

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

RIDGEFIELD PARK

March 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: Phil Boggia & Chris Chapman, Village Attorney; Joe Rella, Chief of Police; 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

Abstain: Mayor MacNeill, Commissioner Mirza

SPECIAL REPORTS

Ridgefield Park Police Department - Promotional Swearing-In

Chief Rella thanked everyone for coming tonight for the swearing in of Ken Knebl as Sergeant. Chief Rella explained the promotion process which consists of a written test and interviews. Everyone scores well which makes the final decision difficult – just not enough open positions. Chief Rella stated that he feels the rank of Sergeant is the most difficult.

Swearing-In of Police Sergeant

Chief Rella called up Patrolman Ken Knebl to be sworn in by the Village Clerk as Sergeant.

Mrs. O’Grady administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Knebl.

Sgt. Knebl thanked his wife and daughter, Ashley and Riley, along with his entire family for providing the support system. It is an honor and privilege to work for Ridgefield Park and considers his colleagues, family. He thanked Steve Fernandez for being his best friend and for pushing him to be a better officer.

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Commissioner Anlian congratulated Sgt. Knebl. He went on to say what a great Police Department the Village has – every year it gets better. The Police Department has received accreditation for 3 years now and considers our Police Department the best in New Jersey. He thanked each and every officer for doing their job very, very, very well.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised this week the Village will be submitting an application for the Congressional Spending Grant.

Commissioner Mirza advised on tonight's agenda; the Village will be adopting a resolution for the online permitting process for the Recreation Department with CivicPlus.

Mayor MacNeill advised the budget will be introduced on April 17th with an adoption date of June 10th.

95 Challenger Road should be breaking ground in July. This will be the first of three phases – 220 units with retail. This will help with ratables and the tax base.

Mayor MacNeill introduced Senator Gordon Johnson who was in attendance.

Senator Johnson stated he stopped in to say hello since Ridgefield Park is now a part of the 37th Legislative District. He stated he is aware of the two major issues: NJ Transit property and the grant money for the communications system. Also, he just learned that energy costs are increasing by 18%. His office is in Englewood and invited all to contact him about anything. He is here for Ridgefield Park.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Andrew Scheideler, resident, stated he was involved with the events that took place with the tragic passing of Ptl. Steven Fernandez. He wanted to take the opportunity to thank Chief Rella on how the events were handled and orchestrated. The Police Department needs to be commended.

Mr. Scheideler also thanked Commissioner Anlian with regards to the memorial plaques for the Arbor Day celebration. A tree was planted in 2018 in memory of his dad in Fellowship Park. His dad would be proud.

Mr. Scheideler stated his neighbor is looking to beautify their property and would like a handful of the small trees in the Main Street planters for them.

Mayor MacNeill thanked Mr. Scheideler for being a big part of Steven Fernandez's funeral.

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:

- 2025-35 Appoint Library Board Trustee
- 2025-36 Appoint Historic Preservation Commission Members
- 2025-37 Award Contract to D.L.S, Contracting, Inc. – Park St. and Webster St. Parking Lot
- 2025-38 Award Contract to CivicPlus – On-Line Recreation Management

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

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

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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 8:04 p.m.

/s/ John H. Anlian
Commissioner

/s/ William G. Gerken
Commissioner

Absent
Commissioner Mirza

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ Adam MacNeill
Mayor

/s/ Tara O'Grady

Village Clerk

Approved on April 8, 2025