

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
March 20, 2025
7:00 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 the 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 Mira

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Anlian to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of March 6, 2025.

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

Abstain: Commissioner Portorreal

Absent: Commissioners Mirza

DISCUSSION

Website Redesign

Michelle DeLuca was in attendance to discuss the website design. Links were sent to the Commissioners to view the color scheme proposal. The wire frame of the website design is preliminary. The website will have a more extensive calendar. There will also be a newsfeed next to the calendar. The Commissioners need to determine what items the 6 icon buttons will be used for – should be what people look for the most on the website, i.e. forms, minutes, etc.

Ridgefield Park Arts Association

Giselle Halloway and Janet Malool were in attendance to discuss the Summer Arts Fest. The event will take place on June 7th. The show-mobile has been ordered. The Arts Association received their 4th grant from the Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historical Affairs. They thanked the Commissioners, DPW and Police Department for all their help and support. The Arts Fest does provide free entertainment and exposure to the businesses in Ridgefield Park. Last year, approval was granted to close Main Street at noon; however, it didn’t happen until 1pm. This year Main Street needs to close at noon – takes time to set up.

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CORRESPONDENCE

- 03-05 NJLM Weekly Roundup – Chris Chapman advised for Round 4, the Village may owe zero (0) units, at most 32. If the application states vacant land, then the Village will owe 0; if developable land – 32.
- 03-06 Board of County Commissioners – Podcast, Resolutions, Ordinances - Informational
- 03-07 Derek Sands, County of Bergen – Greek Independence Day - Informational
- 03-08 Derek Sands, County of Bergen – Irish American Heritage Month - Informational
- 03-09 NJDEP Weekly Update - Informational
- 03-10 Board of County Commissioners – Commissioners Updated 2025 Contact List - Informational
- 03-11 Notice to Property Owners – 40 Webster Street - Informational
- 03-12 Derek Sands, County of Bergen – Grand Iftar and Crescent Lighting Celebration - Informational
- 03-13 NJLM Weekly Roundup - Informational
- 03-14 NJLM Daily Update - Informational
- 03-15 Josh Gottheimer – Community Project Funding FY26 – Commissioner Gerken stated the Village will be applying.
- 03-16 Derek Sands, County of Bergen – Women’s History Month - Informational

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised the new Judge has been with the Village for 3 weeks. A notice was received from the County that an Acting Court Administrator needs to be appointed to cover the Court Administrator if she is on leave or out for an extended period of time – signing an agreement with Ridgely.

The CSO project is progressing. A walk through of the construction area was last Wednesday. Some trees are in question and may need to be taken down for new curbing.

The Village applied for a \$1 million dollar grant for the Police Communication System.

The Village has applied for the Sen. Booker, Senator Kim, and Congressman Gottheimer’s grants.

Boswell Engineering started the survey work for Veterans Park. Suburban Engineering is working with MKW regarding the LOI. There will be 2 submissions; 1 for the north part of the park and 1 for the south.

A quote was received for the IGA parking lot survey work - \$7,800.00. Commissioner Gerken will be meeting with Suburban next week on the IGA lot and the next phase of the CSO project.

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Commissioner Portorreal stated the Pool has their first clean-up on April 12th.

The Summer Recreation director is coordinating with the High School to possibly utilize some classrooms for the program.

Commissioner Anlian advised the deed for Engine 4 has been signed over and delivered to the County Clerk's office. Once the deed comes back, it will be announced.

Mayor MacNeill advised he met with Pace Holdings, who is interested in the Apache and P&P properties for industrial warehousing.

Mayor MacNeill is trying to set up a meeting with 85 Challenger Road owners since Samsung is leaving.

The CFO is constructing a purchasing manual for the Department heads.

Bob Benecke spoke with Lexington and advised they will not be building on Mt. Vernon Street – too expensive.

The Board of Education's budget is increasing by 4.74%. The following year will be similar.

Clerk O'Grady reminded all Congressman Gottheimer's mobile unit will be here on Tuesday, March 25th at 6:30. DPW will provide a table.

Denise DePena's retirement party is next Friday – need RSVPs.

March 25th will be the public swearing-in of Sgt. Kenneth Knebl.

Asst. Superintendent Flynn advised the paving project of the street hills and sidewalks has started.

Vogt Park project has started.

2 quotes were received for the Municipal Building steps repair.

The inner circle of Brewster Park will be lined with 16 trees. This will be dedicated in memory of Steven Fernandez on Arbor Day. This is not a Police memorial, but a memorial for who Steve was and his service to the Village. Commissioner Anlian will write the family and advise them of the ceremony.

Chief Rella stated he hasn't received an overwhelming response for the job posting. Interviews will take place in April.

There have been a few more radio issues this week.

The radio company has surveillance cameras for the building – additional \$120,000.00.

Attorney Boggia stated bid opening for Park Street and the Webster Street parking lot was last week. A resolution will be prepared for Tuesday's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

Mayor MacNeill adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

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Absent
Commissioner Anlian

Absent
Commissioner Gerken

Abstain
Commissioner Mirza

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Adam MacNeill
Mayor

/s/Tara O'Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on April 3, 2025