

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
RIDGEFIELD PARK
August 10, 2010
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 28, 2009 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL

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

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick.

Mayor Fosdick announced that the Board of Commissioners hired Interim Village Clerk, Deborah Fehre. Mrs. Fehre will have a three day per week schedule. He then introduced Mrs. Fehre to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Poli seconded by Commissioner Anlian to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting of July 13, 2010. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA"

SPECIAL REPORTS

Installation of Lieutenant Daniel Hippe of the Ridgefield Park Police Department.

Mayor Fosdick announced that the Lieutenant would be formally sworn in and anyone who wished to take pictures or move around should feel welcomed to do so.

Mrs. Fehre administered the Oath of Office to Lieutenant Hippe and he was pinned by his wife and children.

Lieutenant Hippe introduced his family. He thanked all for coming out and noted that it has been a nice trend lately seeing so many people attending the promotions. He thanked High School Administrators Mr. Raimondi and Mr. Kilmurry as well as the District Superintendent Dr. Richardson. They have been very good to him over the years. He thanked the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to serve the Village. In closing he thanked his wife and children for their sacrifice, as with all police officers, family birthdays and other special occasions are often missed.

Mayor Fosdick congratulated Lieutenant Hippe on his promotion. He then spoke about the Declaration of Independence and the men who put their lives and fortunes on the line for our country. He stated how important our honor is and challenged the police department to always keep their honor on duty and off duty. He then complimented the Police Department for participating in the process of accreditation and encouraged Lieutenant Hippe to continue his work toward that goal.

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Mayor Fosdick called for a brief recess at 7:48 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 7:57 p.m.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner Anlian to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,760,355.86.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter and application from Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 accept member
Christopher M. Hartless

On a motion by Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, Christopher M. Hartless was accepted as a member of the Ridgefield Park Fire Department Hook and Ladder Company #1. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

Letters from the Volunteer Ambulance Corps regarding membership changes

On a motion by Commissioner Poli, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, all membership changes for the Ridgefield Park Volunteer Ambulance Corps were accepted by the Board of Commissioners. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

HEARING OF CITIZENS

John Welsek, 31 Arthur Street

Mr. Wilson thanked the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for answering concerns of the Business Association and the Concerned Citizens of Ridgefield Park.

Elier Salizar

135 Grand Avenue

Mr. Salizar stated that he was happy with the services of the Village, however the taxes are hard to pay.

Mayor Fosdick replied that the Board of Commissioners agreed with him. He then explained the break down of the tax bill regarding the county, school, and municipal portions. He gave an overview of the major expenditures and their increases that the Village is required to pay including pensions, fire hydrants, and health insurance. He explained the cuts in State aid to municipalities which in reality these monies originally belonged to the municipalities. He then stated that the Commissioners are exploring various uses for three parcels of land on Challenger Boulevard which should alleviate some of the tax burden.

John Russo, Owner of the Bicycle Shop

Mr. Russo stated that he has renters in his building and cannot increase the rent and his taxes are increasing.

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Commissioner Anlian explained that during this economic downturn the fixed costs of the village such as benefits, pension contributions, etc continue to go up. He suggested that everyone send letters to their legislators. If the legislature receives enough letters, maybe something will happen.

Mayor Fosdick detailed the low cost of the volunteer emergency services to each tax payer. They save the Village a lot of money and therefore the Commissioners support their requests for equipment.

Commissioner Poli pointed out that the 2% budget cap mandated by the State Legislature, with the exception of the areas outside the cap, the areas of no control in the budget will eat the rest of the budget. For example; Camden is closing all of their libraries.

Mayor Fosdick added that consolidation does not improve budgetary concerns. For example; two towns sharing a Police Chief end up hiring Deputy Chiefs.

Ray Ziemba, 101 Ovepeck Avenue

Mr. Ziemba stated that the status quo is unacceptable. He asked about future grant money that may be needed to finish work in the parks.

Lloyd Domke

Mr. Domke congratulated the Board of Commissioners on Overpeck Park. He stated that the school parking lots were closed on Fourth of July. He also asked if the St. Frances School could be used for kids or seniors.

Mayor Fosdick replied that even if they could purchase the school for one dollar the maintenance costs would be too high for the Village.

Mr. Domke also asked if carnivals, or the like, may be held to support recreation programs. He stated that if kids are bored they need a place to hang out, he suggested lights at Veterans Field.

Commissioner Boyd noted that kids generally do not want to go to hang outs with supervision.

Cheryl Perrotta, 15 Union Place

Ms. Perotta suggested that private people should get together to support doing something for kids. She is willing and is sure others are as well.

Craig Veri, 50 Central Avenue

Mr. Veri asked about the three parcels of land on Challenger Boulevard.

Mayor Fosdick answered that the Commissioners were negotiating an agreement with a developer, then the economy tanked and the developer could not follow through. The Commissioners are re-advertising for proposals.

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Commissioner Anlian added that private developers building on public properties must pay prevailing wage plus accommodate affordable housing. This makes it difficult for builders to build.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Boyd read resolution number one and commented that this was one of the lowest bids received throughout the county and that Ridgefield Park received an A+ rating from Standard and Poor's.

Resolution No. 1 Accept the bid of Janney Montgomery Scott, Inc. at a bid rate of 3% in connection with the sale of General Improvement Bonds for a 15 year term.

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Anlian to approve Resolution No. 1. On roll call, commissioner Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

Mayor Fosdick announced that the following resolutions are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration.

Resolution No 2 - Support Assembly Bill 2650 and Senate Bill 1908 rescinding the Kyleih's Law decal requirement for drivers under the age of 21.

Resolution No. 3 - Approval of "Block Party" for residents of Third Street between North and Central Avenues. September 18, rain date September 25

Resolution No. 4 - Cancellation and transfer of tax payments

Resolution No. 5 - Celebration of the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 9th amendment guaranteeing women's right to vote.

Resolution No 6 - Authorize Boswell Engineering to submit application for Local Aid Grant 2011 with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in connection with the installation of sidewalks on Emerson Street and Challenger Road to connect existing sidewalks with public transportation facilities.

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill that the Consent Agenda be approved. On roll call, commissioner Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

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RECESS

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Boyd that the public meeting be recessed in order to convene a Closed Session Executive Meeting permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (4) and (7) regarding professional personnel procedures and future staff negotiations.

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 9:17 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commissioners returned to open session to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

/s/John H. Anlian
Commissioner

/s/Margaret R. Boyd
Commissioner

/s/ Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/ George D. Fosdick
Mayor

/s/ Deborah L. Fehre
Interim Village Clerk