

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**August 20, 2020**  
**7:09 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 and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

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 of July 23, 2020.

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

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ridgefield Park Fire Department Hook & Ladder Co. No. 2 – New Member

Motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill Jose A. Luna was accepted as a new member of the Village of Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department.

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

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution:**

2020-111      Approve Amendment to 2020 Municipal Budget

Public Hearing for the Budget Amendment will take place September 3, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve Resolution 2020-111.

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

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

**Resolutions:**

2020-112      Appoint Green Team Members

2020-113      Authorize Expenditure of Fire Prevention Dedicated Funds

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve Resolutions 2020-112 and 2020-113.

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

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

**August 20, 2020**

## **DISCUSSION**

**Adopt a Park** – due to technical difficulties, tabled to September 3, 2020.

**Salary Ordinance** – Commissioners will review and make changes for Introduction on September 8, 2020.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

08-03 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

08-04 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up – League of Municipalities Conference has been cancelled. Virtual conference only.

08-05 Natasha Suarez – Highland Place Block Party – Resolution to be prepared for September 8, 2020 Meeting.

08-06 Board of Chosen Freeholders – Ordinances/Resolutions - Informational

## **HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Corey Klein, attorney for law firm representing UBS, inquired if the Village has hired a public relations firm to assist in the NJ Transit project. Attorney Boggia advised since the Village is in potential litigation, no discussions would be held in open session – any discussions would be in closed executive session. The Village has hired outside council and all conversations are subject to attorney-client privilege.

Francisco Donaruma, resident, advised the Board of Commissioners he attended a recent Zoning Board meeting. He advised the Zoning Board that he has a petition with close to 600 signatures opposing the proposed apartment building on Main and Preston Streets. He was told by the Zoning Board that he could not speak. Quality of life is at stake and has no idea why the Zoning Board would not allow him to speak; perhaps protecting the developer. He stated he did not like the way he was treated. How meetings are conducted need to change. Mayor Anlian stated by law, citizens are allowed to speak at public meetings. The Board of Adjustments is supposed to be a neutral, impartial board. Mr. Donaruma suggested notifications to the public on redevelopments should be changed – not only notifying property owners within the 200-foot list of the proposed site. Mayor Anlian stated the 200-foot list notification is the state law minimum requirement. Commissioner Olson added the agendas should be posted on the website. Mrs. O’Grady will advise the Zoning Board Secretary to post the agenda, if possible, at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Attorney Boggia also stated the Zoning Board is a quasi-judicial board – anyone can file an application and the board has to hear it. He added that Mr. Donaruma should have been given the opportunity to speak. He added there are local ordinances, dealing with larger redevelopments, that place signage on the site to notify the public. Mr. Boggia will draft an ordinance pertaining to signage.

## **REPORTS**

**Commissioner Gerken** advised he is researching the website renewal contract.

**Commissioner Olson** advised the storm cleanup is completed. Janet Malool and Commissioner Olson attended a Black Lives Matter meeting. The representatives of BLM advised the attendees that the Board of Commissioners were dismissive of them when they attended their meeting. Comm. Olson stated it was an unfriendly meeting – only wanted to hear what they wanted to hear; they want what they want. They would like to change the school curriculum – didn’t want to hear that the Board of Commissioners have nothing to do with the schools. They countered everything that he and Janet Malool had said and were told they were racist.

**August 20, 2020**

**Mayor Anlian** advised the Municipal Building will re-open on September 1, 2020.

**Clerk O’Grady** advised, although not confirmed as of yet, the Homestead Rebate and Senior Freeze programs may be frozen by the State due to funding.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2020-114 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 and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:24 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:27 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 9:27 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 September 17, 2020

/s/John H. Anlian  
Mayor