

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

RIDGEFIELD PARK

September 23, 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, 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 Poli seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2008. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

SPECIAL REPORTS*****

None.

CORRESPONDENCE*****

Mrs. Pettit, Deputy Clerk read two letters received from Truck Company No. 1 regarding the acceptance of Nick McCoy, and Michael Alberque as a member of Friendship Hook & Ladder Company No. 1.

Motion by Mayor Fosdick seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the acceptance of Nick McCoy and Michael Alberque as members of Friendship Hook & Ladder Company No. 1. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

HEARING OF CITIZENS*****

Mr. R. Ziemba, 101 Overpeck Avenue:

Mr. Ziemba attended a recent meeting in Trenton. He explained they talked about freezing taxes, that the public is tired of increasing taxes. That there are no incentives for businesses to come to Ridgefield Park, if the public does not have the money to support the businesses. That the public is tired of the people in Trenton.

Mayor Fosdick explained the problem started in New Jersey with public employees organizing and bargaining collectively. The costs have escalated tremendously and said fifty years ago, the salaries of the three highest positions in the Village, were the Superintendent of Schools, the Police Chief and the Village Clerk. He said presently the salaries are approximately: Superintendent of Schools - \$250,000.00, Police Chief - \$150,000.00 and Village Clerk - \$90,000.00. He explained that during Governor Whitman's term, there was so much money in the pension system fund, that local municipalities did not have to collect pension. He explained current costs are up for the pension system, sewerage, fuel, health costs, and arbitration with the Police Department. Presently there is no contract with the Police Department, and we are asking new employees to contribute 5% to health benefits. Mayor Fosdick said the tax problem goes back to Colonial times. Mayor Fosdick explained that such things as the railroad paying taxes to the towns, as well as utilities no longer exists. They now pay to the State and the State in turn gives us what they want.

Commissioner Anlian said there is a real crisis on a State level. That employee costs are up, salaries, police department, and so many times binding arbitration comes out in favor of the employee. He explained police budget in the 1980's was \$600,000.00 now it is \$3,000,000.00. Health costs were 50,000.00 and now is \$2,000,000. and health insurance is costing more and more.

Mr. Ziemba said 200 years ago, we had the same situation and people stood up and it may happen again.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS*****

Mayor Fosdick announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing on "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 49 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT". No one wished to be heard. Mayor Fosdick explained this Ordinance begins a two year process where our Police Department becomes an accredited agency. Motion by Mayor Fosdick seconded by Commissioner MacNeill that "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 49 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT" be approved and duly advertised in the Record. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

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 Taxes due to County Board Judgment..
- Resolution No. 2] Community Development Endorsing Resolution for Improvements to Cedar Street Parking Lot.
- Resolution No. 3] Community Development Endorsing Resolution for Roadway Improvements to Orchard Street and Summit Street.
- Resolution No. 4] Community Development Endorsing Resolution for Roadway Improvements to Preston Street.
- Resolution No. 5] Authorizing Transfers from Current Budget to Separate Accounts.
- Resolution No. 6] Authorizing Use Of Bergen Avenue In Front Of School For St. Francis Feast.

Mayor Fosdick explained the first three resolutions were Community Development Funds. Based upon a map, certain areas of the Village are eligible for Community Development Funds.

Mr. Ziemba asked about Resolution No. 1. Was it a bond?. Mayor Fosdick explained that this resolution was to acquire property for a Nature Preserve.

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".

Mayor Fosdick announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 14th.

Mayor Fosdick stated all documents have been signed for AvalonBay.

RECESS*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Boyd to recess the Commissioners meeting at 8:10 PM to go into Closed Session to discuss redevelopment. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli, and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

s/ John H. Anlain
Commissioner

s/ Margaret R. Boyd
Commissioner

s/ Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

s/ Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

Mayor s/ George D. Fosdick

s/ Sarah Warlikowski
Village Clerk