

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**February 27, 2024**  
**7:30 PM**

Mayor Anlian announced that this meeting is being held in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10 4-6 et seq.” notice of which was sent to the Record, and the Star Ledger on December 29, 2023 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and Village Website.

This agenda is listed as a courtesy and attempt to inform the public of actions being considered by the Village Board of Commissioners. There may be additions and deletions prior to the Board taking final action. Any action may be taken at any meeting, which includes all Caucus and Regular sessions. The Commissioners reserve the right to conduct and/or attend any meetings presently scheduled for the rest of 2024 by a combination of electronic and/or in-person means. Meetings are open to the public.

**ROLL CALL**

Those present were Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Also, present: Chris Chapman, Village Attorney and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Anlian.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of February 13, 2024.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

**Commissioner Gerken** advised the Key Club has scheduled a Clean-Up of the Nature Preserve for March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Village Attorney is reviewing the bids received for the Overpeck Island Reduction Project. The application for Green Acres (Fellowship Park Playground) has been modified – waiting to hear about the funding.

**Commissioner Olson** advised the VFW flooring has been sent to the woodworker and the table should be completed in April

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance has been sent out for repairs.

The Jazz workshop went well.

The CSO CCTV sewer project is going well – there are some issues.

The first round of Sustainable Jersey certification has been submitted for 450 points. There are 3 rounds in the process.

**Commissioner Portorreal** stated Northern NJ Community Foundation is finalizing the survey for the Veterans Park Project.

The Rescue Squad is in the process of re-fitting and updating their truck.

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**Commissioner MacNeill** reminded the Commissioners to get their budget sheets in.

**Mayor Anlian** advised the residents of the sewer work that is being done on Village streets. The project will cost approximately \$17-\$18 million dollars. However, the Village qualifies for approximately \$10 million of that at 80% forgiveness.

### **HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Joan Carlson, resident, advised she has been contacted by the Bergen County Board of Elections that they are looking for poll workers. She asked if this can be put up on the website.

Andrew Scheideler, resident, inquired if there is a link on the website to the Ambulance Corps. since he knows a few people that may be interested in joining.

Mr. Scheideler asked about the Overpeck Island Program. Commissioner Gerken advised the islands on Overpeck Avenue will be reduced by 2 feet on both sides.

Mr. Scheideler asked if the renovations of Veterans Park will include improving the drainage canal against Rte. 95. Commissioner Portorreal responded the canal will be addressed.

Mr. Scheideler asked if the Village is or is intending to house any of the illegal immigrants. Commissioner MacNeill responded no.

Mr. Scheideler asked for clarification on the PILOT program and if the developer would be entitled to tax relief for 30 years. Commissioner MacNeill stated a PILOT will be given to the developer – no one would develop the land without one. The Village will receive tax payments, at a lesser amount, but they will increase over time.

Mr. Scheideler raised concerns over the NJ Transit Bus Garage. To his knowledge, electric vehicles will be a part of that facility. If a vehicle catches fire, it takes approximately 30-40 thousand gallons of water to extinguish it. Electric vehicle fires are uncommon but can be catastrophic. The creek can be used as a water source, therefore, perhaps a ramp for the Fire Department should be installed.

Mr. Scheideler asked if the Board of Commissioners have been in communication with the Board of Education about the possible impact of student population with the development in Little Ferry and potential development in Ridgefield Park. Commissioner MacNeill stated yes regarding Ridgefield Park but not Little Ferry. The Board of Education is developing a 5–10-year study.

Adeeb Pasha, resident, asked the Board of Commissioners for permission to conduct the Ramadan ceremony in front of the Municipal Building. The ceremony would be similar to last year's and prefers to have it on March 15. Permission was granted.

Nancy Dietrich, Library Trustee, asked about the appointment of the new trustee. Mayor Anlian stated the appointment is on the agenda for approval tonight.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Anlian announces that the following business is considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

- 2024-26 Authorize Grant Agreement with the County of Bergen for the Hunter Park Project
- 2024-27 Authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Jersey Department of Transportation Public Art Program Committee
- 2024-28 Authorize Shared Services Agreement with the County of Bergen for the Employee Assistance Program
- 2024-29 Authorize Police Department to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program

- 2024-30 Authorize Annual Renewal of Handicapped Parking Spaces
- 2024-31 Authorize Emergency Repairs
- 2024-32 Appoint Sustainable Ridgefield Park Members
- 2024-33 Oppose Assembly Bill No. 4/Senate Bill No. 50
- 2024-34 Appoint Rent Stabilization Board Attorney
- 2024-35 Authorize Expenditure of Building Department Dedicated Funds
- 2024-36 Appoint Library Board Trustee

Motion by Commissioner Portorreal, seconded by Commissioner Olson, that the consent agenda be approved.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

2024-03 ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$20,000,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND FOR IMPROVMENTS FOR VETERANS PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS AND RELATED AMENITIES FULLY FUNDED BY BERGEN COUNTY  
CONSENT ORDER

Commissioner Gerken moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner Gerken read the said ordinance by title.

Commissioner Gerken moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading, published in the Record Newspaper and posted on the Village Bulletin Board by the Village Clerk. The public hearing will be held on March 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

**ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ADOPTIONS**

2024-01 ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF THE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$388,800.00 THEREFOR FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND – THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE RESURFACING OF PARK STREET FROM OVERPECK AVENUE TO EUCLID AVENUE

The clerk presented affidavit of publication, showing that advertisement had been made according to law, which was ordered filed. Commissioner MacNeill moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner Gerken. So ordered. Commissioner MacNeill read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner MacNeill then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading and final passage, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Gerken and adopted upon a call of the roll.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

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2024-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 182 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, ENTITLED "FILMING"

The clerk presented affidavit of publication, showing that advertisement had been made according to law, which was ordered filed. Commissioner Olson moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal. So ordered. Commissioner Olson read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner Olson then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Olson moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading and final passage, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal and adopted upon a call of the roll.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted "YEA".

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to adjourn.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted "YEA".

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken  
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill  
Commissioner

Absent  
Commissioner Olson

Absent  
Commissioner Portorreal

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor

/s/Tara O'Grady  
Village Clerk

Approved on March 12, 2024