

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
February 25, 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: Chris Chapman, Village Attorney; Joe Rella, Chief of Police and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor MacNeill.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of February 11, 2025.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Ridgefield Park Fire Department Truck Co. No. 1 - Resignation

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal, to accept the resignation of John Johnson from the Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department with regret.

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken announced the CSO Phase 1 project has started. The contractor will be storing dirt at the old VFW property.

Commissioner Mirza advised he is close to finalizing the summer concert schedule.

Mayor MacNeill advised the Commissioners are planning on repaving the IGA parking lot. The Village Engineers are working on the project which should be completed in the spring. The Village received the foundation plans for 95 Challenger Road which gives the go-ahead to break ground.

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March 21 – Division of Motor Vehicles mobile unit will be in Ridgefield Park. The appointments for REAL ID have been filled. Residents can walk up for other business.

March 4 – Ramadan event at 5pm

April 2 – Introduction of the 2025 Municipal Budget

June 10 – Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Natalie Franco, resident, asked how can the public be notified ahead of time regarding the DMV mobile unit.

Mayor MacNeill stated the appointments were listed on the DMV website and taken almost immediately – anyone in the state can take the appointments.

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:

- 2025-26 Authorize Suburban Consulting Engineers to Perform Work to Remain in Compliance with NJDEP Regulations
- 2025-27 Authorize Submission of Municipal Alliance Grant
- 2025-28 Award Contract to Boswell Engineering Inc. for the Preparation of Topographic Field Survey and Boundary Analysis for Veterans Park Improvement Project

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 PUBLIC HEARINGS & ADOPTIONS

- 2025-06 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK AMENDING CHAPTER 327 "STORMWATER CONTROL," OF THE VILLAGE CODE

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 Portorreal. 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.

Natalie Franco, resident, asked if there is work that will be done with regards to this ordinance.

Mayor MacNeill advised they are updating the current stormwater ordinance.

Commissioner Gerken added the Village had a Tier B permit which was eliminated. Now the Village has a Tier A, which will require additional work that the Village will need to do to comply with the permit.

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

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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"

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

Mayor MacNeill advised this is for permitted uses and regulations attics and basements.

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

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

PROCLAMATION

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Mayor MacNeill read the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor MacNeill adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

/s/ John H. Anlian
Commissioner

/s/ William G. Gerken
Commissioner

Absent
Commissioner Mirza

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/Tara O'Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on March 11, 2025

Absent
Mayor MacNeill