

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

May 9, 2013 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Pote called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and read 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] Nehls [P] Gibbs [P] Beck-Clemens [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, CFO Bill Hance, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance. Attorney Albert Cruz was not present, Attorney Michael Cresitello was present sitting in for Mr. Cruz. Although not present at Roll Call, Council President Joren arrived at 7:50 PM

There were 2 members of the public present

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. **Administration & Finance** – Councilman Franklin reported the 2013 Budget is being introduced this evening. The Borough also received a “Clean Communities Grant” of approximately \$13,000.
2. **Police** – No report was presented.
3. **Public Works / Buildings and Grounds** – Councilman Nehls reported the Bond Ordinance for the Mason Dump Truck is on the agenda this evening and hopefully Public Works will have it by the summer. Mr. Atkins said it will be several months but hopefully it should be here before the winter months.
4. **Public Affairs:**
 - Open Space** – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported there are two new members being appointed to the Open Space Committee this evening, leaving only one more position to fill. She said the next meeting is scheduled for May 20th at 7 PM.

Environmental- Councilman Gibbs reported the commission met on April 29th and there is a new member being appointed to the Green Team this evening, but they are still looking for additional members. He said the Commission discussed tree replacements in the Borough and there was much concern with the disappearance of flowering trees in the area and they would like to refer this issue to Laws and Ordinance for possibly considering a requirement that developers or builders replace trees with the flowering types when they do any construction in the Borough. The commission was also concerned that they were not adequately informed about the upcoming shred event. Administrator Atkins asked if the need for tree replacement was due to Super Storm Sandy and the snow last October, and Councilman Gibbs responded that was not the case it is because developers are choosing other types of trees, possibly due to it is a cost issue. He suggested the Borough reach out to the Builders Association to see what their thoughts are on this issue. Mayor Pote said some trees, such as Dogwoods, may be in a weakened state and if not taken care of, may not survive and the builders would be responsible for their replacement. Councilman Black said many of our residents are looking for privacy and many of the trees being used are evergreens which create a buffer, he also said deer have had a tremendous impact on trees in the area. Councilman Black said bamboo has been used a lot in the Borough to create buffers, some of these are invasive and some are not.

Recreation – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the Recreation Commission met on May 1st and they are preparing for the Community Picnic which will be held on Saturday, May 18th with a rain date being May 19th, from 12 PM to 3 PM at Mobus Field. She thought it would be great if all could attend. The Commission also questioned if the request for bids on the tennis had gone out and Mr. Atkins stated that the bid specs were available and so far five contractors have picked them up. The bids are due May 16th. Mayor Pote noted the date for the picnic was changed this year to the weekend before Memorial Day in the hopes for better participation and more volunteers to assist that day. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens stated this year the Commission does have two public works employees who will be assisting with the cleanup after the picnic but it would be helpful if there were more volunteers to assist with the hot dogs and pizzas.

Historical - Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the Historical Commission met on May 8th and the stained glass, which is actually a skylight, has been restored and is now installed. The Commission is diligently working on archiving all the items they have, and the Scout project Walter Pennett will be doing is on hold until after his final exams. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens also wished to remind everyone that the Memorial Day Service will be held at the Texier House Building on Monday, May 27th at 9:30 A.M. and that Leonard Lance will be in attendance and Ralph Diem and Mayor Gerald Mobus will be honored at the Ceremony.

Board of Health – Councilman Black had no report for the Board of Health, however, he reported on the C.E.R.T. program information meeting that was held on April 17th which was well attended. The dates and times for the training have been scheduled for May 21, 22, 28 and 29 to be held at the Exempt Hall from 7-9 PM and on Saturday, June 1st at the Fire Academy in Hillsborough from 9 AM to 3 PM and he is hoping to have a second training session scheduled for sometime in the fall. Mayor Pote said he was in attendance at the meeting and was very impressed with the content of what will be covered in the sessions.

5. **Fire** – No report was submitted.
6. **Laws/Ordinances** – No report was present, however, Councilwoman Joren stated she will give the members an overview of what Ordinances are up for discussion for the next Laws and Ordinance meeting.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. **Engineer** – No report was submitted.
8. **Police Chief** – No report was submitted.
9. **Fire Department** – No report was submitted.
10. **Rescue Squad** – No report was submitted.
11. **Attorney** – Attorney Michael Cresitello had nothing to report other than there will be a discussion in Executive Session on COAH this evening. He also informed all that Mr. Cruz is home and recovering well.
12. **Clerk** – Mrs. DeRocco announced she had a report from the County on an organization called Ridewise which is a service supported by Somerset County and is a source for travel alternatives for Seniors who are 65 & older, or those who are 18 and older who may have a developmental or physical disability. She said these services are now available to Watchung residents. She explained that, for an annual membership fee, Ridewise is available by appointment, for rides to the grocery store, hair salon, medical appointments, etc., and said travel destinations can be anywhere within Somerset County, or within 5 miles of the County border. For an enrollment package, one must call Donna Allison at 908-704-1011, ext. 16 or by email to donna@ridewise.org.
Mrs. DeRocco also reported that she has sent out the Financial Disclosure filing information to all, and the instructions make it sound more confusing than it really is. There is a “receipt” at the end of the submission that needs to be printed and returned, and that this will be her record of the filing.
13. **Administrator** – Tom Atkins had nothing to report but wanted to wish Councilwoman Joren, Councilwoman Beck-Clemens, Mrs. DeRocco and Mrs. Hance a Happy Mothers Day.

