

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
October 8, 2020
7:00 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 31, 2019 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Village Website.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal (7:02pm) and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; Joe Rella, Chief of Police; and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of September 3, 2020.

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

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

CORRESPONDENCE

09-13 Bergen County Freeholder Board – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational

09-14 Bergen County Freeholder Board – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational

09-15 Jashaun Sadler – Petition for Anti-racist RP School District – Board of Commissioners reviewed and have no jurisdiction over the Board of Education. This should be referred to the State Department of Education

09-16 Ken Ochab – Industrial Avenue Overlay Zone – will discuss later in the meeting

09-17 Boswell Engineering – 190 Main Street Site Plan Revisions - Informational

10-01 Local Finance Notice 2020-22 - Informational

10-02 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – 107 Central Avenue - Informational

10-03 NJ Department of Transportation – Fiscal Year 2021 Local Freight Impact Fund – send to Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering for recommendations

10-04 NJ Department of Health – Halloween 2020 Guidance – to be posted on website

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

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REPORTS

Commissioner Olson advised the archery clinic started last weekend – approximately 60 participants and 6 parents volunteered to coach. The Styrofoam container at the DPW caught fire and damaged the canoe container. The container needs to be replaced. He met with the “Black Lives Matter” group and they will be at Tuesday’s meeting. The cheering mats will be going to the High School and the old High School mats will go to the cheering group. Tree Lighting is 1st Sunday in December.

Commissioner Gerken sent a letter Garden State regarding the fireworks. Fall flowers will be planted shortly.

Chief Rella advised swearings-in of 2 new police officers will take place on Tuesday, October 13th at 6:45pm. The Police Department has been storing the meter money – any plans to get it to a bank? Commissioner MacNeill stated he will look into it on Tuesday with Vince Buono (CFO).

Attorney Boggia stated Ken Ochab proposed to amend the zoning ordinance. An overlay on Industrial Avenue will allow residential – not sure if that’s the way the Village wants to go. The Village does not have a lot of industrial zoning in this area. Star Candle had reached out to George Fosdick – they want to redevelop. The Bogota Golf Range is proposing to be a distribution warehouse – ½ of property is in Ridgefield Park. 60 Challenger Road has been approved with 500 units – hope to close title at the end of this year.

CORRESPONDENCE

09-16 Ken Ochab – Industrial Avenue Overlay Zone

Attorney Boggia advised Star Candle is ending business in Ridgefield Park – would Planning Board entertain the idea of residential units along the riverfront. Allowing an overlay zone will allow residential development. There would be multiple issues – traffic, road widening, train noise, trains blocking crossing. If Commissioners pass an ordinance amendment allowing an overlay zone, it would mean a major application by Star Candle – approx. 150 units.

Commissioners MacNeill and Olson are against residential redevelopment – huge safety issue with trains blocking the crossing for extended periods of time.

Ordinance amendment place on hold for now - Phil Boggia will contact Star Candle’s attorney.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2020-132 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the public portion of the meeting recessed in order to convene a Closed Session Executive Meeting permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (7, 8) Litigation, Personnel

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 7:42 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 7:59 p.m.

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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 7:59 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson
Commissioner

Absent
Commissioner Portorreal

/s/ Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on November 19, 2020

/s/John H. Anlian
Mayor