

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
June 23, 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 and Village Website.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular and Closed Session Meetings of May 26, 2020

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken stated the public hearing for the Bergen County Trust Fund Grant will take place of June 30th - \$180,000.00 for the Nature Trail. Magnetic signs have been ordered for the 4th of July.

Commissioner Portorreal stated pool memberships are coming in. July 4th is opening day for the pool.

Commissioner Olson advised Summer Rec registration is tonight and tomorrow. Concerts in the Park are starting July 1 – K of C will not be used for inclement weather due to COVID. Need to look for additional areas to hang banners that are hung across Main Street.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

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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|----------|---|
| 2020-083 | Authorize Inclusion in Bergen County Community Development Program |
| 2020-084 | Authorize Execution of an Agreement with the County of Bergen to Supersede the Cooperative Agreement Dated July 1, 2000 and Amendments Thereto Establishing the Bergen County Community Development Program |
| 2020-085 | Authorize Estimated Third Quarter Tax Bills |

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RESOLUTIONS (cont.):

- 2020-086 Authorize Application to Bergen County Open Space for Improvements to Nature Preserve
- 2020-087 Approve Tax Appeal Settlement – 65-67, 78 Mt. Vernon Street
- 2020-088 Authorize Street Closure for Block Party – Gordon Street
- 2020-089 Authorize Mayor to sign Bergen County Municipal Snow Plowing Agreement
- 2020-090 Authorize Termination of Community Healthcare Associates as Conditional Redeveloper

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”.

DISCUSSION

RP Fire Department

Mayor Anlian addressed the Fire Department and thanked them for coming to discuss the possible consolidation of the Fire Department structure. Currently the Village has 6 firehouses for 6 fire companies. The proposal would consist of the 6 firehouses consolidating to 1 or 2 firehouses. The preliminary location is the old Boswell building on Mt. Vernon Street, across the street from Hose Co. No. 1. All fire companies would consolidate and create 1 non-profit Fire Department agency. Since the companies technically own their firehouses, all companies would deed over the firehouses to the Village. The properties would be sold to offset the cost of the new firehouse. Each fire company must be in agreement to start the process. Mayor Anlian added he was shocked with the initial proposal but does agree it makes sense. All representatives in attendance tonight need to go back to their individual fire company and discuss/vote.

Commissioner Gerken stated they don’t want to start the project and come to a roadblock – want to make sure the entire department is in agreement.

Michael Alberque stated he did look at the building, including the old pizza parlor building, and is pretty confident there will be sufficient room for the fire station. In the long run, this would be a cost savings to the Village. Loans were taken out by each fire company to modify their buildings for the apparatus. New guidelines would be put in place with a new building.

Justin DePena asked if the individual firehouses would be responsible if contaminants were found – Village’s responsibility, no liability to firehouses. He also stated it make more sense to have 2 locations, 1 north and 1 south within the Village.

Connor O’Grady asked if the company votes had to be unanimous or majority – majority vote within each company; unanimous vote of all companies or would be a dead deal.

John Malool asked about the Fire Department mortgages – mortgages would be cancelled.

Ricky Pickett asked if there would be a rendering of the new building to present to each company – no, still in preliminary stages.

Mayor Anlian stated the Board of Commissioners would like to know the outcome of the companies’ votes within 30 days.

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CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2020-091 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, 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 Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted "YEA".

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:09 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, 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 8:12 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 August 11, 2020

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor