

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
April 22, 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 Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of April 8, 2021.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- 04-08 Ken Ochab – Sign Ordinance – Commissioner MacNeill and Mayor Anlian was in attendance at the Planning Board meeting on Monday, April 19th. It is the opinion of the Planning Board not to change the ordinance.
- 04-09 Board of County Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational
- 04-10 Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr – Federal Funeral Assistance - Informational
- 04-11 Stripptree@gmail.com – Email regarding Illegal Dumping – forwarded to DPW and PD. The DPW will clean the area and will contact Boswell Engineering to look at the road.
- 04-12 Bilow Garrett Group – Draft Resolution – to be placed on the April 27th meeting agenda for approval.
- 04-13 Francine Orovitz – Ordinance 2020-06, Signage Requirement – Commissioners stated sign size should remain as stated in the ordinance
- 04-14 State of NJ, DEP – 95 Challenger Road - Informational

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS & ADOPTIONS

- 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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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”.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

DISCUSSION

FDRP Chief Antola

Chief Antola expressed displeasure relating to the response, or lack thereof, by the Board of Commissioners on the very serious injury to one of the firefighters. The Board of Commissioners stated they were very concerned and were in contact with family members of the injured firefighter.

Chief Antola inquired if there are any actions of where we are with his proposal –retaining, response and recruiting of members, radios, apparatus, equipment.

The Board of Commissioners asked Chief Antola to come up with a breakdown of out-of-pocket costs (uniform, travel expenses to/from school, time) for new members. Also, out of pocket costs for any additional training for current members. The Board may provide reimbursement upon certification and a signed retainment agreement.

Mayor Anlian gave Chief Antola the go ahead to lease the radios and formally pursue an engine and a ladder truck. The apparatus purchases will be handled via the Houston/Galveston CO-OP.

Commissioner Olson asked if there were other incentives/perks the Village could give its volunteers. Chief Antola suggested fees for building permits be waived, free pool memberships.

Chief Antola stated the need for a central firehouse was due to response, not finances. Bergenfield mutual aid call – 2 pieces of apparatus were dispatched. One engine put 14 members on the run sheet – didn’t go to the call and didn’t have 14 members show – looking into a biometrics system. Commissioner Gerken volunteered to assist with computer system research.

Chief Antola also advised a new home is needed for the boat - looking into a shipping container to be housed at the DPW.

Dr. Angela Bender, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Bender gave the Board of Commissioners an update on what a typical school day is like. 30% of elementary school children and 20% of high school children are in the buildings for approximately 4 hours per day. The staff has been very supportive and appreciative. 80% of staff is vaccinated - Kudos to Nurse Aguilar. Don’t know what September will look like – not sure what graduations will look like.

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Dr. Bender stated there will be aviation, mental health and environmental programs in the schools.

Commissioner Olson stated he would like to engage in more conversations with students.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised May 1st is Earth Day. Working on fireworks contract commitment.

Commissioner Olson distributed a draft of the summer concert schedule. The Green Team received a donation from Won Buddhism – not sure how to handle – contact CFO for guidance. Boswell Engineering looked at the gazebo – may only need support brackets.

Commissioner Portorreal received a report from Green Acres. Mike Monroe is working on the signage violations and will contact Green Acres when completed. The 291-295 Main Street home has been approved by the Zoning Board. The pool will be opening Memorial Day weekend. She also stated the Baseball Organization submitted vouchers for their annual stipends – Commissioner Olson stated the stipend should be based on a head count.

Mayor Anlian stated Ken Ochab is working on the Master Plan. The northern part of the Village does not have a park. The Neighborhood Reform Church may be for sale – should the Board consider purchasing it.

Clerk O’Grady received a quote from Blue Dog Graphics for the newsletter – will forward to Mayor Anlian.

Superintendent Monroe looked into the flooding issue at 25 Teaneck Road – property in back of the building is private.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2021-53 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, 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, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 9:01 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Anlian, 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 9:27 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 May 6, 2021

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor