

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**April 8, 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 (7:46pm), Portorreal and Mayor MacNeill in the chair.

Also, present: 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Portorreal, seconded by Mayor MacNeill to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of March 25, 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 Portorreal to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$6,804,139.30.

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

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Ridgefield Park Fire Department Hose Co. No. 3 – Resignation

Ridgefield Park Fire Department Truck Co. No. 2 - Resignation

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, resignations from the Ridgefield Park Fire Department of Richard Fuchs, Daniel Klima Sr. and Joseph Sawoszczyk be accepted with regret.

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

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

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### **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

**Commissioner Anlian** advised the latest edition of the Village Newsletter will be delivered by the end of the week.

**Commissioner Gerken** advised the latest phase of the CSO project is progressing. He received an invite for a virtual meeting with Senator Booker on the grant application for the Police Department's communication system.

**Commissioner Portorreal** advised the Board of Recreation is sponsoring Egg Hunts in Veterans Park: April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am is the Adult Egg Hunt for the Hal Bomzer Scholarship Fund, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am is the children's Easter Egg Hunt.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Sweet Meg concert at the Knights of Columbus at 7pm.

The Board of Recreation's Family Olympics is featured in the NJ Municipalities magazine.

**Mayor MacNeill** advised residents to take the survey that is posted on social media. The hope is to obtain a shuttle from Ridgefield Park to 15X from NJ Transit since they took the Skymark property which resulted in an annual \$1.4 million shortfall in tax ratables.

### **HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Michelle Monahan, Neil's Automotive, stated the water issue on Birch Street is out of control. Her business can't get parts delivered and has to wear boots due to the flooding. It seems to have gotten worse since the townhouses were built.

Mayor MacNeill advised the Village engineer is looking into the issue. They are awaiting permission from the radio station to go on their property. Part of the issue is the construction at the Meadowlands and a good portion is due to Mother Nature. The whole area is in a floodplain. The Commissioners are aware that this is an issue.

Commissioner Anlian added that the radio station is not obligated to do anything. The Commissioners are looking to see if they can come up with a resolution.

Commissioner Mirza added that they are working as hard as they can and understands the frustration.

Natalie Franco, resident, advised the street sign located at Poplar Street and Euclid Avenue has been knocked down.

Ms. Franco inquired if the 15X shuttle would be free. Mayor MacNeill stated he hopes so.

Ms. Franco also inquired on the status of the Ambulance Corps. Commissioner Portorreal stated she is still reviewing options.

### **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:**

2025-41        Appoint Shade Tree Commission Members

2025-42        Authorize No Mow May

2025-43        Authorize Enabling Resolution for Green Acres Grant for Fellowship Park  
                 Playground Improvements

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

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

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**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

2025-08 AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK TO REPEAL CHAPTER 193; TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 193; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Commissioner Gerken moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner Gerken read the said 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 April 22, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Mayor MacNeill.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Mayor MacNeill adjourned the meeting at 7:53 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 22, 2025