

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

RIDGEFIELD PARK

March 11, 2025

7:30 PM

Commissioner Anlian 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 Gerken, Portorreal and Commissioner Anlian in the chair.

Absent: Mayor MacNeill, Commissioner Mirza

Also, present: Chris Chapman, Village Attorney; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent; Joe Rella, Chief of Police and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Commissioner Anlian.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of February 25, 2025.

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

Absent: Mayor MacNeill, Commissioner Mirza

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$4,119,745.98.

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

Absent: Mayor MacNeill, Commissioner Mirza

CORRESPONDENCE

Ridgefield Park Fire Department - New Junior Member

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, Matthew Cosgrove be accepted as a new junior member of the Village of Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department.

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

Absent: Mayor MacNeill, Commissioner Mirza

SPECIAL REPORTS

Scouts Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

Commissioner Anlian advised that Mayor MacNeill is on vacation. Commissioner Anlian called upon Terry Rodriguez to give a brief description of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Ms. Rodriguez stated the award recognizes volunteers that demonstrate commitment, hard work, and dedication. She advised the scouts to keep shining and expressed how proud she is of each and every one of them.

At this time, each scout was called up to receive their medals and certificates which were presented by Commissioner Anlian.

Commissioner Anlian stated it is important to volunteer – to help you friends, neighbors and community. Continue to volunteer to do good things.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised the CSO Phase 1 project is progressing. They are currently reviewing the trees in the project area. There seems to be issues with some curbs.

The survey work is underway at Veterans Park.

The Village has submitted a Police Dept. grant for the 2026 Federal Government Grant Program.

Commissioner Portorreal advised they are interviewing for an Asst. Manager for the municipal pool. April 12th is clean-up at the pool – 35 high school students have volunteered.

The Board of Recreation is working on the details of the Summer Recreation Program.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Doris Paez, resident, thanked the Commissioners for getting the hanging wire fixed by the Rte. 46 steps; however; lighting should be installed. The area is very dark.

The old Fricke's property on Bergen Turnpike is vacant land and looks like a dumping ground. It is not appealing to look at and is an eyesore. The owners should have to clean it up.

Commissioner Anlian advised he will contact Property Maintenance.

Commissioner Gerken advised there are dirt piles on the old VFW property from the sewer work project that will be there on a temporary basis.

Adele Syby, resident, stated she has an issue with the cardboard ordinance. Residents do not break down and tie up their boxes. She is tired of her neighbor's boxes blowing into her yard for her to clean up. She has been a resident for 58 years and never had this problem before. Ms. Syby would like this issue resolved.

Commissioner Anlian advised he will put a note in the newsletter and perhaps write letters to her neighbors.

Terry Rodriguez, resident, asked who is in charge of the lighting at Veterans Park. She dropped her daughter off for soccer and the lights were not on.

Edward Monroe advised the Soccer Assn. should call and provide a schedule to the DPW since the lights don't go on until April 1st.

Chris Ruggiero, resident, complained about her neighbor's tree. Its branches are dropping branches every day. She has spoken to the Shade Tree Commission and nothing is being done.

John Rodriguez, resident, inquired if anything is going to be done about the speeding on Grand Avenue.

Chief Rella advised this happens every year when the weather gets nicer – they will set up a radar.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Anlian 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:

2025-31 Authorize the Issuance of a Certificate of Completion to 30 Cross RP Urban Renewal, LLC
2025-32 Authorize Appropriation Reserves Transfers
2025-33 Authorize Tax Lien Redemption
2025-34 Authorize Street Closure for Fundraiser – Garden Street

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

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

Absent: Mayor MacNeill, Commissioner Mirza

PROCLAMATIONS

Arbor Day 2025

April 2025 - Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

Commissioner Anlian read both Proclamations.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: Mayor MacNeill, Commissioner Mirza

Commissioner Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

/s/ John H. Anlian
Commissioner

/s/ William G. Gerken
Commissioner

Abstain
Commissioner Mirza

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on March 25, 2025

Abstain
Mayor MacNeill