

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 26, 2012 – 7:30 PM

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Mobus called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 [A] Franklin [P] Pote [P] Nehls [P] Cassidy [A]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Engineer Tom Herits, Police Chief Tim Wenzel, CFO Bill Hance, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, Public Works Manager Bob Burns, and Deputy Clerk, MaryAnn Hance.

There were 20 members of the public present.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Councilwoman Joren first gave a brief synopsis of Officer Brian Kelly's background prior to coming to the Watchung Police Department.

Councilwoman Joren moved the following resolution:

R1:11/26/12 Appointment of Police Officer/Academy Rate – Barry J. Kelly

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

Mayor Mobus administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Barry Kelly as his wife Roxana held the Bible.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Franklin had no report at this time.

1. Police – Councilwoman Joren reported that Chief Wenzel will be giving a brief report about the Nixel program that the Borough is considering implementing. She also reported that Black Friday went extremely well and there has been good response from the public including an editorial in the Star Ledger giving the Borough three cheers and a "turkey leg" for this proactive measure. She said there were no incidents or problems reported and Walmart complied completely, taking additional steps by closing at 6 PM, providing additional barricades, portable Johns, and hiring additional police for crowd control.

1. Public Works – Councilman Nehls commended all Police, Public Works, Fire Dept., Rescue Squad, Michelle DeRocco and all Borough employees for the excellent job they have done and continue to do in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. The department, with some outside vendors, was able to open all Borough streets in 3 days for emergency access. Cleanup is continuing and will take weeks. School areas will be the first priority for cleanup. The site for the debris is nearly complete and cleanup in other areas should be starting soon. Leaf bags will be picked up at the same time as tree debris removals. There will be a list of the streets where the cleanup has been completed. The Public Works Department fielded 23 service calls and 31 work orders. All Public Works vehicles, except for one, are up and running. The Public Works Committee had a meeting with Levin Management regarding the Johnston Drive sanitary sewer system and they have in place a recommended remedial measure that Levin is reviewing and hopefully at the next meeting, December 5th, this will be completed. This Wednesday, November 28th, the committee will be meeting to finalize the sewer fees. Councilman Nehls reported he received an email from Engineer Tom Herits regarding the underground storage tank located on the Ness property. Maser has received a good price quote to remove this tank.

Mayor Mobus questioned whether the residents were informed that the pickup will be once only and Councilman Nehls said it is on the Borough website.

1. Buildings and Grounds; Recreation: No report presented.

1. Public Affairs:

Open Space: Councilman Franklin reported the Committee will be meeting in January if they get the Open Space inventory. He asked Engineer Tom Herits if he will be sending a proposal to the Borough for the preparation of this report. Tom said that after speaking with the Administrator Tom Atkins it was decided the report would be completed during the hours Tom is at the Borough.

Environmental: Councilman Franklin reported the Environmental Committee is also meeting this evening and he will give a report at the next Borough meeting. The Library Advisory Committee has not met often because the majority of members were also on the Library Study Committee. The Borough did receive a letter from Andy Calandriello resigning from the Library Advisory Committee. He has been a member for many years. Councilman Franklin said there will be about four vacancies to fill on this committee with the resignation of Mr. Clanadriello.

Board of Health – No report was presented

6. Fire - No report

- 0 **Laws/Ordinances** - Councilman Pote reported the committee will be meeting on Wednesday specifically to discuss the sewer fees. The Library Study Committee will also be meeting this week to regroup after the Referendum results. Members of the committee have ideas they wish to consider and will get these to the Mayor and Council following the meeting.

Councilman Pote commented that on Black Friday he was at Walmart from about 10:15 pm to 1:15 am and wished to commend the Police Dept., Lt. Bill Kelly and the Fire Department for the great job they did. Councilman Pote said Walmart took him inside prior to the opening just to show him the set up and the personnel that were in place.

