

COMMISSIONERS MEETING-SEPTEMBER 24, 2002, 8:15 P.M.

Mayor Fosdick announced that in accordance with the requirements of the "Open Public Meeting Act N.J.S.A. 10 4-6 et seq." notice was sent to the record, the Jersey Journal and the Newark Star Ledger on the 27th day of December 2001 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board in the lobby of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL*****

Those present were Commissioners Anlian, Davis, D'Auria, Storer and Mayor Fosdick in the Chair.

FLAG SALUTE*****

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick. Mayor Fosdick requested a moment of silence in memory of Edward Alberque, Sr., who had passed away Sunday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES*****

Motion by Commissioner Storer, seconded by Commissioner D'Auria that the minutes of [September 10, 2002](#) be approved. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Davis, D'Auria, Storer and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

SPECIAL REPORTS*****

Commissioner Storer read a proclamation on Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Commissioner D'Auria, read a proclamation on Race Equality Week.

Mayor Fosdick again thanked the Citizens' Committee for organizing the Peace Day Ceremony on September 11th. He said that the Peace Day Committee are collecting pennies for peace through all the school, and in various other areas in the Village.

CORRESPONDENCE*****

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS*****

Mayor Fosdick announced this was the time and place for the public hearing on an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR LOCAL ENFORCEMENT OF THE NEW JERSEY UNIFORM FIRE CODE IN THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY" No one wished to be heard.

Motion by Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Davis that this Ordinance pass its second and final reading and be duly published in the Record. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Davis, D'Auria, Storer and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

HEARING OF CITIZENS*****

Mayor Fosdick said this is the time and place for the hearing of citizens. Looking at the residents in attendance, he said he would attempt to respond to what he could, but before he began, he would like to emphasize that after attending the Public Hearing on September 18th, he responded to Ms. Debbie Hirt, NJ Department of Transportation, with a letter that he proceeded to read to the residents. He emphasized the fact that he had not as yet received a response to his letter. Following reading the letter, many residents wanted to be heard:

John Welsek, 31 Arthur Street Read a statement concerning the proposed wall along Route 80 & Arthur Street. He presented a statement to the Board of Commissioners, as well as a flyer headed "SAVE THE GREEN-KEEP THE BROWN"

Jackie Mengone-88 Arthur Street Read an article from the Record, dated July 31st concerning Route 80.

Bob Theuret – 44 Arthur Street Read a statement to the Board of Commissioner opposing the barrier wall on Route 80 in back of his house. He presented his statement to the Board of Commissioners along with letters from residents from Lodi, South Hackensack, and Saddle Brook.

The above residents were opposed to the wall behind their homes, as well as making statements concerning information they obtained from other communities.

Helen Myers – 92 Arthur Street Spoke concerning property values and how she feels property value would drop if the "ugly" wall was allowed to be put in back of her home. She also stated that the sound would not be that different if the wall was installed.

Bridget Barrett – 52 Edwin Street Spoke concerning the environment. She was concerned about the number of trees that would be cut down to put up the barrier wall.

Mary Jane Welsek, 31 Arthur Street, Said the State told them even if a tree is on the property, no tree will be permitted within two feet of the wall, because the State needs access.

Mayor Fosdick said although the residents here tonight seem to be against the barrier, this is the first group you usually hear from (those against). He said there are also people who are in favor of the barrier.

Bridget Barrett said on the North side of Arthur Street, there are 35 houses that the barrier will impact.

Mayor Fosdick said the barrier was definitely needed at Veterans Park as well as along the High School area. He noted that the sound barriers at the High School had actually been a Seventh Grade project.

Jackie Mengone spoke again concerning the Bergen Record - Road Warrior concerning a portion of the road I-80 in Ridgefield Park, saying it was never repaired since 1960. Said the condition of the road was horrendous and Governor Whitman was invited to ride the road and she said repair it.

Janine Dicalogero, 36 Arthur Street. Said she moved here two years ago. She said she has beautiful birds in her backyard, and if the wall is permitted to be built she will feel very confined, and the birds will probably disappear.

Jean Theuret , 44 Arthur Street Said she had gone to Lodi, So. Hackensack and listened to the noise, it is disgusting. Barriers are not going to soften the noise, and we will not be able to sell our homes.

Nick DellaFave, 120 Arthur Street Said perhaps they could start the wall out past the peoples' property just past Roosevelt Avenue.

Bob Theuret, said in speaking with the engineer, they cannot vary the height of the wall.

Mayor Fosdick said until we get an answer to our letter which we will distribute to the residents; we will have a public meeting on this subject and we hope to have answers.

Joe Nizza, 613 Teaneck Road Said the State can do things we cannot do. He said the trains make more noise than the traffic on Route 80.

Mayor Fosdick explained that the Federal and State Government have the right to do this.

Mr. Harrison, 23 Arthur Street Said he didn't know he had a noise problem.

Mayor Fosdick gave the following address for anyone who wished to address a letter on the barriers:

Ms. Debbie Hirt
NJ Department of transportation
Office of Community Relations
1035 Parkway Avenue
PO Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

Mayor Fosdick said if you write to them, send us a copy of your letter.

Mr. Welsek said he believes the town will do the best it can for its residents.

Mayor Fosdick spoke concerning a police issue. He said over the past four or five days a series of car break-ins had occurred. He said he was pleased to announce that the perpetrators were apprehended today.

When questioned by a resident concerning the flag burning incidents, the Mayor responded that now that school is open, there may be some information forthcoming

Tony DiVeritas, 245 Euclid Avenue Questioned why he was not able to get a town truck.

He presented pictures of residents who got town trucks, three times, on Euclid Avenue. Said he could bring in more pictures, and feels Mr. O'Grady doesn't like him.

Mayor Fosdick said many years ago, prior to the increased cost, trucks were available to everyone, but that practice had changed in the past five years.

Mary Jane Welsek spoke concerning sewer cleaning. She said after the heavy storms, home owners got flooded out.

Mayor Fosdick said it was an unusual situation on two consecutive Fridays, extremely heavy rain occurred

Jean Theuret said she had killies in her basement and putting in a check valve is not the answer.

NEW BUSINESS*****

Mayor Fosdick announced that all business is considered to be routine in nature and would be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration:

Resolution No. 1] Authorizing acceptance of an offer to purchase General Improvement Refunding Bonds.

Resolution No. 2] Authorizing issuance of Raffle License No. 918 to Emblem Club.

Resolution No. 3] Authorizing endorsement of application for community Development Funds for Barrier Free Ramp Project.

Resolution No. 4] Authorizing endorsement of application for Community Development Funds for Barrier Free Ramp Project

Resolution No. 5] Authorizing redemption of Len No. 01-07, Block 141, Lot 34.

Resolution No. 6] Authorizing refunds for 2002 Veterans Deductions.

Resolution No. 7] Authorizing refunds to Lien Holder for taxes paid at tax sale and redeemed within 10 day period.

Resolution No. 8] Awarding professional contract to Maser Planning Consultants

Resolution No. 9] Authorizing issuance of Bingo License No. 437 to Ridgefield Park Elks Lodge #1506.

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Storer that the Consent Agenda be approved. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Davis, D'Auria, Storer and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

RECESS*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner D'Auria that this meeting recess at 9:35 P.M. and reconvene in the Conference Room for a Closed Executive Meeting for the purpose of personnel, contract negotiations and litigation. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Davis, D'Auria, Storer and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA"

Meeting reconvened at 10:08 P.M. at the close of the Closed Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner D'Auria that this meeting adjourn at 10:08 P.M. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, D'Auria, Davis, Storer and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA"