

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
October 12, 2021
7:30 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 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 and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Anlian. There was a moment of silent thought for Richard Burke.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$3,126,343.50.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken stated an alternate vendor may have to be used for the boardwalk.

Commissioner Olson stated the Wanda Canoe Club is hosting a river clean-up on Sunday at 9am. Volunteers are encouraged. Notice will be placed on the website.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Noel Cote, resident, thanked the Police Department for placing a crossing guard at Teaneck Road and Preston Street.

Last Wednesday, he noticed Mayor Anlian and George Gosen checking trees – Mr. Cote thanked them.

Mr. Olson inquired about Resolution 2021-104, Artistic Services Contract and if the arts committee made the decision on what vendor to use. Commissioner Olson advised the arts committee was not utilized in the decision. The project was given to Steve Quinn and the Environmental Commission. Greg Napolitan is the only vendor to do it in the specified time frame; he is not the cheapest.

Mr. Cote asked if the Arts Committee posts their meeting schedule. Commissioner Olson responded there aren’t regular scheduled meetings. Mr. Cote stated if they are making decisions/spending Village money; there should be a record of meetings.

Mr. Cote stated he understands the Board of Education is a separate entity; however; he inquired if the Commissioners could appoint a person to attend the BOE meetings – the BOE members are playing games and not putting info out to the residents.

October 12, 2021

Joan Carlson, resident, stated she heard that an email was sent out 2 hours before the arts meeting. Ms. Carlson stated she can't see justifying this money being spent on carvings when seniors are suffering. Money is being spent foolishly.

Ms. Carlson asked about the repaving of Main Street. Commissioner Olson stated it is in the plans for next summer.

Tom Christiansen, resident, asked how much money is in the arts budget and how much has been spent so far. Commissioner Olson advised he didn't have the exact budget number but most of the funds have been spent.

Roberts Elshetwy, resident, stated the walnut tree, in front of his house, is dropping walnuts on people and cars. Attorney Boggia advised the Shade Tree Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over this issue. Mayor Anlian suggested he attend the next STC meeting. Mr. Elshetwy wants the tree pruned or cut down. He also asked who will cover the damages to vehicles. Attorney Boggia stated that is an insurance issue. Mayor Anlian stated he will talk to the STC tomorrow. Mr. Elshetwy also stated the sidewalk safety vendor is terrible. The sidewalks are not level after tree roots are trimmed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Anlian 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:

- 2021-103 Approve Tax Appeal Settlement – 245 Main Street, 55 Webster Street and 11 Poplar Street
- 2021-104 Award Artistic Services Contract – Nature Preserve Tree Sculpture
- 2021-105 Oppose S-3810/A-5862 State Legislation
- 2021-106 Appoint Shade Tree Commission Associate Member
- 2021-107 Authorize Commissioner Olson to execute NJ CSO Cooperative Pricing Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal, that the consent agenda be approved.

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

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Anlian read the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus proclamation.

CLOSED SESSION

- 2021-108 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, 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

October 12, 2021

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:17 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:15 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 9:15 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 January 11, 2022