

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
February 4, 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.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner MacNeill

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent 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 December 17, 2020.

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

Abstain: Commissioners Portorreal

Absent: Commissioner MacNeill

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of January 7, 2021.

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

Absent: Commissioner MacNeill

CORRESPONDENCE

01-04 Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund – Mandatory Vaccination of Employees – Phil Boggia advised the Village cannot mandate the vaccine.

01-05 County Board of Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolutions - Informational

01-06 Boswell Engineering – Challenger 95, LLC Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan Application - Informational

01-07 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

01-08 Local Finance Notice 2020-14R - Informational

01-09 Warren Staudinger, County of Bergen DPW Mosquito Division – Aerial Spraying – Letter will be drafted for Commissioner Gerken to sign.

01-10 MEL Safety Institute Bulletin – Updated CDC Recommendations for COVID-19 - Informational

01-11 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up – Informational

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

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ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

2021-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 327, “STORMWATER CONTROL”

Commissioner Portorreal moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner Portorreal read the said ordinance by title.

Commissioner Portorreal moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading, published in the Record Newspaper and posted on the Village Bulletin Board by the Village Clerk. The public hearing will be held on February 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Olson.

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

DISCUSSION

Cannabis Law

Phil Boggia advised if the Board of Commissioners don't adopt an ordinance, cannabis will be permitted in the Village. Questions were raised if the ordinance can be adjusted, relax regulations, limit to commercial areas. At the Commissioners request, Tara O'Grady will poll the Bergen County Municipal Clerks Association and inquire how other municipalities feel about cannibal. Commissioner Gerken stated he is ok with usage but doesn't see the benefit to Ridgefield Park if retail is allowed. Until more data is received, he recommends restricting cannabis entirely. Mayor Anlian advised the Commissioners need to make a decision by June. Cannabis will be further discussed at March's first Caucus meeting.

Employee Handbook

Clerk O'Grady will re-forward the updated draft from Ken Rosenberg and the Commissioners agreed to discuss at the first Caucus meeting in March.

REPORTS

Commissioner Portorreal advised she is working on the “Adopt a Park” program and hoping to have a 3-person committee. She received 1 out of 3 estimates for the Municipal Building roof.

Commissioner Olson stated the DPW is cleaning Main Street overnight to eliminate as much snow as possible in the business district. Mayor Anlian complimented the DPW on the great job they did with the snow plowing/removal.

The Green Team acquired Silver Certification Sustainable Jersey – unsung hero was Barbara DeLuca. The challenge will be re-certification.

New art will be on exhibit in the Municipal Building.

There is some discussion for the June 12th arts fair to be moved to Fellowship Park instead of Grove Street. Mayor Anlian stated having the fair on Grove Street brings people to the business district to patronize the stores. Commissioner Portorreal agreed.

Boswell Engineering looked at McGowan Park's gazebo. It is leaning but stable and will continue to monitor it.

Commissioner Gerken recommends continuing Zoom meetings through February. All Commissioners agreed. Mayor Anlian added maybe they should continue through March.

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Mayor Anlian advised Art Carlson drafted a letter to the public about the re-evaluation and assessed values. He will circulate it over the weekend.

He attended the Board of Education zoom meeting last night to discuss the impact to schools with Challenger Road residential developments. There will be major school construction if all properties are residentially built. The Board of Education will hire their own experts.

Clerk O’Grady stated there was confusion and a lack of communication to employees regarding the building closure and delayed opening with the last snowstorm. In the past, the Clerk notified all department heads and staff and offered to continue that same practice – all agreed.

The LOSAP CPI is 1.9% which results in a \$22.00 increase to volunteers who qualify.

Ms. O’Grady reminded the Commissioners to think about the 2021 Salary Ordinance and that she has documents that need signatures.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2021-17 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, 8) Legal Matters, Personnel

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

Absent: Commissioner MacNeill

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:02 p.m.

On a motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:43 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken to adjourn.

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

Absent: Commissioner MacNeill

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken
Commissioner

Abstain
Commissioner MacNeill

/s/Mark C. Olson
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on March 4, 2021

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor