

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
June 4, 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.

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

BUDGET

RESOLUTION:

2020-076 Introduction of CY2020 Budget

Bob Benecke was in attendance to summarize the Village’s budget. The Public Hearing and adoption will take place on July 9, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, that Resolution 2020-076 be approved.

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

DISCUSSION

Fire Department

John Antola, William Lynn and Michael Alberque were in attendance to re-present the Board of Commissioners the Fire Department proposal addressing LOSAP, Clothing Allowance, and Rental Agreements.

LOSAP – asking to amend the Village ordinance to include an annual cost of living increase. Changes to Schedule A of the ordinance would include changes to amount of drills, fire calls, firefighters with 25 years of service exemption, and forfeiture of LOSAP investments for non-vested volunteers who have terminated their service. The computer system needs upgrading. Chief Rella will check if the Fire Department can be added to the Police CAD system.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE – increase to \$1,000 per volunteer based on a scale of responded calls. Officers would receive additional funds.

RENT AGREEMENT – increase rent to each firehouse to \$2,500 per quarter and eliminate all loans to the Village from each fire company.

The Fire Department representatives also inquired if the Village would consider a centralized town-owned firehouse.

Commissioner MacNeill asked if the Village would need 6 companies. Chief Antola responded no – would like to keep 2 ladder trucks and 3 engines.

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The old Boswell Engineering building would be ideal for a centralized firehouse. Mayor Anlian is in favor of acquiring the building; however, the Board of Commissioners would need to discuss this further.

Commissioner Gerken will contact Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering, to look at the building.

COVID-19

Mayor Anlian advised the number of cases and deaths have not changed in 3 weeks.

POOL

Commissioner MacNeill advised a meeting with the Pool Commission will take place next Thursday. The State hasn't allowed municipal pools to open yet – we have no membership.

Chief Rella advised daily passes is a disaster for Police Departments – surrounding towns have had major issues.

CORRESPONDENCE

05-28 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

05-29 NJ Conference of Mayors – Administration Proposes Significant Budget Cuts - Informational

05-30 Rebecca Schwartz, Office of Governor – Graduation Ceremonies - Informational

05-31 NJLM – Daily Update - Informational

05-32 NJ DCA (Dept. of Consumer Affairs) – E-Procurement Regulations - Informational

06-01 Marc Schrieks – Deadline Extension for Property Tax Appeals and Decisions - Informational

06-02 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

06-03 Allison McLeod – NJDEP Weekly Update - Informational

06-04 Congressman Bill Pascrell – COVID-19 - Informational

06-05 Boggia Boggia Betesh & Voytus, LLC – Termination of Conditional Redeveloper Designation – Resolution to be prepared for the June 9, 2020 meeting.

06-06 Ezio Altamura – COVID-19 Building Openings - Informational

06-07 Rebecca Schwartz, Office of Governor – Short-Term Rental Assistance Program - Informational

06-08 Rebecca Schwartz, Office of Governor – COVID-19 Emergency Bond Act - Informational

06-09 Rebecca Schwartz, Office of Governor – Safety Guidelines to Reopen Childcare Centers - Informational

06-10 Rebecca Schwartz, Office of Governor – Stage Two of Restart of Recovery - Informational

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CORRESPONDENCE – cont.

06-11 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – NJDOT Local Aid Grants Resolutions – Resolutions to be prepared for the June 9, 2020 meeting.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised he attended an OEM meeting on the 4th of July. The parade route should remain the same. Since there has been protesting, there would be security issues with another route. Village Gardeners – Mike Mitchell did 2 planters on Webster Street.

Commissioner Portorreal stated she met with the Rescue Squad. The Rescue Squad stated they don't receive enough calls. Chief Rella will provide a copy of the protocol for dispatching the Rescue Squad. She met with Commissioner Kohles to discuss the fields. She would like to arrange a meeting the "Field Group".

Commissioner Olson advised Wanda Canoe Club is happy we are taking the building down for them. The Rifle Range will not be remediated this year. Chief Rella advised confiscated funds can be used to fund the range – would need 175' of land. The painting of Grove Street is allowable per NJDOT regulations per Phil Boggia. DPW Superintendent, Alan O'Grady, is retiring. The Village can lease charging stations for the Cedar Street parking lot. Due to COVID-19, the Board of Recreation will do as much as they can do – need regulations from the State.

Commissioner MacNeill stated Mike Landolfi talked to store owners on Main Street concerning outside dining. Barriers would be provided from the DPW.

Clerk O'Grady asked the Board of Commissioners to consider changing the Municipal Building hours to 8am to 4pm when the building re-opens to the public.

Chief Rella stated there will be a Peach March on Monday at 11am. The route is Main Street to Cedar Street to Bergen Avenue to Mt. Vernon and ending at St. Francis Church. He has no idea how many people will attend. The Police Department will have 24 officers available and the SWAT team will be in the area if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Boggia advised NJ Transit has indicated they would like to acquire the Skymark property for a bus depot. This would be a tax-exempt entity. The Village would use every effort to discourage since the Village stands to lose \$1 million dollars per year in tax revenue. The Hampton Inn property owner received notice that eminent domain proceedings may commence. The current redevelopment plan needs to be amended to deal with these legal issues and authorize the Planning Board to conduct an investigation as to whether the redevelopment area is in need of redevelopment with the Village having the power of condemnation over the properties contained therein.

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.

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RESOLUTIONS:

- 2020-074 Award Professional Services Contract to Reginald Jenkins, Esq. for Skymark
Redevelopment Project and Other Related Matters
2020-075 Authorize Amendment to Redevelopment Plan

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

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

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2020-077 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, 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) Development of Meadowlands, Personnel

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 MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 10:11 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 10:11 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

Absent
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk

Approved on July 9, 2020

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor