

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
September 14, 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 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. There was a moment of silent thought for Ed Ballard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of August 10, 2021.

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

Abstain: Commissioner Portorreal

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Gerken to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$3,298,173.71.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken thanked all who attended the 9/11 ceremony. Progress is being made on the Nature Preserve project.

Commissioner Olson stated the McGowan Park gazebo was straightened today. DPW is doing work at the Nature Preserve site – tree needs to be removed. Great opportunity for another tree carving. The VFW building is unsafe – probably needs to be razed. The medallion on the center of the floor (Overpeck Boat Club) can be preserved.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

MaryAnn Grater, resident stated vehicles are making illegal left hand turns at the Rte. 46, Ridgefield Avenue intersection. Car horns are constantly honking and are triggering panic attacks. She has contacted the Police Department and has been told there is nothing they can do. In July, a car ended up on her lawn.

Chief Rella stated someone will be in touch with her and will look into it. The difficulty of the situation is that they can’t possibly have a patrol car sit there all day.

Ms. Grater stated perhaps “No U-Turn” signs may be helpful.

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Joan Carlson, resident, stated Jose Viso, who is running for State Assembly, will be in front of the IGA on Saturday.

Ms. Carlson inquired if the tree carving in Veterans Park needed to be repaired. Commissioner Olson stated it needed to dry out, sanded and tongue oiled.

Ms. Carlson stated the bugle carving on Main Street is cracking now and asked the cost.

Commissioner Olson stated \$1,000.00 and not everyone is going to agree on every project the Village does.

Ms. Carlson stated the VFW had a campaign to get underwear for Veterans. At the 11th hour, the PBA came through and donated a large amount – Thank you RPPD.

Noel Cote, resident, asked if Greg Napolitan did the bugle sculpture and if all money spent on art is taxpayer's money.

Commissioner Olson stated Mr. Napolitan did not carve the bugle and the arts budget is \$30,000.

Mr. Cote stated less than 1% of the Village population made a decision to spend \$10,000 on the tree carving in Veterans Park and that is wrong. Sometimes money spent, isn't spent wisely.

Ms. Carlson added the people in Ridgefield Park would like to see Main Street improved.

Mr. Cote thanked Mayor Anlian and Commissioner Gerken for the 9/11 ceremony.

Jay Andrade, resident, stated he is new to the Village. He got water in his basement and a sewage back up with the last storm. Mayor Anlian advised he should talk to a plumber since it sounds like he doesn't have a check valve – not unusual in old houses.

Sharon Strowbridge, resident, stated her car got hit again on Overpeck Avenue. Something needs to be done with the islands, the speeding and the road itself (grass is growing in the road, potholes). The upkeep of the islands was not good this year – snow removal, leaves. The Poplar Street steps to Veterans Park were not cleared of snow this past winter. Snow plowing is not close to the islands – residents parked their vehicles on their lawns.

Commissioner MacNeill stated Overpeck Avenue improvements are on the burner – big number for repairs since it is a concrete road.

Tom Christiansen, resident, stated he never heard of the Village spending \$10,000 - \$15,000 on art before. There are people in town trying to make ends meet when you are spending money on art.

Jennifer Schmitt, resident, asked the Commissioners if they would pass a resolution opposing governors mandating masking and vaccines.

Olga Rios, resident, added to Ms. Schmitt's request by adding that masking is affecting mental and physical health in children. Children are more depressed. Executive orders are controlling people.

Mayor Anlian stated this is good example of why the United States is a great country – residents coming to a meeting and speaking about their concerns. The Board of Commissioners will try to address most of your issues.

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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:

- 2021-96 Approve Tax Appeal Settlement – 116 Hudson Avenue
- 2021-97 Approve Tax Appeal Settlement – 422-430 Teaneck Road
- 2021-98 Appoint Bergen County Community Development Representatives
- 2021-99 Recognize September 2021 as “Hunger Action Month”

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

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

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

- 2021-12 AN ORDINANCE FIXING COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS &
EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK FOR YEAR 2021

The clerk presented affidavit of publication, showing that advertisement had been made according to law, which was ordered filed. Commissioner MacNeill moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner Gerken. So ordered. Commissioner MacNeill read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner MacNeill then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading and final passage, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Gerken and adopted upon a call of the roll.

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

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 8:30 p.m.

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/s/William G. Gerken
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson
Commissioner

Absent
Commissioner Portorreal

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor

/s/Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on December 14, 2021