REPORTS - OTHER:

- 0 **Engineer** - Tom Herits reported that Johnston Drive, Hill Hollow and Glen Eagles projects are completed and there is a change order on the agenda this evening for approval, the Borough saved quite a bit of money and the contractor worked out very well. The DOT applications are in for next year and this will be for Knollwood Drive and hopefully we will receive notification before the end of this year. He attended the Mountain Boulevard pre-construction meeting along with Police Chief Wenzel and Public Works Supervisor Bob Burns. The company will be starting tree removal this year. The contractor will keep two lanes open during the curb construction and work will begin at 7 AM. The schools were at the meeting and they were in agreement with this as long as the lanes are open for the buses to pickup students. The project should be completed by next November. Councilwoman Joren questioned when the water company would be done and Tom said it would take approximately 3 months but the work would not be starting until January.
- 0 **Police Chief:** - Chief Wenzel thanked the Mayor and Council for instituting the Borough Ordinance for Black Friday Hours and said he was pleased with the outcome. He then briefly explained the Nixel system. This system is a way of communicating with the public during a disaster such as the one we just experienced. The basic service is free to all public safety organizations. He explained it is up to the resident as to how they want to receive this information, either by text or email, and the notifications are prioritized. The resident can sign up for all notifications, only the emergency notifications or they can choose to get information only when they want to receive it which would only be when they go to their email to check. Councilwoman Joren advised him that Hillsborough has been using this and he spoke with Chief Kaminsky and was told they have had the basic service for about four years and they are very pleased with it. They use it mostly for road closures and his dispatchers automatically put these notifications out. South Brunswick is going to be hosting a seminar on this on December 11th and both he and Brian Townley and a few others will be attending this.
- 0 **Fire Department** - Mayor Mobus asked Ass't. Chief Peter Martino if he had a report from the Fire Department. Mr. Martino said they have not had a debriefing meeting since the storm, the meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday night. They will be discussing where they need to improve what they did during this emergency. He also stated the fire company would probably be doing a "wish list:" of what will be needed in the future and they will submit this to the Mayor and Council for discussion. He said the Department responded to approximately 101 alarms during the storm, with three days of 24 hour standbys and twelve days of 12 hour standbys. They did manage to have at least one engine company available at all times but it was difficult toward the end of the two week period with stress levels up and morale low. Mayor Mobus said they will be meeting in the next couple of weeks. All emergency services and school boards will be getting the results and they will be asked to participate in the debriefing. Councilman Pote asked how the boot drive went this year and Mr. Martino reported it went very well but there was not a great turn out from the department, saying it was a tough month for the Department.

Mr. Martino then said he desired to speak as a resident, and not in his capacity as Assistant Fire Chief. He said morale in the Department is very low, and more support from the Governing Body would be appreciated. He said they are not looking for monetary support, just some gratitude. Councilwoman Joren suggested Mr. Martino bring these concerns to the Fire Department Chairperson at a Fire Committee meeting.

0 Rescue Squad - No report was presented.

12. **Attorney** – Mr. Cruz said he had nothing to report this evening.

13. **Clerk:** - Mrs. DeRocco said she had nothing to report this evening.

0 Administrator: Tom Atkins reported he and Mr. Cruz had a discussion today and over the weekend on the R8 Resolution and he is recommending that if the Council approves this resolution that they do not send the document down until he has an internal meeting with Mayor Mobus, Mr. Cruz, Councilman Nehls, Mr. Burns, Mr. Baldassarre. He also attended a FEMA meeting today with Gary Greves and Andy Baldassarre. They met with some of the FEMA representatives and as much as our Borough as well as all towns were overwhelmed by Sandy he feels that FEMA as an agency is overwhelmed. It is a massive undertaking. He said we have to continue working with Gary so he has the support needed for the FEMA documentation required. We received our first check for reimbursement from last 2011 August Hurricane Irene about one month ago. We will probably run into timing issues with regard to reimbursement for Sandy, we will do the best we can. There is a lot of work involved and Gary has a good plan and he will have the full support of the town. Lastly, regarding the R9, Emergency Appropriation, this is a special emergency provision in the regulations which you may fund over a five year period, for the emergency funding of \$359,000(rounded off) the Borough is required to fund \$71,800 of this amount in the 2013 Budget. Depending on how our financial situation looks over the next five years the Mayor and Council could choose to pay more than the minimum.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Mobus reported that after the last Council meeting at the Courthouse he asked the public to sign up for volunteering and we did receive five requests. He has requested a resume from the people who signed up, to give him a brief idea of what their expertise is. He has had a meeting with Mr. Francis Shanahan, Councilwoman Joren, Administrator Tom Atkins, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, CFO Bill Hance, and IT person Ed Horsefall to examine methods to bring community up to date when there is a disaster and improve communication between the Police Department, Borough Hall, Fire Department and Rescue Squad. He will be asking Police Chief Wenzel and Brian Townley to join the committee. Mayor Mobus said an After Action Review (AAR) will be conducted by Councilman Pote, in an effort to review and critique what was done before, during and after Hurricane Sandy, and will involve all Emergency Departments and Departments that were directly involved. In addition to the Technology Review Committee, he said he will be appointing a committee to review the Borough's Facilities, and asked Councilman Nehls to chair it. He said he will appoint another committee to set up a "neighborhood watch" program, and possibly start a "CERT" program, and will ask Councilman Black to chair this. He said he will request a review of the OEM's "annexes" and would like to continue the dialog with our local school board and also investigate any available grants.

