

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**August 19, 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 of July 22, 2021.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

08-01 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

08-02 Bergen County Board of Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolution - Informational

08-03 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

08-04 Natasha Suarez – Block Party – Resolution to be prepared for September 14, 2021 meeting.

08-05 Roshan Quintana – Block Party – Resolution to be prepared for September 9, 2021 meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution:**

2021-90 Authorize Chapter 159 Insertion of Revenue for NIBRS Project Pilot Grant

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, that Resolution 2021-90 be approved.

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

**ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION**

2021-11 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 152.01, LOTS 1, 1.01 AND 2 IN THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK

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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".

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **2021 Salary Ordinance**

The Commissioners were in agreement and advised employees hired after January 1<sup>st</sup> would not receive the annual increase. Employees who receive a raise during the year, would receive the annual increase from January 1<sup>st</sup> to the raise date.

### **HEARING OF CITIZENS**

No citizens present.

### **REPORTS**

**Commissioner Gerken** stated Tom Quirico will be sworn in as Municipal Judge on September 1. Judge Perna is retiring effective September 1.

Court Dates will now be held on Tuesdays from 10am-1pm with Special DWI Sessions on Mondays at 10am.

Vaccinations for Ridgefield Park are as follows:

65+	99%
30+	82%
18+	81%
Average	69%

Sam Yanovich is retiring effective September 30<sup>th</sup>. New Health Officer Jim Federico.

Still waiting for the Nature Preserve Project to start – problem with materials.

Village Gardeners have new members.

There will be a short ceremony at 10am on 9/11 commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The ceremony will take place at the 9/11 monument on Euclid Avenue.

The County wants to handle our welfare clients. Dilemma is recipients receive checks from Ridgefield Park and the Village currently does not have a bank. The County distributes debit cards. Mayor Anlian stated the Village would lose control if the County took it over. Mayor Anlian will draft a letter to surrounding banks and invite them to Ridgefield Park.

Barbara DeLuca and Janet Malool are working on the Health Fair. It will be held at the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**Commissioner Portorreal** inquired what the job description be for a Social Media Coordinator. Commissioner Olson stated he has someone that might be interested.

**Commissioner MacNeill** advised at the last finance meeting; Veterans Park was discussed. The Village can't redevelop the park all at once – it can be done in phases.

Commissioner Olson added the Creative Bergen Board would like a chance to look at the design and give input.

There will be a series of meetings for the public and organizations to give input.

Commissioner MacNeill advised the Zoning Officer, Ed Ballard, is very ill and not coming back to work.

**Commissioner Olson** advised individuals that would like to use the archery range would need to pass a qualification to obtain a permit. Cameras should be installed.

The DPW is having discussions about possibly hiring 3 people. Commissioner MacNeill stated maintenance of the Nature Preserve is a big concern.

The DPW has an app on the website to assist residents as to what is recyclable.

The Green Fair is September 25 at Brewster Park.

Commissioner Olson advised he spoke to JC Promotions regarding the Street Fair. If a business does not want a vendor in front of their store front, they can be accommodated. Village clubs/organizations pay a reduced rate for a space. Proceeds go back to the RP Business Association.

An artist in town would like to assemble a mural in the VFW building – will get more details.

Concert on Saturday at 6:30 pm on Grove Street. Rain date is Sunday. Violinist will play at 5pm. The tree stump in front of the House of Flowers will be carved.

**Clerk O'Grady** inquired if the Municipal Building should go back to mandating masks – Commissioners agreed to leave as is right now.

Summer hours in the Municipal Building end on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, suggested hours for next year be Mon. – Thurs. 8am – 4:30pm, Fri. 8am – 1pm.

The League of Municipalities Conference is in November. In the past, employees other than Department Heads had to use vacation time. Commissioners stated same policy for this year.

Employees are only permitted to carry over 1 week of vacation time into 2022.

Clerk O'Grady stated she would like the Commissioners to consider appointing a Deputy Clerk.

**Edward Monroe** stated the Municipal Building roof proposal from Bilow and Garrett is approximately \$75,000.00. He and Commissioner Olson met with Bogota regarding shared services for the recycling center.

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**Attorney Boggia** distributed a memo to the Board of Commissioners referencing the Fire Department consolidation and new firehouse based on questions received from Chief Antola. The issue is not enough personnel.

**Mayor Anlian** distributed a memo addressed to Chief Antola with the Fire Department incentives.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson to adjourn.

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken  
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill  
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson  
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal  
Commissioner

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor

/s/Tara O’Grady  
Village Clerk

Approved on September 9, 2021