

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
October 13, 2020
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 31, 2019 and was posted on the Municipal Website and Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Absent: Commissioner Gerken

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Portorreal, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular and Closed Session Meetings of August 11, 2020 and the Commissioners Regular Meeting of September 8, 2020.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gerken

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$3,926,226.61.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gerken

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Olson advised he received Sustainable Jersey feedback. The Village will probably obtain “silver” status this year. We have been awarded 305 points and need 350 for silver. We currently have bronze status.

Commissioner MacNeill advised he will be meeting with the CFO, Auditor, Mayor tomorrow to discuss the 2021 budget and revenue shortfalls.

Mayor Anlian stated Ridgefield Park is in a situation with NJ Transit regarding a takeover of property. They would like to build a bus depot on property currently owned by UBS Bank. The Board of Commissioners is in opposition and needs help. Senator Sarlo is trying to help us. We need residents to write letters and send emails to our legislators.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Denise Santana Morales, resident, stated NJ Transit is making Ridgefield Park a garage. She is organizing a team and invites all to help and make our voices heard. With 1, we cannot stop it but together we can. She has ideas but needs the town to join forces.

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Francisco Donoruma, resident, stated he is disturbed that no environmental study has been done on this. Mayor Anlian stated NJ Transit hasn't given the Village any documentation. Mayor Anlian added because of Frank's actions, a development is not happening.

Walter Richter, resident, added that the northwest corner of the property in question looks like a junkyard.

Janet Malool, resident, stopped a cell tower from going on the High School roof. She was told you can't fight Verizon. She OPRA'd 18 months of contracts and found a loophole. The Arts Association received a small grant to provide a vendor's event to assist businesses affected by COVID -19 and give residents an avenue to get out. Profits would be split between the RP Arts Association and St. Francis Food Pantry. Would like to use Fellowship Park for the event. The Arts Association has insurance but for each vendor needing insurance is creating an issue. Phil Boggia will contact Matt McArow.

Jashaun Sadler, resident, thanked Mayor Anlian for acknowledging his petition. Racism is an issue in this town and nationally. Mr. Sadler added that when he arrived at the last meeting, he was told it was over and the Board of Commissioners were going into closed session. He felt this was an element of disrespect – the town needs unity. Mayor Anlian advised some meetings can only take 3 minutes depending on the agenda. Commissioner Olson stated the Commissioners meetings are required to start on time. To insure he will be heard, he should get to the meetings by 7:30.

Paul Boranian Jr., resident, stated at the demonstration prior to this past Saturday, people in the group almost got run over. He asked if cars with hazards can protect the protestors if the police department is not available. He wants to make sure everyone is safe in this continuous effort. Ridgefield Park is very patriotic and would like to have more representation of other diverse groups displayed in the Village.

Malik Sadler, resident, stated it is important to have the Police presence. People are saying hateful things to the protesting group. He also made reference to the last meeting and was told it was over – couldn't the Board of Commissioners have waited. Mayor Anlian advised the Board was in closed session, which means the public is not permitted to be present. He apologized it worked out that the meeting was over when they arrived.

Jazline Sadler, resident, asked what NJ Transit is planning to do. Mayor Anlian stated although he hasn't seen any plans, to his understanding a facility to maintain 500 buses.

Walter Richter, resident, inquired on the status of the 2 parcels on Main Street/Preston Street. Mayor Anlian responded, as he understands it, that property owner is not building an apartment building and plans to build 1 large house. Mr. Richter also stated his neighbor's backyard is pavers – done without a permit – now pouring cement and the yard is full of vehicles.

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Jessica Greco, resident, asked if there is a date of the prospective construction of NJ Transit and the financial impact. Mayor Anlian advised the Village will lose \$1.3 million in taxes next year and possibly \$700,000.00 this year – taxes will most certainly increase. Ms. Greco stated she was at the March last Saturday. Cars were literally driving around her stroller – very dangerous conditions. Chief Rella stated he will try to dedicate an officer to the “march” but to be careful on the route/streets you choose. Mayor Anlian commented that marching on main avenues is unfair to businesses that rely on customers. Paul Boranian stated he was sorry for the inconvenience for those 10 minutes – people are dying.

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:

- 2020-133 Appoint Green Team Members
- 2020-134 Appoint Planning Board Member
- 2020-135 Appoint Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officers
- 2020-136 Objection to the New Jersey Transit Northern Bus Garage Project

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

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

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

- 2020-05 AN ORDINANCE FIXING COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS &
EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK FOR YEAR 2020

The clerk presented affidavit of publication, showing that advertisement had been made according to law, which was ordered filed. Commissioner MacNeill moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner Olson. So ordered. Commissioner MacNeill read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner MacNeill then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

After ample opportunity was given, no interested parties commented on the ordinance.

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading and final passage, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Olson and adopted upon a call of the roll.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson to adjourn.

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

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Abstain
Commissioner Gerken

/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 November 24, 2020