

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

RIDGEFIELD PARK

January 14, 2025

7:30 PM

Mayor MacNeill 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 31, 2024 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and Village Website.

This agenda is listed as a courtesy and attempt to inform the public of actions being considered by the Village Board of Commissioners. There may be additions and deletions prior to the Board taking final action. Any action may be taken at any meeting, which includes all Caucus and Regular sessions. The Commissioners reserve the right to conduct and/or attend any meetings presently scheduled for the rest of 2025 by a combination of electronic and/or in-person means. Meetings are open to the public.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Anlian, Gerken, Mirza, Portorreal and Mayor MacNeill in the chair.

Also, present: Phil Boggia & Chris Chapman, Village Attorney; Joe Rella, Chief of Police; Rich Flynn, DPW Asst. Superintendent and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor MacNeill.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Portorreal, seconded by Commissioner Mirza to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of December 30, 2024.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Mayor MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$3,366,345.55.

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

SPECIAL REPORTS

Installation of Elected Officers Ridgefield Park Heavy Rescue

Commissioner Mirza asked Chief Mike Ruiz and members to come forward for the swearing in of officers.

Mrs. O’Grady administered the Oaths of Office to the Administrative and Line Officers.

At this time, Chief Ruiz presented his annual report.

Chief Ruiz advised the Rescue Squad responded to 46 calls this past year. His report touched on the apparatus and equipment, training, building repairs and community events.

January 14, 2025

Chief Ruiz thanked his officers and members as well as their veterans Howie Hendricks and Bob Carlson.

Chief Ruiz also thanked the Mayor and Commissioners, the Village Clerk, his wife Susan and daughter Ariana.

Commissioner Mirza stated he appreciates the work that the members of the Rescue Squad do and is happy getting to know you.

Mayor MacNeill thanked the families of the Rescue Squad members for their support.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken announced the search for a Municipal Judge has been narrowed down to 4 applicants. Interviews will be scheduled.

Commissioner Gerken will be meeting with Suburban Engineering regarding the CSO Phase 1 Project.

Commissioner Anlian advised the new firetruck is expected to be delivered in May.

Commissioner Mirza advised Sweet Meg would like to conduct a concert in early spring. He received the contract for the Street Fair.

Summer concerts are in the planning stages.

Commissioner Mirza advised he met with the McGowan Park Community gardeners on moving the garden to the VFW lot.

Commissioner Portorreal advised the DPW is working on their safety initiatives.

Mayor MacNeill advised the MKW contract has been signed and the designing phase of Veterans Park will commence.

Hampshire (old Bogota Golf Center) paid the Village another \$500,000 and hope to have a tenant soon. One the tenant is in; they are required to conduct a job fair for Ridgefield Park residents.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Mike Ruiz, resident, asked what the status is on the dispatch and radio system.

Commissioner Anlian advised they are waiting to hear on the status of the Ambulance Corps.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor MacNeill 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:

2025-02	Award Contract to D.L.S. Contracting for 2024 Road Resurfacing Program
2025-03	Authorize Tax Appeal Settlement – 115 Laurel Street
2025-04	Authorize Tax Appeal Settlement – 283 Main Street
2025-05	Approve Inter-local Services Agreement for Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force
2025-06	Authorize Mayor MacNeill to sign Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission Agreement for Health Services
2025-07	Appoint Environmental Commission Members
2025-08	Appoint Rent Stabilization Board Members
2025-09	Appoint Sustainable Ridgefield Park Members
2025-10	Authorize Mayor MacNeill to sign the Health Awareness Regional Program

January 14, 2025

RESOLUTIONS (cont.):

2025-11 Appoint Pool Committee
2025-12 Authorize Commitment to Round 4 Present and Prospective Need Affordable Housing Obligations

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

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

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

2025-01 ORDINANCE FIXING COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK FOR THE YEAR 2025

Commissioner Gerken moved each ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner Gerken read each ordinance by title.

Commissioner Gerken 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 January 28, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor MacNeill adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

/s/ John H. Anlian
Commissioner

/s/ William G. Gerken
Commissioner

/s/ Askar H. Mirza
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Adam MacNeill
Mayor

/s/ Tara O'Grady

Approved on January 28, 2025