

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
September 23, 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 and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE

09-08 Ruby Garrovillo – Parking – Mayor Anlian will respond.

09-09 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

09-10 Sabrina Taranto, Bergen County Elections Division – General Election Voting – Informational

09-11 Jenny Schmitt – Battle Between Murphy & School Districts - Informational

09-12 Bergen County Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational

09-13 Ezio Altamura, GJEM – Employment Practices Liability Compliance Program – Informational

09-14 Matt McArow, GJEM – Mandatory Vaccinations - Informational

09-15 Kenneth Aloisio, Bergen County Dept. of Parks – Open Space Trust Fund Public Hearing - Informational

DISCUSSION

Robert Benecke – 2020 Audit

Mr. Benecke advised the 2020 Audit had 5 comments/recommendations that were operational in nature. The comment regarding quotes – he advised, statutorily, purchases/projects over \$6600 must have at least 2 quotes. EUS (Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services) cannot be used for professional services. EUS was originally adopted for data processing/computer services. It cannot extend to art work.

Debt Structure - \$6 million can be authorized in February 2022 (\$4 million to be used in 2022 and \$2 million in 2023). This will be approximately 5-6 tax points which would be a tax increase of approximately \$150 for the average assessed home. The Village needs to prioritize its needs. The Village currently has about \$10 million in debt service.

Challenger Road Projects – the Planning Board needs to understand the financial impact to the Village.

At this time, Mr. Benecke left the meeting.

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RPF – Chiefs Antola, Wagner, VanderTulip

After reviewing the lease agreement, Phil Boggia determined it was not a lease agreement but a 5-year purchase agreement. Chief Antola advised the Fire Department needs approximately 45 radios; 1 radio for each seated position. Radios that are used currently, cannot be repaired. Motorola does not make replacement parts any longer. Motorola is the best manufacturer. The Motorola 6000 stands up to extreme temperatures, water and drops. The Kenwood brand was tested for 6 months – ½ the price ½ the quality and doesn't work in larger buildings.

Mayor Anlian advised the Village cannot go out to bond until February 2022. Until then, the radios can be replaced as they break.

Chief Antola advised the Fire Department lost its utility truck in Hurricane Ida – waiting to hear back from Matt McArrow for the replacement cost. A new truck is needed for extra cabinetry, to tow the boat.

Mayor Anlian would like to meet with the Fire Chiefs, Captains and Presidents of each fire company on October 7th to discuss reimbursement for training, clothing allowance, and firehouse consolidation(s). Mrs. Maglione's property could be a location for a 3-bed firehouse.

Chief Antola stated his opinion is that more than 1 firehouse is not efficient.

Mayor Anlian advised he asked Boswell Engineering to visit each firehouse for structural integrity.

Volunteerism is hurting, need to get facts on the table.

At this time, the Chiefs left the meeting.

Nick Dorio – Donation

Mr. Dorio is a representative of JCM Investors and would like to propose a donation for improvements, at no cost to the Village, to the football field area. JCM Investors would like to donate a new scoreboard, which would include installation. Also, renovate the Press Box – new floor, relace the steel rolling gate, shelving, paint. The total would be approximately \$40,000.00 - \$50,000.00.

Mayor Anlian stated the Village of Ridgefield Park is very appreciative of your very generous donation. The Board of Commissioners were all in agreement to accept the donation.

Commissioner MacNeill advised Mr. Dorio to obtain a permit from the Building Department.

Mr. Dorio stated they will start on the Press Box tomorrow.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken stated there continues to be progress on the Nature Preserve. There is an issue with the floating dock materials.

Commissioner Portorreal stated she received 2 resumes for the Zoning Official position. The Zoning Official will be required to attend Zoning meetings.

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Commissioner Olson advised he is getting quotes on the gazebo brackets. The Green Fair is Saturday. The Wanda Canoe Club race is Saturday. As far as the Street Fair, the RP Business Association is not a viable organization and doesn't represent the businesses in town.

VFW medallion – looking to remove within the next two months.

There is a new program with the Hackensack Yacht Club to remove debris from the river.

The Board of Recreation will resume normal operations.

The Tree Sculpture at the Nature Preserve now has to be handled differently – bid process.

Clerk O'Grady asked for an extension to use vacation time due to staff shortage – extension granted. Jersey Mail Systems gave a proposal that would be cheaper than Pitney Bowes – if interested the proposal should be reviewed by the Village Attorney. Also, Jana Carratu will be filling in at Tuesday night's meeting due to the anticipated arrival of Mrs. O'Grady's grandchild.

Mayor Anlian stated the Knights of Columbus 100th Anniversary celebration is October 16th. The Commissioners should reserve a table. Also, October 9th is the Knights vs. Masons softball game.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2021-100 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal, 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 9:45 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 10:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, 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 10:00 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/ John H. Anlian
Mayor

/s/Tara O'Grady
Village Clerk

Approved on December 9, 2021