

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

MAY 24, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Gerald Mobus called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 [P] Black [P] Franklin [P] Pote [P] Nehls [P] Cassidy [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, CFO William Hance, Engineer Tom Herits, and Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 70 people from the public present, and after the Special Presentation 12 people remained.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Police Commendations:

Police Commissioner Joren read a brief description for each of the events that earned the following commendations. The Governing Body congratulated the recipients, as Chief Wenzel appropriately decorated them.

- Officers Kimock and Poulsen - CPR save resulting in a life saved.
- Officer Melchionda - CPR save, resulting in a life saved
- Officer Kimock - Commendation Award - Burglary investigation and successful apprehension
- Det. Anderle - Investigative Award - Successful identity theft investigation, resulting in the arrest of a bank manager and store employee
- Det. Sgt. Kelly - Investigative Award - Successful investigation of a lewdness report
- Det. Boyle - Investigative Award - Success investigation of a computer identity theft report
- Det. Kelly, Anderle, Boyle, Stankan - Investigative Award -Successful apprehension of Off. Lacaille, Hale, Bouchard, Emerick, Sgt. Kelly - Unit Award - Successful apprehension
- Letters of Commendation:
 - Det. Boyle - Successful investigation and apprehension of prostitution suspects
 - Sgt. McAllister - Efforts that resulted in the successful apprehension of suspect that burglarized a home on Deer Run
 - Police Aide Townley - Diligence and attention to detail locating a stolen vehicle in New York City where 2 bodies were found in its trunk

Promotions:

Police Commissioner and Council President Joren offered the following resolution:

R1: Appointment to Lieutenant - William Kelly

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

Mayor Mobus administered the Oath of Office to William Kelly, as his son and daughter held the Bible and his wife stood by his side.

Police Commissioner and Council President Joren offered the following resolution:

R2: Appointment to Sergeant - Scott Anderle

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

Mayor Mobus administered the Oath of Office to Scott Anderle, as his wife held the Bible.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Franklin announced the date of the public hearing for the budget is June 14th, and noted that this budget is good to the taxpayers while still providing services. He thanked Administrator Atkins and CFO Hance for the work they had done to put the budget together. Mayor Mobus thanked Councilman Franklin and his Committee for their diligence.

2. Police- Council President Joren had no report. Mayor Mobus mentioned that he attended the annual memorial service for fallen police officers in Ocean Grove, and noted that sadly, four new names were memorialized.

3. Public Works - Councilman Nehls announced the arrival of the new Mason Dump with plow and spreader; the "satisfactory" inspection from the Somerset County Department of Health of the DPW yard; the "satisfactory" inspection from the NJ DEP of the Borough's boilers and generators; and that Community Service participants have been washing the Police cars, under the supervision of Mr. James Jackson. He said the monthly activities included monthly underground storage tank maintenance, pothole repair, weeding, mulching, and preparing for and the cleaning up of the Triathlon. Councilman Nehls said about 50 people attended the County's meeting on the Mountain Boulevard improvement project, and if all is on schedule, it will begin in September.

4. Buildings and Grounds; Recreation - Councilwoman Cassidy announced the Public Works Department continues to offer truckloads of mulch to residents, for \$50. per load. She announced the Recreation Department will be hosting the annual Community Picnic on May 27th, with a rain date of May 28th, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm., and said the Borough's annual Memorial Day Services will be held on Monday, May 27th at 9:30 am. Councilwoman Cassidy reported that at last night's Recreation Commission's meeting, field use permits and fees were discussed. She said the improvements to the tennis courts was also discussed and announced member Dave Mobus is heading the efforts to collect donations for the improvements. She said CFO Bill Hance has applied to the State for a 501-3C application so that anyone who would like to donate can deduct their donation from taxes. She said the Historical Committee is also awaiting this exemption so their can collect donations for their new home at the Texier House.

5. Public Affairs:

Open Space - Councilman Franklin said the Committee has received hard copies of the Open Space and Recreation plan and intend to prepare a new inventory.

Environmental - Councilman Franklin announced the "Secure Shred" event is scheduled for June 16th and said a styrofoam collection will be added. He said "Mr. Scrappy" will also be on hand and will accept "anything with metal" on it. He said this event will count towards the Borough's goal of sustainability.

Board of Health - Councilman Black announced the next meeting is scheduled for the end of June.

6. Fire - Councilman Black reported the Department met with Gary Greves and all is "up to speed" in regard to communications. He predicts all will come together beautiful and said the Borough is right on target. Councilman Black said the Department will be in attendance at the Triathlon and the Memorial Day Picnic. He complimented the Traffic and Beautification Commission for the great job they did planting the islands around the circle.

7. Laws/Ordinances - Councilman Pote said the Board of Health has requested that the Laws and Ordinance Committee review their proposed changes to the Borough's sewer ordinance. He said the Library Study Committee has been very active, meeting several times in the past week and he is anticipating a good discussion this evening.

