

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**June 9, 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 Bulletin Board.

**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.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$3,433,113.60.

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

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner MacNeill stated he hopes restaurants take advantage of outdoor dining. Tables are permitted on the sidewalk and the Village will be closing parking on the west side of Main Street to allow the restaurants more table space. MK Valencia is starting to put their tables out. Ridgefield Avenue restaurants are also opening for outdoor dining.

Commissioner Gerken stated Mike Mitchell will be planting Saturday morning. The plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July are still a work in progress – will keep everyone updated.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

John Rafferty, resident, inquired on the status of the municipal pool opening. He stated parents are concerned with their children being cooped up for 3 months. What can we do to make this happen? Commissioner MacNeill advised guidelines were received today from the State and there will be a meeting with the Pool Commission. Mr. Rafferty announced he will donate 4 music events at the pool.

Joyce Batchelor, resident, stated she felt the decision to close the pool for the season was issued prematurely. The pool is a service for the community and for some, it is their summer vacation. Kids need socialization a to learn to swim. Parents are willing to pay full membership costs. Summer camps also need to open. Kids need summer jobs. The children need an escape from the “new-normal”. Commissioner MacNeill agreed 100%. Mayor Anlian advised the State did not give any indication that pools would open when the announcement of not opening the pool was given. Commissioner Olson added the message that summer camps were not opening was miscommunication. The Village will try to open Summer Recreation and do as much as we can.

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Janet Malool, resident, inquired if the Street Fair was still going to be held? Mayor Anlian stated some State Fairs have been cancelled – we will wait a little longer and see what happens.

Sharon Strowbridge, resident, stated her daughter is a lifeguard at the pool. If the pool doesn't open, the lifeguards will not have jobs. Many children go to the pool. She asked if the pool not opening was due to budget issues. Mayor Anlian advised the pool is supposed to be self-sustaining and hasn't been for years – the Commissioners will look at it seriously.

Sharon Ramirez, resident and manager of the Ridgefield Pool stated since March she and Charlie Ferraro have been attending pool meetings with the Pool Association. The guidelines released today by the State were less than anticipated. Chlorine kills COVID. Pools can open with 50% capacity and Ridgefield Park doesn't get that under normal circumstances. Charlie has worked countless hours and the decision to not open the pool was made without consulting anyone. Charlie is an amazing asset to Ridgefield Park. Ridgefield is opening their pool on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. People have no place to go – the pool is a wonderful place to go. If the pool doesn't open this year, it will never open again. Ms. Ramirez stated she did not receive a response to her email that was sent to the Pool Secretary and Commissioner MacNeill – she had an incorrect email address for Commissioner MacNeill.

Janet Malool stated the Community Gardens only have 3 plots left for planting. She added the tennis courts at Fellowship Park have been packed – tennis players are not abiding by the Governor's guidelines. Commissioner Portorreal will revisit the signage at the park.

### **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:**

- 2020-078 Appoint South Bergen Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner
- 2020-079 Approve Grant Application and Grant Contract with NJ DOT for Main Street Improvements
- 2020-080 Approve Grant Application and Grant Contract with NJ DOT for Emerson Street Improvements
- 2020-081 Authorize Special Law Enforcement Officer III's Agreement

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".

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2020-082 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, 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) Development of Meadowlands

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

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The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:10 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:06 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Portorreal, 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 9:06 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken  
Commissioner

Absent  
Commissioner

Absent  
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal  
Commissioner

/s/ Tara O’Grady

Village Clerk

Approved on July 14, 2020

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor