

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2012 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Gerald Mobus called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD

ROLL CALL

Joren [A] Black [P] Franklin [P] Pote [P] Nehls [P] Cassidy [A]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, and Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 5 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin announced the Finance Committee is working on the preliminary budget figures, and reported that overall finances are in much better shape.
2. Police - No report presented.
3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls reported that the expected delivery for the new Public Works truck is June. He said the Committee will be meeting tomorrow with Mr. Cruz and Mr. Purcell to discuss sanitary sewer projects, including areas of Johnston Drive and Valley Drive.
4. Buildings and Grounds; Recreation - No report presented.
5. Public Affairs - Mayor Mobus asked Councilman Franklin to reach out to Councilwoman Cassidy, as he believes that she may not be able to attend Monday evening meetings as liaison to the Environmental Commission.

Open Space: Councilman Franklin said he has reached out to Chairperson Dianna Beck-Clemmons who has brought him up to date, and Councilwoman Joren has provided resident surveys so he feels he will be prepared when he attends his first meeting as liaison.

Environmental: No report presented.

Board of Health: No report presented.

6. Fire - Councilman Black thanked everyone for attending the annual Installation dinner, and said at the first Committee meeting communications equipment was discussed. Councilman Nehls said since all the Borough's emergency service teams are mandated to change to narrow-band by the end of this year, that he feels it is imperative to coordinate these efforts.
7. Laws/Ordinances - Councilman Pote said the Committee met yesterday and discussed flag lots, smoking, and McMansions. In regard to the Library, he asked if Mr. Atkins has a date for the meeting between the architects and our engineers, and Mr. Atkins said he is making progress, and may have a date shortly.

REPORTS - OTHER:

8. Engineer - No report presented.
9. Police Chief - No report presented.
10. Fire Department - No report presented.

11. Rescue Squad - Vice President Don Monetti announced the annual dinner dance will be held this Saturday at Twin Brooks and that they look forward to seeing the Governing Body there. He said the Squad hosted a tour and informational session for 1st grade Girl Scouts, their leaders and parents, and will be doing the same in the near future for 3rd and 6th grade scouts. He reported the Squad responded to a total of 32 calls this month, 5 of which were mutual aid. He said Adam Wexler, Logan Taylor, and Lysandra Plotkin were top responders. Mr. Monetti said it is mandated that everyone be narrow-banded by the end of this year, and reported the Squad hopes to be there before then.

12. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had nothing to report, however, asked Clerk DeRocco if she has received a resolution from Watchung Hills Regional High School, authorizing the move of the school board election to November? Mrs. DeRocco said she has received verbal notification that it was passed at a board meeting and is in the mail, however, to date she said she has not yet received it.

13. Clerk - Mrs. DeRocco advised all that at the next Council meeting there will be a proclamation to celebrate "Read Across America" Day on March 2, and said she is scheduling a time for Mayor Mobus to read to the children at Bayberry School. She said if anyone else is interested she would gladly make the arrangements.

14. Administrator - Mr. Atkins said he will be scheduling a meeting between the architects for the Library and the Borough's engineers. He said the effects of Hurricane Irene were discussed at the JIF meeting he attended this morning, as was elected officials training. He reported the Annual Financial Statement has been sent to Trenton, and that he expects to be very busy with the budget process during the next month.

Mayor Mobus said he attended a luncheon with the Watchung Seniors at Chimney Rock, and announced that since the Senior Center at the Library was damaged during Hurricane Irene, he has made arrangements for them to hold their meetings at the Exempt Hall. He said they have approximately 50 members and are seeking to expand that number with new members.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance OR:12/01 entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG CH. 5-12-12.76 ET. SEQ., THEREOF AND TO FIX AND DETERMINE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES AND COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES." was held. Councilman Pote moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, "aye."

With no one from the public desiring to be heard, Councilman Pote closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution:

R1:02/09/12 Adoption of OR:12/01 - Amend Code - Minimum/Maximum Range
for Employee Salaries/ Chief of Police

Councilman Nehls seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, "aye."

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda items listed below were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Councilman Black, a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call as follows: Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, "aye".

Approval of the following Council minutes:
January 1, 2012 (Re-organization Meeting)
January 26, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Open Space Advisory Committee - Minutes of November 21, 2011
Building Department Monthly Report - January, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#4 - Watchung Board of Education 2/3/12 Resolution approving the move of the School Board Election to November c: M & C, TEA, AC

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda items listed below were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Councilman Black, a second by Councilman Franklin and upon roll call as follows: Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, “aye”.

R2: Authorize Salary Adjustment - Police Chief

R3: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Treasurer, State of NJ; Fleetwood Financial Corp.; Bobcat of Central Jersey; L-3 Communications Mobile-Vision Inc.

R4: Authorize Tax Redemption - Certificate #7-2011

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA: Items listed below will be individually addressed and acted upon accordingly. Council reserves the right to refer an item to Committee for further review and discussion.

Councilman Nehls read the following proclamation, on behalf of Mayor Mobus:

Proclamation - American Red Cross Month - March (copy attached)

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

None

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PUBLIC PORTION

Don Speeney, resident of Stanie Glen and Planning Board Chairman, gave an overall update on the Investment Area meeting he attended at Somerset County, discussing the economic agenda, in particular the Priority Growth Investment Areas, also known as PGIA’s, and its relationship to Route 22. Mr. Speeney announced the dates of future meetings, and encouraged the Mayor and Council to follow through with a commitment letter to Mr. Bernard Navatto, the Chairperson for this initiative, stressing the impact this program could have on the businesses along Route 22. Mr. Cruz read the letter (copy attached) into the minutes. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Governing Body to authorize the Mayor to forward this letter to Somerset County.

Councilman Pote offered a motion to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to Somerset County on behalf of the Borough of Watchung, supporting the County’s efforts to have the priority Growth Investment Areas (PGIAs) recognized by the State. Councilman Nehls seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, “aye.”

MaryLou DiRosa, Rock Road East, said she was here representing the Board of Education, and asked the Governing Body if they had any questions regarding the move of the school board election to November. Mayor Mobus asked how much of a savings is expected, and Mrs. DiRosa said she believes it to be approximately \$10,000., citing a newspaper article. Councilman Pote asked when the “Narratives of Courage” program is going to be held and Mrs. DiRosa said on May 15th. Mrs. DiRosa reminded all that the Board of Education is still in the process of their superintendent search.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M. to the call of the Chair and the next scheduled meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 23, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Clerk