

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**June 22, 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 Maureen Gibbs.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of May 25, 2021.

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

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Gerken advised tomorrow is the 2<sup>nd</sup> clinic for COVID 19 vaccinations at the Civic Center – 18 people were vaccinated at the 1<sup>st</sup> one. The Rabies Clinic is Thursday at the DPW from 7pm to 9pm. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> – preparations are moving forward.

Commissioner Olson stated the 1<sup>st</sup> concert is Saturday in Ferris Park.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Joan Carlson, resident, read a statement to the Board of Commissioners regarding a situation that occurred with the Ambulance Corps. while responding to a call for Sonny Yotka. Sonny Yotka has volunteered in this Village for 70 years and was advised by the Ambulance Corps., after the second call to his home, that they could not come back to his home that day.

Tom Christianson, resident, was appalled on how a man who served this community for 70 years can be treated that way.

Noel Cote, resident, inquired if alcohol is permitted in the park when an organization takes out a permit to rent it out. He was advised the Village’s policy is the organization is permitted to bring alcohol.

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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:**

- 2021-71 Request Dedication by Rider – Celebration of Public Events Donations
- 2021-72 Authorize Expenditure of Fire Prevention Dedicated Funds
- 2021-73 Authorize Creation of Village Creative Team
- 2021-74 Authorize Street Closure for Block Party – Gordon Street
- 2021-75 Authorize Street Closure for Block Party – Highland Place
- 2021-76 Approve Liquor License Renewals
- 2021-77 Approve Grant Application and Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Overpeck Avenue, Preston Street and East Grand Avenue Improvements Project
- 2021-78 Approve Grant Application and Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Main Street, Summit Street and Park Street Improvements Project
- 2021-79 Approve Amended Settlement Agreement with Fair Share Housing Center

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, 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 & ADOPTION**

- 2021-08 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 96, “ZONING,” OF THE VILLAGE CODE TO PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES.

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

Noel Cote inquired if the ordinance will prohibit the use of cannabis. The Commissioners advised the ordinance does not prohibit the use but will prohibit sales.

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

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

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

- 2021-09 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK REPEALING CHAPTER 346, “TAXATION,” ARTICLE I, “TAX ABATEMENT ON ADDED ASSESSMENTS,” DUE TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO ITS TERMS

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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 July 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Olson.

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

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

2021-10 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTERS 108, 188 AND 197 TO UPDATE AND REVISE CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED TO FIRE INSPECTIONS, FIRE ALARMS, FIRE WATCHES AND PARKING IN FIRE LANES AND NEAR FIRE HYDRANTS

Mayor Anlian moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Mayor Anlian read the said ordinance by title.

Mayor Anlian 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 July 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Olson.

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

**PROCLAMATION**

Ridgefield Park-Bogota Rotary Club 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Commissioner Gerken read the proclamation. The proclamation will be presented at the fireworks program on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2021-80 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, 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 7:47 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:18 p.m.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Gerken to adjourn.

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:18 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 August 10, 2021