

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

RIDGEFIELD PARK

February 11, 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, Portorreal and Mayor MacNeill in the chair.
Absent: Commissioner Mirza

Also, present: Phil Boggia & Chris Chapman, Village Attorney; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent; Rich Flynn, DPW Asst. Superintendent and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor MacNeill. There was a moment of silent thought for Steven Fernandez and Joseph Alberque.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of January 28, 2025.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Mayor MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Anlian to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$5,634,337.42.

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Anlian advised Steve Fernandez’s funeral is tomorrow morning at St. Francis Church followed by a procession from the church, down Mt. Vernon Street and up Main Street.

Commissioner Gerken advised he is appointing a new Municipal Judge for a three-year term effective March 1, 2025.

The Mayor’s Monarch Pledge will be on the next meeting agenda.

The Geotech survey on Fellowship Park has not been located – Boswell Engineering will handle. There will be a 12:30pm delayed opening tomorrow for municipal offices for personnel to attend the funeral.

February 11, 2025

Commissioner Portorreal met with the Pool Committee and working on open house dates and the sunset party date.

Mayor MacNeill stated there has been difficulties in developing Challenger Road. However, 95 Challenger Road submitted their plans today for 226 residential units with commercial underneath. Hopefully they will break ground early spring.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Natalie Franco, resident, asked who is responsible for shoveling out corners so pedestrians can cross the streets.

Mr. Monroe advised it is the property owner's responsibility.

Ms. Franco also asked if recycling will be picked up tomorrow if it snows.

Mr. Monroe responded yes.

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:

2025-21	Authorize Application for Recycling Tonnage Grant
2025-22	Authorize Receipt of Bids for Park Street and Webster Street Parking Lot
2025-23	Appoint Emergency Management Council
2025-24	Appoint Municipal Court Judge

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

2025-06	AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK AMENDING CHAPTER 327 "STORMWATER CONTROL," OF THE VILLAGE CODE
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Commissioner Anlian moved each ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner Anlian read each ordinance by title.

Commissioner 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 February 25, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal.

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

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

2025-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 96 OF THE VILLAGE CODE, ENTITLED "ZONING"

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 February 25, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Mayor MacNeill.

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

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ADOPTIONS

2025-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 225 OF THE VILLAGE CODE
ENTITLED "HOUSING STANDARDS"

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

Natalie Franco, resident, asked if this is random or is everyone's house going to be inspected.

Mayor MacNeill advised inspections would occur when there is tenant turnover and every three years.

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

2025-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK,
COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING
CHAPTER 362 OF THE VILLAGE CODE, ENTITLED "TOWING AND
STORAGE"

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

Natalie Franco, resident, asked what this is about.

Commissioner Anlian advised it is an update of the current towing ordinance to allow towed vehicles to be towed and stored within 5 miles of the Village.

Commissioner Anlian 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 Anlian, Gerken, Portorreal and Mayor MacNeill voted “YEA”.
Absent: Commissioner Mirza

2025-05 **ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$200,000.00 (TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) WHICH SUM REPRESENTS THE BALANCE OF FUNDS IN A GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AND APPROPRIATING \$200,000.00 FROM THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE GRANT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND RESERVE(S) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE VILLAGE**

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 Anlian. 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.

Commissioner Gerken advised this is money that was received from Senator Sarlo when the Village lost ratables for the Skymark property that NJ Transit took. An ordinance needs to be adopted in order to spend the money.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Mayor MacNeill to adjourn.

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

Mayor MacNeill adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

February 11, 2025

/s/ John H. Anlian
Commissioner

/s/ William G. Gerken
Commissioner

Abstain
Commissioner Mirza

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Adam MacNeill
Mayor

/s/Tara O'Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on February 25, 2025