

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
RIDGEFIELD PARK
May 25, 2010
7:30 PM

Mayor Fosdick 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, 2009 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL*****

Those present were Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick in the Chair.

FLAG SALUTE*****

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES*****

Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 11, 2010. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, McNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

SPECIAL REPORTS*****

Mayor Fosdick read a Proclamation for Click It Or Ticket.

Mayor Fosdick announced that tonight we would be swearing in Sergeant Joseph Rella. The swearing in would be by Acting Village Clerk, Mrs. Pettit. He turned the meeting over to Captain Rose, who said tonight there will be the promotion of Joe Rella to Sergeant. Captain Rose said in 2000 he was made Lieutenant and became involved in police administration with Chiefs Lee and Ahrlich. He said he had hands on with then new Police Officers Joseph Rella, Brian Hippe and Chris Thibault.

Acting Clerk Mrs. Pettit swore in Sergeant Rella and he was pinned by his wife.

Sgt. Rella introduced his parents, grandmother, his wife, his sons JJ and Brody and all the members of his family who were present. He invited everyone to a celebration at the 101 Pub.

Mayor Fosdick spoke on behalf of the Commissioners. He said most of you know I have special interest in history. He quoted Winston Churchill, particularly for Sgt. Rella. "The only guide to a man is his conscience. The only shield to his memory is his rectitude and sincerity of his actions". He said Joe's promotion is welcomed and well earned. He thanked all of the members of the Police Department for what they do every day.

Mayor Fosdick announced at the June 8th meeting, Captain Rose will be promoted to Chief and Lieutenant DiNiro to captain.

Meeting recessed for ten minutes at 7:45PM and resumed at 7:55PM.

HEARING OF CITIZENS*****

Joan Carlson – 205 Bergen Turnpike

Ms. Carlson said she was at a meeting in October regarding the 165 Bus Line being resumed when the bridge opened. Yesterday, one bus came through. She asked about the No. 165 and the bus driver said it would not be resumed at this time.

Mayor Fosdick said he would send another letter to NJ Transit.

Ray Ziemba – 101 Overpeck avenue

Mr. Ziemba said April was business month in the State and he attended many meetings. The biggest issue is business uncertainty in New Jersey. Taxes are an issue that it what is taking the State down. He said from 2006 to 2010 taxes have been raised. Mr. Ziemba said we need business to pay our bills.

Mayor Fosdick responded that the tax increase was the third lowest in the County.

Commissioner Anlian responded to Mr. Ziemba that he is preaching to the Choir. All issues that he should be addressing to the State. Commissioner Anlian said the State inhibits us. We do not have any control. The state mandates. He said Mr. Ziemba should record his message and send it to the State Legislators.

Mr. Ziemba said the Commissioners passed a budget and the people have no say.

Mayor Fosdick responded that the people have a say. We had a public hearing. He said 60% of what you pay in taxes are for school tax. We are responsible for only 30 %. He said the school budget was overwhelmingly approved. If people did not vote, it is not our fault. He said Commissioner Boyd announced this is the time and place for the public hearing on the Budget. No one wished to be heard. He said they had discussed not passing the budget if anyone had anything to say about the budget, however, no one wished to be heard. Mayor Fosdick said Jack Davis said for 21 years, no one present had anything to say about the budget. He said we're up for election every four years and keep being put into office. He said none of the Commissioners like to increase taxes, but the mandates from the State, the increase in pensions, insurance, health benefits, costs money. He said the Commissioners do the best we can. The first responsibility he said is to maintain this town as a place where you want to live.

Governor Christie has talked about a tool kit, but so far there are no tools in that kit. Mayor Fosdick said part of the problem is unions; they get what they want, that fight for their people. He said Commissioner Boyd worked very hard and kept the budget down.

Commissioner Poli said they saved \$200,000 in insurance.

Mr. Ziemba responded, "I am a taxpayer and I want more". We have to lower taxes.

Mr. DellaFave, 127 Arthur Street

Mr. DellaFave said only 15% of the residents voted in the school election.

Commissioner Boyd said Ridgefield Park did not take the pension deferral, however, more money will have to be paid for pension.

Mayor Fosdick said the school had a reserve and the Governor looked at it and said you will not get State Aid. Towns that had no reserve, got aid.

Tony DiVeritia 24 Euclid Avenue

Mr. Divert said taxes go up every year. Trees are planted, save money and don't plant trees. He said stop spending.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS*****

None

NEW BUSINESS*****

Mayor Fosdick announced that all business is considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration.

- Resolution No. 1 - Approving Refund Of Tax Court Judgment On Block 142,
Lot 21 For 2008 - \$3,507.57 and 2009 - \$4,167.47 to Ventura,
Miesowitz, Keough & Warner of Summit, New Jersey.
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Payment Of \$187.89 From The Fire Prevention Dedicated
Funds to Steve Ekdahl's Auto Care Center.
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving Block Party For Highland Place Cutter Street and Roosevelt
Avenue for June 19, 2010 9 am to 4 pm.
- Resolution No. 4 - Awarding Contract to Beyer Bros. For 2010 Four Wheel Drive Extended
Cab Pickup Truck With Snow Plow
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving Payment of \$495.00 From The Fire Prevention
Dedicated Funds to Reidel Sign Co.
- Resolution No. 6 - 105 Challenger Road – Estoppel Certificate

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill seconded by Commissioner Poli that the Consent Agenda be approved. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA"

RECESS*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Boyd to recess the meeting at 8:30 PM to go into Closed Session to discuss Police negotiations and other matter that come before the Board.

/s/John A. Anlian
Commissiosner

/s/Margaret R. Boyd
Commissioner

/s/Adam MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

/s/George D. Fosdick
Mayor

/s/Barbara Pettit
Acting Village Clerk