

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
January 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.

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Health Crisis, this meeting was held via Zoom call.

ROLL CALL

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

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent; Joseph 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 Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of November 24, 2020.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$2,721,964.20.

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

SPECIAL REPORTS

Installation of Ridgefield Park Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Officers.

Commissioner Olson asked Chief Weidner to give his annual report. In the Chief’s absence, Sylvio Zapata read the Chief’s report. As per the Chief’s report, the Ambulance Corps. responded to approximately 517 emergency calls which was an increase of 111 from last year. The Ambulance Corps. has 70 members comprised of Life, Probationary, Associate, Reserve, and Youth Members. Training continues to be a top priority, even more so with COVID-19. The Ambulance Corps. thanked the Board of Commissioners, Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, OEM, DPW and the Village Clerk’s office.

Mrs. O’Grady administered the Oaths of Office to the Administrative Officers.

Mrs. O’Grady administered the Oaths of Office to the Assistant Chiefs.

Mrs. O’Grady administered the Oath of Office to Chief Nagurka.

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Commissioner Olson thanked the Ambulance Corps. for all they do, especially this year. They give a tremendous amount of time and the Village is grateful.

Mayor Anlian also thanked all the members and congratulated the new officers. He added, volunteers are the glue that keeps the Village moving forward. Thank you personally for what you've done and will do. Hope 2021 is better.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Sharon Strowbridge, resident, stated the islands on Overpeck Avenue need to be dealt with. The islands are not being maintained and cars parked on Overpeck are getting hit – islands too wide. Her complaint is the islands, not the DPW. The islands need to be addressed and the road is terrible. She called the DPW and was told they are not maintaining the islands because landscapers are dumping their leaves on the islands.

Mayor Anlian agreed with Ms. Strowbridge. He stated the Grand Avenue islands were narrowed 15-20 years ago. The difference between the streets is that Grand Avenue was asphalt while Overpeck Avenue is concrete. This year and next year, the Village will be tackling a financial crisis but will put Overpeck Avenue on the priority list. He also stated he was not aware the DPW was not maintaining the islands.

Commissioner Olson advised that the DPW Superintendent was in attendance. He knew the DPW was pushing back on residents dumping their yard waste on the islands. Supt. Monroe stated there is no policy in place for the DPW not to maintain the islands. Supt. Monroe added the biggest issue of Overpeck Avenue is cost.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Olson stated he received a letter which stated a DPW truck was sighted at a private house. Commissioner Olson stated the truck was being utilized by a volunteer 1st Responder. 1st Responders are entitled to utilize DPW trucks when doing home renovations - this is one of the few perks our volunteer 1st Responders have in town and the Commissioners are looking for others as a way to thank them. Commissioner Olson also stated a garbage truck and bus were recently sold at auction. The exhaust system at the Ambulance Corps has failed – will need a new system.

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:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2021-07 | Approve Inter-local Services Agreement for Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force |
| 2021-08 | Appoint Emergency Management Council |
| 2021-09 | Appoint Environmental Commission Members |

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

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

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CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2021-10 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Mayor Anlian seconded by Commissioner Gerken, 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 (7, 8) Legal Matters, Personnel

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:15p.m.

On a motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Tara O'Grady
Village Clerk

Approved on February 9, 2021

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor