

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**April 13, 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 MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Absent: Commissioner Gerken

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; 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 Olson, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of March 23, 2021.

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 Olson to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$6,145,550.50.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gerken

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Ridgefield Park Fire Department Hose Co. No. 3 – New Member**

Motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill, Daniel Klima was accepted as a new member of the Village of Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department subject to approval by the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gerken

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Olson advised Boswell Engineering looked at the gazebo in McGowan Park since seems to be leaning. It doesn’t appear to be as bad as it looks – will know more in a few weeks.

**PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION**

Commissioner Olson read and presented Frank Donaruma with the Artist Laurette proclamation.

Mayor Anlian stated that Frank is a good example when 1 person takes action – on behalf of the community thank you and congratulations.

## **HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Frank Donaruma, resident, stated he has been an activist most of his life. Ridgefield Park has a looming disaster with the bus depot and impending health implications. The residents need to go to Trenton, write letters to the Governor. Our children and elderly need to be protected. He is sending a letter to NJ Transit's architect for the environmental study. If the bus depot is built, he will move.

Joe Kenney, resident, asked if the bus depot is any benefit to Ridgefield Park.

Mayor Anlian advised the Village has 3 lawsuits against NJ Transit – not optimistic. Odds of winning are not that good. NJ Transit stated they will work with the Village but we haven't heard anything. Sen. Sarlo advised he will help us – the Village is down \$1 million in tax revenue. He will do a reverse 911 call to encourage residents to write the Governor and sign the petition.

Giselle Halloway, resident, inquired if the Environmental Impact Study is required, by law, to be made public. Mayor Anlian advised the document would need to be made public if asked for it via OPRA.

Will the newsletter be brought back – perhaps a cheaper version for the residents not on social media? Mayor Anlian advised to hopefully get something out by the summer.

Noel Cote, resident, stated the Village is wasting money on “art” - the tree carving in Veterans Park and the sculpture in McGowan Park. He has nothing against art as long as you can recognize what it is. There are safety issues in the Village that could have been addressed with that money – bad intersections in town, speed limit issues, parking issues. He also stated the Commissioners need to communicate more to the public.

Francis Cavallone's house on Bergen Turnpike – mulberry tree fell and half of it is in the river, the other half on the property – should be asked to clean it up.

Mr. Cote inquired about the re-assessment procedure.

Commissioner Olson stated the money for the tree carving came from DPW overtime saved for not cleaning Main Street after a snowstorm.

Walter Richter, resident, stated Hazelton Street is become a speedway – can't see in intersections. If the Village is losing \$1 million in tax revenue, why bonding for nature trail when we don't have the money. Mayor Anlian stated this project has been in the planning stages for years – the Village received some grant money to fund it.

Mr. Richter asked if the mural is still going to be painted on Grove Street and the cost? Commissioner Olson stated eventually at a cost of approximately \$3-\$6 thousand dollars, but Grove Street would have to be paved.

Joan Carlson, resident, stated she agrees with Mr. Cote. Instead of spending money on pieces of art, the parks need improvements. Make Ridgefield Park back to the town I grew up in.

Main Street, across from IGA, is extremely dangerous – any plans to pave?

Commissioner Olson stated an “Adopt a Park” program will be starting up in the near future and there are plans to pave Main Street next year.

Janet Malool, resident, stated she was notified Bank of America is closing. The Village will not have a bank, which is a concern – anything being done to attract banks to the Village?

Commissioner MacNeill stated unfortunately a lot of people don't go to the bank anymore – they have direct deposit and online bill paying.

Commissioner Olson advised a tree has been painted in Fellowship Park – 3<sup>rd</sup> time this has happened. If someone see something, please report it.

**April 13, 2021**

**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:**

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2021-48 Authorize Tax Lien Redemption  
2021-49 Authorize Tax Lien Redemption  
2021-50 Appoint Library Board Trustee  
2021-51 Appoint Pool Commission Members

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, that the consent agenda be approved.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gerken

**CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2021-52 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Olson 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

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

Absent: Commissioner Gerken

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:40 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:03 p.m.

**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 9:03 p.m.

**April 13, 2021**

Abstain

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 April 27, 2021

/s/ John H. Anlian

Mayor