Mayor Pote reported he attended the Bayberry School ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the construction of the solar panels which are now fully operational and they will be saving thousands of dollars a year and over half a million dollars over their lifetime, he said Councilwoman Joren and Councilwoman Beck-Clemens were also in attendance. Mayor Pote was very impressed with the students who actually ran the program. Mayor Pote said he and Clerk Michelle DeRocco met with a group of “Daisies,” youngest group of Girl Scouts. They were here to earn one of their “petals”, this one is for respecting authority. They were very respectful and asked many good questions. The Mayor thanked Mrs. DeRocco for her help in setting up for after the meeting with cookies and juice and daisies for each girl to take home with them. Mayor Pote reported the Library Study Committee met yesterday and they continue to look at options regarding our library and they will be having more in depth discussions in the coming weeks looking at all possible alternatives.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda items listed below were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Council President Joren, and a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye”.

Approval of the following Council minutes:
April 25, 2013

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Tax Collector’s Report - March, 2013
Board of Health Minutes - February, 2013
Police Department Activity Report - March, 2013

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #31 - Board of Chosen Freeholders 4/29/13 Resolution establishing a temporary speed limit of 35 mph along a portion of Mountain Boulevard, beginning on or around April 1, 2013 and until construction is completed c: M & C, TEA, TW, Court
- #32 - Board of Chosen Freeholders 4/29/13 Resolution requesting the intervention of NJ Rate Council in JCP&L’s petition to the BPU for approval of rate increase c: M & C, TEA, AC

Councilman Nehls wished to discuss correspondence #31 regarding the temporary speed limit on Mountain Boulevard during the construction. He said he would like to recommend to the Freeholders that the speed limit be set at 35 mph permanently. Mayor Pote questioned if this had to go to the Laws and Ordinance Committee and Councilwoman Joren said a letter should be sent to the Freeholders. Councilman Black asked if this could also include Valley Road. Attorney Michael Cresitello stated the Borough should also get input from the Police Department on this issue.

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Joren with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye

- R1: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Wayne H. Boylan Contracting, Oswald Enterprises, Inc.
- R2: Establish 2013 Sewer Fees - \$430.00
- R3: Appointments to Committees - Desnoyers, Loboizzo / Open Space Advisory Committee
Rubino / Green Team
- R4: Revise Fee Schedule - Recreation / Field Use
- R5: Appeal to DLGS for Extension of Time - 2013 Municipal Budget Introduction

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: 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.

Introduction of Proposed Ordinance **OR:13/06 - “ AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK”**

Council President Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Council President Joren moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and directed the Clerk to publish the ordinance and notice of Public Hearing.

R6: Introduction of OR:13/06 - Cap Bank

The motion was seconded by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye”. Public Hearing to be held on May 23, 2013.

Councilman Franklin moved the following resolution:

R7: Introduction of 2013 Municipal Budget

Councilman Black seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck -Clemens, “aye.”

Mayor Pote thanked Administrator Tom Atkins, CFO Bill Hance and the Finance Committee for all their work and said it took a lot of creativity and patience to come up with this Budget.

Councilman Franklin moved the following resolution:

R8: Authorizing Self-Exam / 2013 Municipal Budget

Councilman Black seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck -Clemens, "aye."

Introduction of Proposed Bond Ordinance **OR:13/07** entitled "**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A MASON DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$84,000.00 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIATION NOTES IN ANTICIPTAION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.**" was introduced.

Council President Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Council President Joren moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and directed the Clerk to publish the ordinance and notice of Public Hearing.

R9: Introduction of Bond Ordinance OR:13/07 - Mason Dump Truck w/Plow

The motion was seconded by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye". Public Hearing to be held on June 13, 2013.

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PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the Public desired to be heard.

Council President Joren moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye".

R10: Executive Session:
Attorney-Client Privilege: Council on Affordable Housing Update

Upon return to the regular session at 9:05 P.M., all Council Members previously in attendance were again present.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 P.M. to the Call of the Chair, and to the next scheduled Council meeting will be held on May 23, 2013 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk