

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
November 10, 2015
7:30 PM

Mayor Fosdick 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, 2014 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick in the Chair.

Also present Joseph Voytus, Village Attorney; Alan O’Grady, DPW Superintendent and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of October 27, 2015.

On roll call, Commissioners Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

Abstain: Commissioner Anlian

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$4,820,889.23.

On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioner Boyd

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner MacNeill advised the Veterans Park bathroom renovations are in the 11th hour and will be ready for the spring.

Mayor Fosdick reminded all the Veterans Day Ceremony is tomorrow at 11am at the Monument. Friday, the High School will be playing Orange in the state football playoffs.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Noel Cote, resident, stated he was at a meeting a few weeks ago and voiced his concern about the Lincoln School traffic issues. He advised there is a definite improvement and would like to thank Chief Rose and the Police Department.

Walter Richter, resident, inquired about the stop sign on South Main Street behind EDI. He believes it is above the maximum height and it is on a telephone pole. He believes it should be on its own pole. Mrs. O’Grady will inform Chief Rose of his inquiry.

Mayor Fosdick advised the Police Department is researching an LED illuminated stop sign for the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Mt. Vernon Street.

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Tom Blumenthal, resident, inquired about the Caucus Agenda item listed regarding the Historic Preservation Commission and signage. Commissioner MacNeill advised the HPC would like to allow lighted “open” and menu signs.

Mr. Richter asked if the Village has an ordinance in place for neon signs. Commissioner Anlian responded it depends on the location of the sign in the store.

Mr. Blumenthal stated Lulu’s sign has been temporary for two years and asked when they will comply with the regulations of the HPC.

Commissioner MacNeill advised most businesses are under-capitalized and signage is very expensive. Commissioner Anlian added the first two years of a business is critical. They need to be given the opportunity to get established. The Village does not want to over-burden the store owners. The Commissioners feel justified in taking this approach.

Mr. Blumenthal asked if the Board of Commissioners have considered discounting the taxes on the buildings on Main Street in hopes the owners would lower the rents. Commissioner Anlian advised legally that cannot be done. Commissioner Boyd added the Village does not own the buildings nor have control over the rents. Mayor Fosdick advised at one time there was money set aside in the budget to develop a Chamber of Commerce and for store owners to enhance Main Street. They never applied for the money. Main Street is narrow and most stores are too small. The small shops tend to struggle. One of the main issues with Main Street was parking, now there are lots on both the north and south ends of Main Street. The Historic Preservation Commission regulations may be a hindrance. We have to remember the stores on Main Street are not the only stores in the Village. Commissioner MacNeill added the “named” stores want square footage and parking.

Mr. Blumenthal inquired when the infrastructure will begin on the Eagle’s Nest Development. Commissioner Anlian replied it should begin next year. This development will be beneficial to the Village.

Mr. Richter inquired if there is anything new to report on the Challenger Road parcels. Commissioner Boyd stated the Village still owns them. Mayor Fosdick added three developers are interested in the parcels. Negotiations have to be handled confidentially.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Fosdick 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

2015-135	Authorize Expenditure of Fire Prevention Dedicated Funds
2015-136	Authorize Refund of Tax Payment due to Overpayment
2015-137	Authorize Agreement with County of Bergen Accepting Donation of Firefighting Foam
2015-138	Authorize Public Sale of Municipal Property known as 105 Challenger Road

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Poli, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

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RECESS

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Poli to recess and reconvene in the Commissioners Conference Room in approximately 10 minutes to address the November 5, 2015 Caucus Meeting Agenda and to conduct a Closed Session Meeting pertaining to the development of Challenger Road.

On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

The Board of Commissioners convened recess at 7:57 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Poli, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus and Closed Meetings of October 22, 2015.

On roll call, Commissioners Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

Abstain: Commissioner Anlian

CORRESPONDENCE

10-33 Jason Capizzi – 2016 Bond Counsel Services - Informational

10-34 Community Resource Council – Dr. Harry Brandeis Community Service Award Dinner - Informational

10-35 NJLM – Weekly Policy Update - Informational

10-36 League of Humane Voters – Deer Problems - Informational

10-37 William Dressel – NJM Insurance Group – Mrs. O’Grady to schedule appointment

10-38 NJLM – Gateway Project - Informational

10-39 NJ Bankers Assoc. – Foreclosures - Informational

10-40 NJLM – Federal Advocacy Update - Informational

10-41 Kerry Miller, ANJEC – Urban Water Solutions Initiative – Supt. O’Grady will follow up with John Rolak, Hackensack and Fort Lee

10-42 South Bergen JIF – 2016 Budget Hearing - Informational

10-43 Board of Chosen Freeholders – Ordinance - Informational

10-44 Borough of Wanaque – County Taxes - Informational

10-45 Local Finance Notice – 2016 Budget Cap Information - Informational

10-46 NJLM – Weekly Policy Update - Informational

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11-01 Bill Betesh – Tax Appeal Settlement – 2 Bergen LLC – Resolution to be prepared for the November 24, 2015 meeting.

11-02 NJLM – Daily Update - Informational

11-03 Historic Preservation Commission – Signage – Commissioners MacNeill and Anlian to schedule meeting with the Historic Preservation Commission to address issues.

DISCUSSION

2016 Meeting Dates – The Board of Commissioners set the 2016 meeting dates.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2015-139 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Poli, 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 (4, 7) Labor Negotiations, Development of Meadowlands

On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:30 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Poli, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fosdick adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

/s/John H. Anlian
Commissioner

/s/Margaret R. Boyd
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/ Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

Absent
Mayor Fosdick

/s/ Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on November 24, 2015