

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**April 8, 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, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of March 18, 2021.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

03-17 Board of County Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational

03-18 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

03-19 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – Mount Vernon Street-Parking Analysis - Informational

03-20 Robert Heidel – Excess Noise Complaint – Mayor Anlian will draft a letter to resident

03-21 KABR Group – Signage Ordinance Amendments to OP-1 Zone – Send to Ken Ochab for his comments/recommendations

03-22 Duplicate of 03-21

03-23 Melanie Boyer, NY, Susquehanna & Western Railway Corp – Installation of ties, Ballast & Surface NYSW Main Line Track – Informational, discussed signage for Mt. Vernon and Railroad if train blocking crossing

03-24 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – 35 East Winant Avenue - Informational

03-25 RP Planning Board – Notice of Public Hearing – Berkzup Ridgefield, LLC – Hearing took place on Monday and application was approved

03-26 Mathew McArow, GJEM Insurance Co – Cannabis Legislation & Mandatory Vaccines - Informational

03-27 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan Application for Berkzup Ridgefield, LLC – Informational

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- 04-01 Boggia, Boggia, Betesh & Voytus, LLC – Cease & Desist Truck Parking – Hampton Inn – Summons will be issued if ignored
- 04-02 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – 2021 Bergen County Open Space Grant Program – Mt. Vernon Pedestrian Walkway and Park Project
- 04-03 SNJ Department of Transportation – 2021 Municipal Aid Program – Main Street - Informational
- 04-04 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – 2021 Local Recreation Improvement Grant – Commissioner Olson will contact Mike Kelly
- 04-05 36-46 Mount Vernon Street - Informational
- 04-06 Warren Staudinger, County of Bergen – Mosquito Control – Informational, Information for website
- 04-07 Office of the State Comptroller – Unused Sick Leave Payouts – Employees hired after May 2010 are not entitled to annual payouts of unused sick pay – can only receive a maximum of \$15,000.00 upon retirement/resignation

**ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS & ADOPTIONS**

- 2021-03 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 Olson moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal. So ordered. Commissioner Olson read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner Olson then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

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

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

- 2021-04 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.

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

Commissioner MacNeill 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".

**ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION**

2021-05      BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATURE TRAIL IN, BY AND FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$950,000 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 Portorreal. 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.

Commissioner MacNeill stated the entrance should be re-designed.

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

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

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

2021-06      AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN 78 AND 65-67 MT. VERNON STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 82, LOT 23, BLOCK 89, LOT 15 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE VILLAGE AND, IF NECESSARY, AUTHORIZING THE INSTITUTION OF EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS TO OBTAIN SAME.

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

Commissioner Olson read the said ordinance by title.

Commissioner Olson 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 April 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal.

Commissioner MacNeill stated it is difficult to obtain this property without a plan in place – difficult to authorize the expenditure of funds at this time.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Anlian announces that the following business is considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration.

#### **Resolutions:**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 2021-45 | Award Contract to Grade Construction for the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve Project |
| 2021-46 | Authorize Compliance - Bond Anticipation Note  |

Motion by Commissioner Portorreal, seconded by Commissioner Olson, that the consent agenda be approved.

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

### **HEARING OF CITIZENS**

No citizens present.

### **REPORTS**

**Commissioner Gerken** advised the Municipal Court Administrator is retiring May 31, 2021.

Hiring is done through the County. The Judge may also be retiring. The Registrar will be out long term. The Bogota Registrar is coming in tomorrow to assist the Deputy Registrar. The Department needs assistance between the hours of 8:30am and 2pm. Earth Day is May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Village Gardeners need to plant flowers in the planters. Commissioner Gerken will contact Pete Danzo with regards to the fireworks.

**Commissioner Olson** stated the DPW needs to replace 2 trucks and a lawnmower. Commissioner MacNeill added all departments should develop a 5-year plan for major purchases. Suez will pave Main Street from Route 46 up to Christie or Hobart Street. The Gazebo in McGowan park is leaning and will be inspected by Boswell Engineering. The Arts Association will host a Summerfest on June 12<sup>th</sup> – renting a showmobile from the County. Grove Street may not be large enough to hold the event. Letter was received to allocate space for roller skating – Brewster Park would be the best place. Wanda Canoe Club would like an agreement to establish a “home.” At the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, will present the Artist Laurette proclamation. He will be meeting with the Pool Manager on Saturday to start the process of opening the pool. Emails were sent to Superintendent Bender and Principal Koenig for hiring students to paint murals.

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**Commissioner Portorreal** stated there are 6 candidates for the Pool Commission. 4 will be appointed on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Clerk O'Grady** inquired if the Board of Commissioners are waiving the Sidewalk Display licenses again this year – licenses are needed, fees will be waived. Also, will the Board be extending the contract for CLB Partners, LLC – month to month basis moving forward.

**Chief Rella** advised the body cameras are on order with a cost of approximately \$69,000.00. A PEO has been hired.

**Superintendent Monroe** advised the BCUA visited the DPW and advised not to collect paint cans from residents anymore. The day after the visit, received a survey from the BCUA.

**Mayor Anlian** advised he received a letter, with pictures, from Brinkerhoff Street residents regarding tractor trailers traveling on the streets. Steve Frimmer retired from the Library in December and Peggy Kowalchuk retired from the Planning Board – he will be sending letters. Received a call from a Union Place resident regarding house construction – Commissioner MacNeill advised the owner has permits.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2021-47 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Portorreal, seconded by Mayor Anlian, 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 (8) Personnel

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 9:02 p.m.

On a motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:15 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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/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 April 22, 2021

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor