

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**December 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 November 5, 2020.

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2020-154 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) Litigation

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 7:03 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Mayor Anlian, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 7:30 p.m.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

11-07 Local Finance Notice 2020-24 - Informational

11-08 State of NJ Dept. of Transportation – Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal Aid for Main Street – Informational – contact Mike Kelly

11-09 Bergen County Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational

11-10 MEL Safety Institute Bulletin – Update Executive Orders #194 & #196 - Informational

11-11 Local Finance Notice 2020-27 – Informational

**December 3, 2020**

## **HEARING OF CITIZENS**

No citizens present.

## **REPORTS**

**Commissioner Gerken** advised the Court Clerk is out with COVID. She hasn't been in the building since November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Welfare Director is back from medical leave on a part-time basis. 9 bids were received for the Nature Preserve project. Mike Mitchell is ordering trees for the Main Street planters. 8 trees will be decorated for the holidays.

**Mayor Anlian** stated an ordinance will be prepared by Bond Counsel to introduce and adopt in January for the Nature Preserve project. The Village can request a 30-day extension to award the contract from the lowest bidder.

**Commissioner Olson** stated the tree lighting is Sunday at 5:30 pm – Fire Department will bring Santa. The artist started the tree carving – approximately 2 weeks to complete. Commissioner Olson is requesting to honor Francisco Donaruma as the “Artist in Residence”.

**Commissioner MacNeill** advised revenues are down at least \$600,000 so far this year which does not include the possibility of \$1.3 million loss in tax revenue from NJ Transit. Met with Bob Benecke, Vince Buono, Paul Cuva, Chief Rella and Clerk O’Grady to discuss a fiscal plan for 2021. The Village is not in great financial shape – spending freeze memo will be distributed to department heads.

**Chief Rella** advised there are currently 8 officers out due to COVID - Phil Boggia advised Montvale officers do not have to quarantine. The Knights of Columbus are permitted to have wrestling tournaments since they are considered entertainment.

## **DISCUSSION I**

### **Fire Department Master Plan**

Chief John Antola and Billy Lynn were in attendance and presented the Board of Commissioners with the Fire Department’s Multi-Year Strategic Plan. In summation, the Fire Department is in dire need of upgraded equipment.

Mayor Anlian thanked Chief Antola for his presentation. He advised the Board of Commissioners can’t promise to address everything in 2021 due to the revenue shortfall but will do their best. He assured them their proposal is not falling on deaf ears. Commissioner MacNeill stated having a 5-10 year plan is great.

### **Munisite Networks**

Matt Watkins was in attendance to discuss his company’s objectives in assisting municipalities with wireless carriers that are seeking to utilize municipality’s rights of way to deploy 5G multi-tenant structures. Munisite Networks offers ordinance advisory services and carrier applications. The Board of Commissioners thanked Mr. Watkins and advised they will discuss and get back to him.

**December 3, 2020**

**CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2020-154 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Mayor Anlian, 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) Litigation, Legal Matters

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 9:45 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 10:00 p.m.

**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 10:00 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken  
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill  
Commissioner

Abstain  
Commissioner Olson

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal  
Commissioner

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor

/s/ Tara O’Grady

Village Clerk

Approved on January 21, 2021