

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
November 25, 2008
7:30 P.M.

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 21, 2007 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL*****

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

FLAG SALUTE*****

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the minutes of November 11, 2008. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA"

SPECIAL REPORTS****

Mayor Fosdick announced the new Sergeants, Arthur Jensen and Christopher Thibault.

The Village Clerk swore in the new Sergeants. After being pinned by family members, Sgt. Jensen and Sgt. Thibault introduced their family and friends in attendance. Bergen County Sheriff Leo McGuire was in attendance. He congratulated the officers and spoke highly of working in Ridgefield Park. Mayor Fosdick stated the selection process was difficult. The interview questions were rigorous. He commended all the officers who participated. Congratulations were offered on behalf of the Commissioners.

Motion by Mayor Fosdick seconded by Commissioner Poli to recess the meeting at 7:40 PM for ten minutes. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

Meeting reconvened at 7:50 PM.

SPECIAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

Mayor Fosdick announced the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the Presbyterian Church will be held on Wednesday, November 26, at 7:30 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE*****

Letter received from Hose Co. No. 4 - Acceptance of Felipe Alarcon as a member. Motion by Mayor Fosdick seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the acceptance of Felipe Alarcon as a member of the Fire Department. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

Mayor Fosdick introduced Felipe Alarcon who was in attendance. He congratulated him and welcomed him to the Fire Department.

HEARING OF CITIZENS*****

Louise Maksymowicz - 62 Chestnut Street

Ms. Maksymowicz commented on the dirty sidewalks in front of businesses on Main Street. She asked if anything can be done to make them sweep. Commissioner Anlian stated it is not a new problem. The DPW cleans once per week. It's the owner's responsibility, but Village will try harder. He suggested Bruce Ruland, Property Maintenance Inspector, be contacted.

Ray Ziemba - 101 Overpeck Avenue

1. He thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for the Veteran's Day observance for servicemen who are gone.

Mayor Fosdick stated there will be a Pearl Harbor ceremony on Sunday, December 7, 2:00 PM at the Monument on Euclid Avenue.

2. Mr. Ziemba said with the election, change is coming

Mayor Fosdick said the federal government may have a stimulus package for infrastructure spending. Projects have to be ready.

3. Mr. Ziemba stated New Jersey property tax relief will happen.

Antonio Maniello - 125 Mt. Vernon Street

Mr. Maniello said his taxes went up \$2,500.00. He met with the Assessor and found out he can't appeal until April 2009. He stated he is on a fixed income and cannot afford the increase. Commissioner Anlian asked if the assessment firm representative was able to get into the house? Mr. Maniello was not sure.

Mayor Fosdick stated the tax bill is divided: 60% school; 10% county; 30% municipality. Village continues to try to cut costs. The biggest expense is employee costs.

Tony DiVerito - 245 Euclid Avenue

1. Mr. DiVerito stated his taxes went up \$1,300.00. His home was inspected.
2. Years ago, Main Street was cleaned every morning at 6:00 AM.

Jerry DiMeglio - 265 Main Street

Mr. DiMeglio asked if the proposed parking lot was going to have reserved spots or would all spots be open to residents.

Agnes Willock - 222 Preston Street

Ms. Willock stated no spots are available at Cedar Street lot and IGA lot. People park and leave cars for the day.

Mayor Fosdick stated he doesn't believe commuters park in the lots.

Bonnie Goldsmith - 119 Gordon Street

Ms. Goldsmith stated people should pay a \$15.00 fee to have their property reassessed now.

Mayor Fosdick stated Assessor will do it without a fee.

Ray Ziembra - 101 Overpeck Avenue

Mr. Ziembra objects to the way things are going. School budgets have to be brought down.

Mayor Fosdick stated the school budget did not change at all. Shift in assessment from commercial to residential resulted in the tax increase for schools.

Steffanie Lascari - 175 Bergen Turnpike

(Student for Commercial Service hours)

She said she favored the parking lot and suggested a teen center over the parking lot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS*****

Commissioner Anlian announced this was the time and place for the public hearing on a “BOND ORDINANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT.”

Agnes Willock - 222 Preston Street

Ms. Willock asked why didn't the residents have a chance to vote on the issue?

Mayor Fosdick explained officials are elected to do what has to be done for the welfare of the town and its citizens.

Jerry DiMeglio - 265 Main Street

Commissioners do a great job. Lot is a good idea, but no reserved spots.

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Poli that the “BOND ORDINANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT” be approved and duly advertised in the Record. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

Mayor Fosdick stated there may be some tax relief in the future. Agreement has been made with Avalon Bay to build hi-end rental units. It will take several years before construction begins.

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] Authorizing Refund of Escrow Funds for Zoning Board Case #1429 Application Denial for 17 Poplar Street

Resolution No. 2] Authorizing Refund of Escrow Funds for Zoning Board Case #1384 Completion of Application for 81 Teaneck Road..

Resolution No. 3] Authorizing Payment of Bills for Third Quarter State DCA Fees.

Resolution No. 4] Authorizing Payment of Voucher from Fire Prevention Dedicated Account.

Resolution No. 5] Authorizing Refund of Duplicate Payment of Taxes on Block 118, Lot 25.

- Resolution No. 6] Authorizing Refund of Overcharge on Construction Permit Nos. 08340 and 08465.
- Resolution No. 7] Authorizing Transfers between 2008 Budget Accounts.
- Resolution No. 8] Authorizing Extension of Due Diligence Period for Avalon Bay - Ground Lease.

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

Mayor Fosdick announced at the following meetings installation of officers will take place:

- December 9 - Fire Department
- December 23 - Ambulance Corps
- January 13 - Rescue Squad

Mayor Fosdick wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. He said with all the problems we have, all of us in this country have a lot to be thankful for. This is the greatest country, and we should give thanks for our many blessings.

RECESS*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Poli to recess the Commissioners Meeting at 9:10 PM to resume the Executive Meeting. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

s/John H. Anlian
Commissioner

Commissioner

s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

s/Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

s/George D. Fosdick
Mayor

s/Sarah Warlikowski
Village Clerk