REPORTS - OTHER:

8. Engineer - Mr. Herits said he has met with the 911 Memorial Chair Skip Bell to discuss the proposed memorial. He said he has met with representatives from Villa Domenico, and Attorney Cruz, to discuss the concerns they have, mostly unfinished landscape issues. He hopes that this will be rectified soon. He said he attended the meeting at the County in regard to the improvements on Mountain Boulevard and all seems to be moving along as planned.

9. Police Chief - No report presented.

10. Fire Department - No report presented.

11. Rescue Squad -No report presented.

12. Attorney - Mr. Cruz had nothing to report.

13. Clerk - Mrs. DeRocco had nothing to report.

14. Administrator - Mr. Atkins

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Public Hearing on Ordinance OR:12/06 entitled, “**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**” 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: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, “aye.”

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

R3:05/24/12 Adoption of Ordinance OR:12/06 - Cap Bank

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

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NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:
Special Meeting of April 23, 2012, Regular Meeting of May 10, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Tax Collector’s Report - April, 2012
Planning Board Minutes - April, 17, 2012
Historical Committee Minutes - April 11, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#27 - Yvonne Manfra, Somerset County Director of Transportation 5/15/12 Notice of Public Hearing on June 19, 2012 for the FY 2013 Transportation Program c: M & C, Post

#28 - Jason Stopper 5/21/12 Letter of resignation from his position in the Public Works Department c: M & C, TEA

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda resolutions listed below, with the exception of R4, were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Councilwoman Joren, a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, “aye”.

Councilwoman Joren read the following resolution into the minutes, and moved for its adoption: (copy attached)

R4:05/24/12 Commending Claire Barrameda for Participation in Youth Services Commission

Councilman Nehls seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, Cassidy, “aye.” Councilwoman Joren said Claire brought alot of good ideas to the Youth Services Commission and that she is a wonderful girl. Mayor Mobus said it brought him great pride to swear her in to this new position.

R5: Authorizing Self-Exam / 2012 Municipal Budget

R6: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Iron Compass Map Co., Vail Energy Services, LLC

R7: Appointment to “Green Team” - Susan Ober

R8: Authorizing Review and Approval of a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund
Spending Plan

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AND RESOLUTIONS: 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.

Proposed Ordinance OR:12/07 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 introduced. Councilman Pote moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilman Pote moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and directed the Clerk to publish the ordinance and notice of Public Hearing.

R9:05/24/12 Introduction of Ordinance OR:12/07 - Salary Minimum/Maximum

The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Pote, Nehls, and Cassidy, “aye.” Public Hearing to be held on July 19, 2012.

Councilman Franklin moved the following resolution:

R10: Payment of Bills

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

#26 - Fibertech Networks LLC, March 7, 2012 (Continued from May 10, 2012 Agenda) Request for consideration regarding visit to site.

Councilman Franklin said Assistant Engineer Arlene McCoy and he went to the proposed site for the requested connection on Wildwood Terrace, and as per her memo, saw no need to trim or remove any trees, there will be little or no impact on the current line of trees, and this proposed construction will be unintrusive. He said he recommends granting Fibertech’s request. Mr. Cruz said he will prepare a resolution for the next Council meeting.

Presentation to Mayor and Council - Library Study Advisory Committee / Foreman Architects
Proposed improvements to the Borough’s Library

Councilman Pote provided a brief history of the steps that have been taken over several years, to bring this presentation to the Council this evening. He explained that Foreman Engineers have spent the last year working on a preliminary design and he is very proud of both their work and the Committee’s work. He introduced Peter Ortiz and Ken Stromsland, both engineers from the Foreman Group who were present this evening. Mr. Ortiz explained the current Libraries deficiencies and limitations, and then provided a step by step, room by room plan to make the building ADA compliant, adds an outdoor amphitheatre, additional parking spaces, a cafe, and community room (copy attached.) He announced the cost of adding the proposed additional 9,000 square feet to the already existing 8,000 square feet, is approximately \$4,230,000. Mr. Ortiz answered questions from the Governing Body, and Councilman Pote discussed from fund raising strategies. Councilman Pote said it is the intention of the Committee to print an informational brochure to be distributed to all residents prior to the November General Election where the question will be put forth to the taxpayers in the form of a non-binding referendum question. He said tonight’s preliminary plan presentation will be available on the Borough’s website, and here in the Borough’s lobby. Committee member Andrew Calandriello thanked Councilman Pote for his dedication to this project, and Councilman Pote thanked Committee members Andrew Clandriello, Debbie Downs, Diddy Addario, Saul Setzer, Doug Poswencyk, and Virginia Hartman.

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PUBLIC PORTION

Lee Ehrenworth, Canterbury Lane, asked if the Foreman Group also intends to submit a proposal to construct the new Library, and Councilman Pote said they do, and he has personally checked their references and said they are stellar. Dr. Ehrenworth said if and when the time comes and the Borough does move forward this this Library Project, he will volunteer his time to supervise the construction. Mayor Mobus thanked Dr. Ehrenworth.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M. to the call of the Chair and the next scheduled Council meeting to be held on June 14, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Clerk