

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
April 25, 2023
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 29, 2022 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 Meeting of March 14, 2023 and Closed Session Meeting of March 14, 2023.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised the Nature Walk held on April 22nd was successful.

April 29th – planting at the Nature Preserve

May 20th – Earth Day

June 3rd – 10am Grand Opening Ceremony of the Nature Preserve

July 5th – fireworks rain date

Commissioner Olson advised he is attending the Film Association meeting this Friday.

He will be attending a seminar on parklets.

The Arts Association will be hosting an event on Saturday night.

Commissioner Olson attended a DEP meeting last Friday – new DEP rule: when you touch a sub-base of a road, you must capture 80% of total suspended solids. You must put infrastructure in the ground.

The Village’s CSO permit will take a couple of months to amend, permit will have separation and tanks.

The paper shredding and hard plastic collection was successful.

No Mow May – in support of bees, Village residents do not have to mow their lawns for the month of May. Residents will need to register and obtain signage for their lawn. They will not incur any fines for high grass. This will be publicized on Social Media.

Commissioner Portorreal advised Little League’s opening day was successful.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Tom Christiansen, resident, was very upset that the Hose Co. No. 1 picture was taken off the courtroom wall and replaced with a sculpture. Hose Co. No. 1 is the oldest fire company in the Village and it shouldn't have been moved. Commissioner Olson stated the intention was to put it above or below the artwork.

Giselle Holloway, resident and Vice-Chair of the RP Arts Association, stated the Arts Association had heard that the Board of Commissioners are considering moving the Summer Artsfest from Grove and Main Streets to Main Street, south of Mt. Vernon Street. Mayor Anlian advised the Artsfest was placed on Grove Street to help assist the surrounding businesses. The businesses south of Mt. Vernon Street were excluded. IGA loses business due to this event.

Karen Purpura, resident, stated she met with the owner of IGA and suggested he set up a food cart for the event. She suggested to have a different event south of Mt. Vernon Street since Grove Street works well. Chief Rella stated closing Main Street and re-routing buses are big inconveniences to a lot of people.

Janet Malool, resident, advised the Arts Association is now receiving grants for the event. The businesses and restaurants don't get supported for the Street Fair. She compared the businesses on Main Street – north and south of Mt. Vernon Street. IGA has two entrances – only asking to close one. Each event has its own personality – maybe something else can be suitable south of Mt. Vernon Street.

Commissioner Olson asked why they are unwilling to move the Artsfest. Ms. Holloway stated without having the show-mobile this year, the quality of the event will be less. You have to try to eliminate as many question marks as you can.

Terry Robinson, resident, stated she is an event planner and the event must be ADA compliant. There will be many issues if the event is moved, mainly, re-creating a successful event in a new space.

Tom Olcott, resident, stated there are enthusiastic businesses where the Artsfest is currently held. South of Mt. Vernon Street, there is little activity. It is not conducive to change the location and suggests to leave it where it is.

Marla Gonzalez, resident, stated the Arts Association is made up of a group of volunteers. Giselle Holloway puts in hours of writing grants. Bergen County increased the grant money significantly. We can't put on a sub-par program. Ms. Gonzalez asked for some respect. They want to give back to the Village and make it a better place – make Ridgefield Park a destination.

Mayor Anlian stated everything done in Ridgefield Park is done by volunteers. The Commissioners will discuss this issue and Commissioner Olson will get back to the Arts Association.

Anthony Salvini, new resident to Ridgefield Park, stated his first introduction to Ridgefield Park was the Artsfest and that is the reason why he moved to Ridgefield Park. He hopes the events stays the same.

April 25, 2023

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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| 2023-69 | Authorize 2023 Temporary Capital Budget |
| 2023-70 | Authorize transfer of the General Assistance Program to Bergen County Board of Special Services |
| 2023-71 | Authorize Grant Application to the Bergen County Trust Fund – Hunter Park |
| 2023-72 | Authorize No Mow May |

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

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

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

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| 2023-03 | AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) |
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Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner MacNeill read the said ordinance by title.

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading, published in the Record Newspaper and posted on the Village Bulletin Board by the Village Clerk. The public hearing will be held on May 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gerken.

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

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| 2023-04 | BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE RESURACING OF SUMMIT STREET (FROM RAILROAD AVENUE TO LINCOLN AVENUE) IN, BY AND FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$250,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS. |
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Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner MacNeill read the said ordinance by title.

April 25, 2023

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading, published in the Record Newspaper and posted on the Village Bulletin Board by the Village Clerk. The public hearing will be held on May 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gerken.

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

2023-05 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE RESURACING OF MAIN STREET (FROM SUMMIT STREET TO NORTH AVENUE) IN, BY AND FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$425,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner MacNeill read the said ordinance by title.

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading, published in the Record Newspaper and posted on the Village Bulletin Board by the Village Clerk. The public hearing will be held on May 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gerken.

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

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Anlian read the Mental Health Awareness Month and Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day Proclamations.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2022-73 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, 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 (7) Legal Matters

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 9:00 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:36 p.m.

April 25, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Mayor Anlian to adjourn.

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

/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 May 9, 2023