

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
January 21, 2021
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 28, 2020 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Village Website.

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Health Crisis, this meeting was held via Zoom call.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

Abstain: Commissioners Olson

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

2021-11 Authorize the Ridgefield Park Planning Board to Investigate Whether Certain Properties Within the Village should be Designated as an “Area in Need of Redevelopment” Without the Power of Condemnation

Phil Boggia stated this is the Bogota Driving Range property – the open field is in Ridgefield Park. The developer would like to put in a distribution warehouse. Bogota designated the property in need of redevelopment. Bob Benecke thinks it would be advantageous to Ridgefield Park and should be sent to the Planning Board.

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson that Resolution 2021-11 be approved.

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

DISCUSSION

Cannibas Law

Phil Boggia stated the Commissioners need to form a conclusion if they want cannibas distribution/manufacturing in Ridgefield Park. An ordinance will need to be adopted by June stipulating what is permitted, if anything. If the Commissioners do nothing, it will be permitted for 5 years. Municipalities that adopted ordinances before the law was passed will have to re-introduce and re-adopt another one. There is a wide range of activity that can be allowed or disallowed. The Village is not permitted to ban delivery. Licensing will be strictly regulated by the State. Commissioner Olson inquired if the ordinance can be amended. Phil Boggia stated if cannibas is banned in Ridgefield Park, it can be allowed later on – he believes the ordinance can be amended.

January 21, 2021

Commissioner Gerken asked what the advantage would be to Ridgefield Park if allowed – taxes, revenue stream. Do we really want this for the Village? Chief Rella stated it would be a bad optic for Ridgefield Park. Usage would be encouraged if readily available. Mayor Anlian suggested to the Commissioners to gather their thoughts on this and continue the discussion in March.

CORRESPONDENCE

01-01 NJLM Daily Update - Informational

01-02 Local Finance Notice 2021-01 - Informational

01-03 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – Community Development Block Grant – Resolution to be prepared for Tuesday, January 26 authorizing Grant Application.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

REPORTS

Commissioner MacNeill asked the Commissioners to review their 2021 budget sheets – he would like them back in early February.

Commissioner Gerken stated the Municipal Court Clerk is back to work on a part-time basis.

Commissioner Olson advised summer concerts will stay on an 8-9 week schedule. There will be a summer arts event on June 12th in the Cedar St. parking lot and hope to do something in Ferris Park on June 26th. Event on Grove St. will take place in July or August. Thoughts of having the Rutherford Community Bank play at the end of the 4th of July parade.

Mayor Anlian stated the coronavirus will be the determining factor regarding fireworks. Commissioner Olson said it is easier to plan now and cancel later. Commissioner Gerken stated the 4th of July Committee wants nothing to do with fireworks. He will reach out to the Bogota/Ridgefield Park Rotary Club for volunteers to assist.

Commissioner Portorreal stated the Rescue Squad has two new members.

Clerk O’Grady inquired if Summer Recreation will take place this summer. Commissioner Olson responded yes.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution 2021-12 - 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) Legal Matters

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 7:51 p.m.

On a motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:11 p.m.

January 21, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:11 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 February 18, 2021

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor