

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 23, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Pote called the meeting to order at 7:35 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

Nehls [P] Black [P] Franklin [A] Joren [P] Gibbs [P] Beck-Clemens [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance, CFO William Hance, Engineer Tom Herits and Attorney William Willard was present sitting in for Mr. Cruz.

There was 1 member of the public present.

At this time Mayor Pote read the following proclamation congratulating Marie Malone and proclaiming Friday, January 24, 2014 as Marie Malone day. He said he is not available to attend tomorrow but Councilwoman Beck-Clemens will be attending in his place.

Proclamation: Marie Malone "101 Years Young" (copy attached)

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- 1 Administration & Finance: Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the budget process has begun and the finance department requests all departments have their budgets in by the end of this month.
- 2 Police: Council President Nehls reported the new dispatcher, Pauline Krawiec, began her employment on January 1st, noting Brian Townley taken over the duties of Kathy Davies, who retired on December 31, 2013. The Police Department is in the process of finalizing their budget and there is a meeting tomorrow. The Detective Bureau is in the process of conducting a full evidence audit.
- 3 Public Works/Buildings and Grounds: Council President Nehls reported since November 22 there were 92 service calls and 79 work orders and the Borough had three storm events in December requiring 250 man-hours and 300 tons of salt. He also said we started 2014 with another snow storm on January 2nd requiring 198 man-hours and 150 tons of salt, and again on January 10th additional snow required roads to be salted after the police reported black ice conditions. The most recent snow events on January 21 and 22 brought approximately 10 inches of snow and used 150 tons of salt. Council President Nehls said we still have 250 tons of salt on hand. He also reported the filling of potholes will be an ongoing project, weather permitting. He said the Public Works Department is looking to fill a current vacancy.

Council President Nehls reported the sanitary sewer project along Blue Star to Johnston Drive is moving along. Engineer Tom Herits said the Johnston Drive portion will continue next week and communications with residents has been good. He said Engineer John Black is there most days to address any questions or issues with the residents. Administrator Atkins said Chief Cina has been communicating with the schools regarding buses and road closures. Mr. Atkins reported that our Borough is not the only one who has complained to the Co-op about their contractor not being able to supply the salt as needed, he said there have been many complaints from other communities. He noted the contractor has remedied the problem but said the Co-op is still investigating as to why this happened.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space: Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had no report.

Environmental: Councilman Gibbs had no report and said the next meeting is January 27th.

Recreation: Councilwoman Beck–Clemens reported there is a ski trip scheduled for February 9th to Camelback Mountain and there are still openings at this time. She also said Dave Mobus is looking into having a tennis camp this summer. She also reported Warren, Watchung and US Sports met on December 12th to discuss shared programs on our fields. Warren fields will have soccer, field hockey and a multi-sport camp, and Watchung fields will hold T-ball squirts, beginner tennis, multi-sports and soccer, and noted all the dates are on the Borough website. She also said the high school intramural basketball has started and is full with 32 participants. She also reported the Recreation Commission received a donation of \$1000 from Weldon in December.

Historical: Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the Committee is working on their budget with the help of CFO Bill Hance. She said they are considering some fund raising projects including selling the Watchung blankets. They will be conducting the second annual History Day on September 27th which will again include a Civil War re-enactment.

Board of Health- Councilman Black reported he attended the meeting last Wednesday and the Commission passed their budget with the Middlebrook portion increasing approximately \$8,000. For two years the Commission had a Grant which they used to keep the budget down but this has now been depleted. He also mentioned the rabies clinics held in December had 65 animals inoculated. He also said a new Emergycare has opened in Watchung and there was some discussion about a nasal spray called NarCan which is used on patients who have possibly overdosed on drugs or have other medical reactions. This nasal spray has an almost instantaneous result and can save lives. The Fire Department and Rescue Squad should possibly look into carrying this. There are no harmful effects using this on anyone. He also gave some details of what the Board of Health is responsible for under environmental issues. Councilman Black reported there have been some doctors offering “free” clinics to senior citizens for health check ups and they are being told this is covered by insurance or medicare and the seniors are finding out they are not covered. Councilman Black reported the next meeting will be held on February 19th at 7 PM.

5. Fire – Councilman Black reported he attended a Fire meeting this morning and also in attendance was Council President Nehls, and Councilman Gibbs. Assistant Fire Chief Pete Martino was also in attendance to discuss a lengthy list of the Fire Department’s needs which included additional equipment and consolidation of the vehicles. Councilman Black also reported there are 30 active members of the department with approximately 15 Watchung residents with the rest residing out of town. Of the in town residents only 4-5 go on the daytime calls and approximately 5-6 on the evening calls. There are only 5 members under the age of 40 on the fire department. Assistant Chief Martino would like to get the word out that the department is in desperate need of new volunteers. They also discussed the renovations. Mayor Pote said since the budget is coming up he would like a report from the architect to have an idea of costs. Councilman Black said they should be able to comply with this and possibly introduce a resolution at the next meeting. Council President Nehls said there is a meeting with Buildings and Grounds and Public Works on February 5th and they will go over this for approval and then bring to the Finance Committee. Councilman Black said there was a water/ice rescue drill at the lake and it went very well and it was well attended.

Councilman Gibbs said the Council should be careful not to just focus on the fire Department as far as volunteers being needed because there are many areas where they could be used.

6. Laws/Ordinances – Councilwoman Joren had no report.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer: Tom Herits reported the Mountain Drive drainage is substantially complete with just some punch list items to be done and road restorations. Council President Nehls said a letter was sent to residents addressing some of their concerns. There was some confusion that the Borough was going to repave the road. He said this was not promised to residents because this is a private road and it was only going to be restored to the condition it was previously in. Mr. Herits said he has many pictures of the road condition prior to the project and that this will be how it is completed. Mr. Herits reported the Cedar Road drainage portion has been completed and the contractor will now be doing Lakeview. He said the Contractor is moving along at a good pace and prior to the recent snow storm they paved the driveway areas that had been disturbed. Mr. Herits also reported there was a meeting with the Contractor on the generators and all the paper work is being reviewed by the attorneys. There will be a new, separate, gas line at Borough Hall just for the generator and regulators and meters at the Police and Fire Departments. He also said the consultant for the rock slope was out there last Friday and will be giving the Borough a report. Council President Nehls said URS did emergency evaluations in the morning and the State inspectors came in the afternoon and the State was happy with the temporary work.

URS efforts were very helpful.

8. Police Chief: No report was submitted.
9. Fire Department: No report was submitted.
10. Rescue Squad: Councilman Black reported he attended the squad meeting this month and they adopted their Budget which is \$89,500, down a little from the previous year. He said they will be ordering a new ambulance. He also reported the Tree of Lights netted the squad \$9000 this year. He said the squad is looking at their By-laws, which have not been revised since 2002, for possible changes. Councilman Black also said that he spoke to Adam Wexler about the Atlantic Ambulance Transport, which is a non-profit organization, and he was informed that the average response time over the last five years has been 7 ½ minutes. He was also informed that if someone can not afford to pay for the service they can write a letter to Atlantic and their hardship would be considered. Councilman Black said the squad has a tentative date for their dinner for March 28th.
11. Emergency Management: Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported that she attended the JCP&L storm training and she said it was very informative. She said they have approximately 1400 employees in the state and they have a 24/7 power center including a live website if residents need information during a storm or loss of power information.. Councilman Gibbs remarked on the number of residents who are serviced by JCP&L vs PSE&G and noted PSE&G also has this type of information available if the Councilwoman would like to check it out. Mrs. DeRocco said both companies have information and links on our website.
12. Attorney: Mr. Willard had no report
13. Clerk: Ms. DeRocco reported that the annual Council picture is scheduled for 6:45 P.M., on February 13th meeting, prior to the meeting.. Councilwoman Joren questioned if we were going to have annual “red day” photo taken this year and Ms. DeRocco said yes and she will check the date.
14. Administrator: Mr. Atkins reported he and Ms. DeRocco met with Chief Cina to discuss better ways to notify residents of street closing during snow events, and Chief Cina intends to continue discussion with the Committee at their next meeting. Mr. Atkins also reported there are personnel matters being addressed to fill a vacancy in the Public Works Department, the Administrator/Clerks office, and the Tax/Zoning office, and there will be a vacancy for a Deputy Court Administrator with the retirement of the current Deputy June 1st. Mr. Atkins said he will be meeting with the North Plainfield Administrator next Tuesday to discuss the shared service agreement. Mayor Pote said there is a temporary person in the tax office to assist at this time.

Mayor Pote asked about the annex reports and Mr. Atkins said Gary Greves has received some back. Mayor Pote requested he be given whatever reports have been returned and Mr. Atkins said he will request these from Mr. Greves. Mayor Pote also asked about the Deer report and Council President Nehls said the committee has not met yet that this report is only a quick draft.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No public wished to be heard.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Public Hearing on Ordinance OR:14/01 entitled: “AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DEED OF DEDICATION FOR A PORTION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 915 JOHNSTON DRIVE AND KNOWN ON THE TAX MAPS OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG AS BLOCK 69.06, LOTS 3.01 and 3.02 TO THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG” was held.

Councilwoman Joren moved a public hearing be held with a second by Council President Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

With no one from the public wishing to be heard Councilwoman Joren closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution:

R1:01/23/14 Adoption of OR:14/01 - Accepting a Deed of Dedication - 915 Johnston Drive

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

A Public Hearing on Ordinance OR:14/02 entitled: “AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A SIGHT RIGHT EASEMENT AND A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 25

CENTURY LANE AND KNOWN ON THE TAX MAPS OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG AS BLOCK 43.09, LOT 13.01, FROM ELITE HOMEBUILDING, L.L.C. TO THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG” was held.