The Mayor also said the Trunk or Treat event was well attended and a huge success.

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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 Nehls and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Franklin, Pote, and Nehls, "aye".

Approval of the following Council minutes:
November 8, 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Finance Department Revenue Report – September, 2012
Police Activity Report – October, 2012
Building Department Report – October 2012

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#58 -Gary Greves, Watchung OEM Coordinantor 11/13/12 Notification of Proclamation of Emergency termination, as of November 13, 2012 at 1600 hours c: M & C, TEA

#59 - Villa Domenico Homeowners Association 11/15/12 Letter of gratitude to the Governing Body, Mr. Cruz, and Mr. Herits for the assistance received in helping to resolve concerns in their development c: M & C , AC, TH

#60 - Andrew Calandriello 11/20/12 Letter of resignation from his position on the Library Advisory Board c: M & C .

Mayor Mobus spoke about Mr. Calandriello and his many years of service on this committee and said he will be missed.

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda items listed below, were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Councilwoman Joren, a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Franklin, Pote, and Nehls, "aye". Prior to the vote Mr. Cruz asked the Council if they were comfortable with the wording on R2 and R3 and all were in agreement it was fine.

- R2:11/26/12 Authorizing the Temporary Waiver of the Requirement for a Tree Removal Permit / Hurricane Sandy.
R3: Authorizing the Temporary Waiver of the Requirement for Construction Permit Fees/ Hurricane Sandy
R4: Authorize Chief Financial Officer to Cancel Outstanding Checks – Prior to 1/1/12
R5: Amend 2012 Budget / Insertion of Special Items of Revenue: Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation & Enforcement Grant; Somerset County Youth Services Grant; sustainable Jersey Grant; Recycling Tonnage Grant.

Councilman Franklin spoke about R5, noting this resolution accepts grant monies various programs and gave the amounts for each.

- R6: Purchases Over \$2,000.00 – Swissphone, Inc., Lawsoft, Inc.
R7: Accept Project, Authorized Change Order , and Final Payment – Improvements to Johnston Drive, Glen Eagles, Hill Hollow Road / Top Line Construction
R8: Authorize Mayor and Clerk to Sign Deed of Restrictions – Ness Property Purchase

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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.

Councilman Franklin offered the following resolution:

- R8: Payment of Bills

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

Mayor Mobus said he has distributed to each Councilperson information for a lighted sign which will be considered as a means of communication to the public. This would replace the wooded sign which is in front of Borough Hall. It is a three color sign which will show three rows of information at one time. Councilwoman Joren questioned if three rows would be sufficient and Mayor Mobus said it is more than three rows – that it will scroll down for additional lines. Councilman Nehls mentioned that Warren has this type of sign and it is easy to read the information. Councilman Pote said the Borough should consider other options before going with this type of sign.

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PUBLIC PORTION

Doris Fine, Johnston Drive, thanked the Mayor and Council for suspending the fees for tree removal. She then said since the road construction on Bonnie Burn there has been no street sign and residents would like to see a sign stating "Do Not Block Intersection" and said it is almost impossible to turn off Johnston Drive at peak traffic time. Administrator Atkins said the State would have to be contacted. Mayor Mobus said the Borough will look into this. Ms. Fine then mentioned that her father, Ed of Stanie Glen, would like to see the total number of victims placed on the 9/11 Memorial.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. to the Call of the Chair and to the next meeting scheduled for December 13, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk