

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
September 3, 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 Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of August 6, 2020.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT TO 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to open the public hearing on the Amendment to the 2020 Municipal Budget.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA” to open the public hearing.

Mayor Anlian then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the Amendment to the 2020 Municipal Budget.

After ample opportunity was given, no interested parties commented on the Amendment to the 2020 Budget.

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to close the public hearing.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA” to close the public hearing.

2020-115 Resolution to Adopt 2020 Municipal Budget Amendment

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve Resolution 2020-115.

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

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RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

2020-116 Final Adoption of 2020 Municipal Budget

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Gerken to approve Resolution 2020-116 adopting the 2020 Municipal Budget.

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

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS & ADOPTIONS

2020-03 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE 2020 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,800,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

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

After ample opportunity was given, no interested parties commented on the ordinance.

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

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

2020-04 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$125,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

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

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After ample opportunity was given, no interested parties commented on the ordinance.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

08-07 NJ Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program – Clerk O’Grady to contact Mike Kelly if this is applicable to the Nature Preserve.

08-08 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

08-09 Zoning Board September 15, 2020 Meeting Agenda – Informational, gas station to add a retail convenience store.

08-10 Ordinance Draft Amending and Supplementing Chapter 96A to Provide for Additional Notice Requirements for Properties – Attorney Boggia stated this is a standard ordinance. It is a balance of the municipal land use law and additional information to the public. Ken Ochab recommends signage of 20” x 30”. Commissioners will introduce the ordinance at an upcoming meeting.

08-11 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

08-12 Boggia Betesh & Voytus, LLC – Analysis of NJ Supreme Court Decision in the Matter of RP Board of Education – Employees are responsible to contribute all tier levels before it can be negotiated – teacher’s union lost the case.

09-01 Boswell Engineering – Use Variance and Site Plan Application – 5 Winant Avenue - Informational

HEARING OF CITIZENS

William Torres and Carlos Martinez stated they are renting 181 Main Street for their business. They hired architects and changed the storefront. They were issued a stop work order and the Historic Commission denied their design.

Commissioner Olson told the gentlemen they were required to go to the Historic Commission first before any work was done - Mr. Torres stated he was not aware that permits were needed for demo or remodeling work.

Commissioner Olson asked if they were not willing to put the storefront back to how it was. Mr. Torres stated the cost would be \$25,000.00.

Commissioner MacNeill asked if there was any way to make the storefront, as it is today, historic.

Mayor Anlian advised the decision of the Historic Commission is not appealable to the Board of Commissioners. Changes can be made to make it historic. He advised to get a few plans and bring them back to the Historic Commission to review.

Commissioner Olson stated ignorance is no defense.

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Mr. Torres stated they have been paying rent for a year and really want this rectified. Commissioner Anlian commended them for trying to improve the appearance of the building and advised Commissioner MacNeill to talk to the Building Dept.

Wayne Boyd, resident, inquired if the Rotary Club can conduct their Annual Tree Sale this year. The Commissioners advised it is ok. Mr. Boyd also stated 2021 is the 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Club and they would like to sponsor fireworks for July 4th - \$20,000.00 has been raised so far.

Mayor Anlian stated he would need an approximate total cost before committing. He would need estimates on the Police Department and DPW overtime as well as the cost of the fireworks. Mayor Anlian stated he will call Santori Bros. for fireworks costs. Mr. Boyd congratulated the Board of Commissioners and left his address and phone number.

Giselle Holloway and Janet Malool gave a presentation on “Adopt-a-Park”. Adopt-a-Park is an all-inclusive concept of creating a space that people of all ages can enjoy. It can set a stage for socialization and interaction. Their goal is to attract residents to become involved and take pride in what can be improved in our parks.

Mayor Anlian added it is basically a park revitalization program and is supportive of the concept.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised since court is now virtual until further notice, the employees are spending more time prepping for court sessions. The Health Department is still in need of renovations. Alterations will not be covered by FEMA.

Commissioner Olson hopes to have additional concerts in the park in September and October. September 12th the Wanda Canoe Club building will be coming down. T2S will be hosting a fall basketball clinic. Any programs (tutoring, youth center) held at the Civic Center for school-aged will be on hold until schools open. Sept. 19th is a mural painting event held in the Cedar Street parking lot. Suez will be replacing a water main on Main Street from Rte. 46 to Christie Street. Commissioner Olson will contact the Soccer Association regarding stipends. After the last storm, tree trunks were saved for carvings – would like public input. Discussion on who has jurisdiction of town trees – Commissioner Olson thinks it should be the Board of Commissioners. Mayor Anlian and Attorney Boggia both stated per state statute, the Shade Tree Commission is but Phil Boggia will verify. Commissioner Olson would like to propose another Commission in the Village for 2021.

Commissioner Portorreal stated the municipal pool closes on Labor Day. She will have final numbers for the next meeting. The Soccer Association is having issues with others using the field they have permits for. Chief Rella stated the Soccer Association should call the Police Department when there's an issue. The Rescue Squad is not dispatched to calls – she will set up a meeting between the chiefs of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad to resolve the issue.

Clerk O'Grady advised the Ridgefield Park Census response rate is 68.3%. The State's average is 66.7%.

Mayor Anlian advised he will do a quick reverse 911 call reminding residents to respond to the census and property tax payments. A resident is selling their home which has two kitchens and was told they have to remove one. Mike Landolfi has jurisdiction, not the Board of Commissioners. The resident needs to apply for a zoning variance.

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Chief Rella stated Lavrone Green will be attending the Police Academy on September 24 and will need to be sworn in before that date. Amanda Thomas' background should be done shortly. The Police Department will be hiring four new officers. The Chief would like the swearing in ceremony on September 22, 2020.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2020-117 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, 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 9:35 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:55 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 9:55 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 October 8, 2020

/s/John H. Anlian
Mayor