to the Laws and Ordinance Committee to review the regulations and perhaps prepare a clearer definition.

Proclamation - Radon Action Week / January 10, 2010 through January 16, 2010

Councilman Nehls, on behalf of Mayor Ellis, read a proclamation proclaiming the week of January 10, 2010 as Radon Action Week in the Borough of Watchung. (Copy attached)

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

- R7:12/10/09 Executive Session: Franklin Mobus
 Potential Litigation - Objections to Third Round
 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

PUBLIC PORTION

The meeting was open to the public and no one desired to be heard.

Councilman Franklin offered R7:12/10/09 authorizing an executive session, with a second by Councilman Mobus and unanimously approved. Upon return to regular session at 9:46 PM, all members previously present, with the exception of Mayor Ellis, were again in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM to the call of the Chair to the next scheduled meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, December 28, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
 Deputy Clerk