Councilwoman Joren moved a public hearing be held with a second by Council President Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

With no one from the public wishing to be heard Councilwoman Joren closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution:

R2: Adoption of OR:14/02 - Accept Sight Right Easement and Conservation Easement

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

A Public Hearing on Ordinance OR:14/03 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF PROPERTY INCORRECTLY DEDICATED TO THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG SHOWN AS BLOCK 52.01, LOTS 1.03 AND 1.04 ON THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG TAX MAP AND PROPERTY SHOWN AS BLOCK 64.02, LOT 14 ON THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD TAX MAP." Was held.

Councilwoman Joren moved a public hearing be held with a second by Council President Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

With no one from the public wishing to be heard Councilwoman Joren closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution.

R3: Adoption of OR:14/03 - Authorize Vacation of Property

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:

January 1, 2014 Reorganization Meeting
January 9, 2014

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Historical Committee Minutes - November 13, 2013
Tax Collector's Report - December, 2013
Board of Health Minutes - September 18, 2013
Recreation Commission Minutes - December 4, 2013

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#3 - Robert Pittinger 1/7/14 Letter of resignation from his position as a Laborer in the Department of Public Works c: M & C, TEA, JC

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

R4:01/23/14 Authorize Emergency Purchase - URS / Engineering Inspection & Proposal- Rock Wall at Public Works Facility

R5: Amend Personnel Policy - Holidays / Eliminate Election Day, Add Personnel Day

R6: Authorize Professional Service Contracts - Engineers, Labor Attorney, Auditor, Bond Counsel

R7: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Lawsoft, Inc.; Predator Tree Service; Oswald Enterprises Inc.; Microstrategies

R8: Authorize Treasurer to Issue Tax Sale Redemption - 183 Washington Rock Road

- R9: Endorsing the Submission of the Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the State of New Jersey, and Designate Recycling Coordinator / MaryAnn Hance
- R10: Authorize Execution of Agreement with Somerset County / Certified Recycling Professional (CRP)
- R11: Authorize Payment of Accumulated Benefits - Robert Pittenger
- R12: Award of Contract - Snow Plowing / Wayne H. Boylan Contracting, Inc.
- R13: Authorize Emergent Temporary Laborers / Dept. of Public Works - Paul Ost, Skip Bell
- R14: Authorize Clerk to Issue Raffle License - Children's Tumor Foundation

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.

Proposed Ordinance OR:14/04 - entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A PART 1 RULES OF ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG BY AMENDING THE DAY OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS." was introduced. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Council President Joren moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing.

R15:01/23/14 Introduction of OR:14/04 - Amend Appendix A of the Borough Code - Meeting Dates

The motion was seconded by Council President Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens "aye". Public Hearing to be held on February 13, 2014.

Councilwoman Beck-Clemens moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call as follows: Nehls, Black, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens "aye", Joren, "abstain."

R16: Authorize Professional Service Contracts - Borough Attorney, Prosecutor

Councilwoman Beck-Clemens moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call as follows: Nehls, Black, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens "aye"

R17: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 - Recreation Scorekeepers / J. Mobus, R. Jacques

Councilman Black moved the following resolution with a second by Councilwoman Beck-Clemens

Councilman Gibbs commented it is very important that the Borough recognize that we need to educate our residents as to where this money goes, and that the majority of the tax dollar goes to the County and the School District. He also suggested any possible grant money be aggressively sought. Mayor Pote said this is a good idea, and would hope that the Borough is seeking available grant money. Councilwoman Joren said former Councilwoman Cassidy did approach the Board of Ed to see if we could share the services of the person they have who does their grant applications. Councilwoman Joren also suggested the possibility of hiring someone to do this for a percentage of what the Borough received. Mr. Atkins mentioned the supplemental fire service grants available and he gave information to the fire department last year. Councilwoman Joren said the Chief/Captain/Administrator should contact Leonard Lance about this. Tom Herits said they have a person in the Maser office who works only on grants and Councilman Gibbs asked if Mr. Herits could obtain a list of available grants and Mr. Herits said he will send it to Mr. Atkins. Councilman Gibbs said he would volunteer to help with any group to see what could be applied for.

After the discussion Mayor Pote requested the Clerk take roll call to approve R18 and roll call was as follows: Nehls, Black, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens "aye."

R18: Payment of Bills

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

No one from the Public desired to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 P.M. to the Call of the Chair, and to the next scheduled Council meeting to be held on February 13, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance, Deputy Clerk