

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**September 8, 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 Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian in the

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Anlian.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$5,035,069.65.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Ridgefield Park Fire Department Engine Co. No. 4 – New Member**

**Ridgefield Park Fire Department Hook & Ladder Co. No. 2 – New Member**

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, Danny Kim and Joseph Sawoszczyk were accepted as new members of the Village of Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department subject to approval by the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

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

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Olson advised Art Mora would like to hold an Art Fair on November 14, 2020 in the Cedar Street parking lot.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Matthew Reber, resident, understands that Ridgefield Park does not have body cameras due to budget restraints. He does not have any issues with the Police Department. He feels it is imperative to do what is best for the community. Having body cameras will further re-affirm the position of Ridgefield Park – set a good example for others.

Jashaun Sadler, resident, stated he is reaffirming what Matt Reber said. He would like the Commissioners be pro-active instead of reactive. He would like to see our leaders share the same urgency. He has started a petition, via change.org, for an Antiracist RP School District. The petition has over 800 signatures. He emailed to both Mayor Anlian and Superintendent Bender and has not received a response. He would like to create a world with respect and create justice for all people. Mayor Anlian asked Mr. Sadler to resend his email since he does not recall receiving it.

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Mayor Anlian responded to Mr. Sadler's remarks and stated the points he is making are very good and that his children should be proud. He also stated the Police Chief is working on the body camera issue and the Village simply not ignoring you.

Malik Sadler, resident, stated for a diverse town, it doesn't show in his teachers. Teachers have not talked to students about what has happened with George Floyd and the others. Mayor Anlian stated the Village does not hire people based on their race, ethnicity. They are hired by their education and qualifications.

Jazline Sadler, resident, stated she feels that the teachers don't care about what happened. Mayor Anlian told Ms. Sadler she is very well spoken and her father should be proud. He reassured Ms. Sadler that Superintendent Bender does care about all the students in the school system and that the Board of Education administers the school system.

Ruisa Sylvestri, resident, stated we need teachers of good quality. Mayor Anlian again stated the Board of Commissioners is not involved with the Board of Education. The Board of Education is a separate board.

Thomas Vercelli, resident, stated there is power in numbers. The reason he is here is there seems to be a lack of enthusiasm of what is of concern. He would like to see more pro-activeness. He believes it seems to be a question of privilege. The Board of Commissioners might not see the sense of urgency of body cameras. Are the police taking into account how others feel?

Commissioner Gerken stated there is currently a bill on the Governor's desk to sign to make body cameras mandatory. It was passed by the Assembly and State.

Paulie Boranian Jr., resident, advised they continue to do this because they feel it is important to have at least a weekly protest. 2 people that have been to their protests have been threatened with gun shooting gestures because of the color of their skin. There are instances of people coming to Ridgfield Park and are being threatened. He feels it is important for these discussions to continue. They will continue attending these meeting.

Corey Klein, UBS Bank reminded the Board of Commissioners that formal action cannot be taken in closed session. Attorney Boggia advised the Board of Commissioner is aware.

### **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:**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 2020-118 | Authorize Police Department to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program |
| 2020-119 | Authorize Expenditure of Fire Prevention Dedicated Funds   |
| 2020-120 | Authorize Tax Lien Redemptions   |
| 2020-121 | Approve Refund of Taxes due to Qualifying Property Tax Exemption   |
| 2020-122 | Authorize Use of Village Property  |
| 2020-123 | Authorize Police Department to Dispose of Property via Online Auction  |

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

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

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

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

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner MacNeill read the said ordinance by title.

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading, published in the Record Newspaper and posted on the Village Bulletin Board by the Village Clerk. The public hearing will be held on September 22, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Olson.

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

**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 9:02 p.m.

Absent  
Commissioner Gerken

/s/Adam A. MacNeill  
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson  
Commissioner

/s/Wanda C. Portorreal  
Commissioner

/s/ Tara O’Grady  
Village Clerk  
Approved on October 13, 2020

/s/John H. Anlian  
Mayor