

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
August 6, 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 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 Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus and Closed Session Meetings of July 9, 2020.

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

DISCUSSION

Finance

Vince Buono, CFO gave the Board of Commissioners an overview of sources of funds for spending. There are 4 sources:

1. Municipal Budget
2. Capital Accounts – Bond/Capital Ordinances – municipalities must provide down payment funds
3. Grants – Chapter 159 – asking the state for permission to insert grant funds into the budget. Budgets can be amended.
4. Trust Accounts

Mr. Buono gave the Board of Commissioners a listing of grant and trust fund balances.

2020 Salary Ordinance

Tabled for discussion until the August 20, 2020 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

07-09 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

07-10 Notice to Property Owners – 18 Brinkerhoff Street – Hearing already took place.

07-11 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

07-12 William Betesh – Proposed Tax Appeal Settlement – Resolution to be prepared for the August 11, 2020 meeting.

07-13 Board of Chosen Freeholders – Ordinance - Informational

07-14 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up – Informational

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CORRESPONDENCE – cont.

07-15 Congressman Bill Pascrell – COVID-19 Update - Informational

08-01 NJLM – Daily Update - Informational

08-02 Matthew Stovesand, PSE&G – Energy Audit – Commissioner Portorreal will follow up.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised he will be administering the Village website until further notice. The Environmental Commissioner and Green Team will be participating in a Zoom meeting regarding climate concerns and solutions with the Climate Realty Project Leadership Corp. on August 13th. Janet Malool has sent emails pertaining to a PIE Program (Public Information and Engagement) to increase involvement with the Community.

Commissioner Olson advised the DPW is working on a softball field at Veterans Park. There is still extensive storm damage that hasn't been fixed yet. The Arts Association has suggested carvings on tree stumps. A resolution needs to be adopted appointing members to the Bergen County HUB of Sustainable Jersey. Interviewing is almost completed for DPW positions – the parks are starting to show lack of attention. The Wanda Canoe Club building has no asbestos – the Building Dept. and Animal Control need to be notified before the building is taken down. The Ambulance Corps. would like to accept donations for vehicles. The concerts in the park have been managing ok with COVID. In September, would like to run an archery clinic for children.

Commissioner MacNeill advised since the Elm Street sewer project cost is over \$1 million, the Village will have to go through NJIB Bank – 30-year note, less interest. On the advice of Steve Rogut, Bond Counsel, since NJIB's interest rate is so low, the Village should also use NJIB for other sewer projects/equipment.

Commissioner Portorreal stated the pool had some damage from the storm and will re-open tomorrow. The pool is doing ok – still struggling. Resolution appointing Zoning Board members will be needed for the next meeting. The Board of Commissioners were asked to review and provide comments on the Veterans Park design – estimated cost \$14 million.

Mayor Anlian advised he received notification the Methodist Church property is not available for a central firehouse location. The Shade Tree Commissioner has drafted letters to residents pertaining to storm damage. The Village is immune from liability and residents must go through their own homeowner's policy. A thank you note was received from Alan O'Grady – a resolution should be done to formalize Alan O'Grady Way. The website needs to be updated with the new Commissioners info and pictures.

Chief Rella advised the Police Department will be switching to 12-hour shifts – exploring 12 hour shifts for dispatchers. A resolution needs to be prepared to participated in the online police auction.

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CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2020-100 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, 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) Potential Litigation

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:37 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:59 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson
Commissioner

/s/Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on September 3, 2020

/s/John H. Anlian
Mayor