

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
COUNCIL MINUTES**

May 15, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Acting Mayor William Nehls 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 AND FOR FORMER MAYOR ADDARIO.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, Finance Officer William Hance, Assistant Engineer Arlene McCoy, DPW Manager Bob Burns, Police Chief Joe Cina, and Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance.

There were 15 members of the public present.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Proclamation – Michaelina Guerriero / 100 Years Young (Presented on May 6, 2014)

Johnson Soils / Cliff Inspection Report

Lisa Mahle-Greco, PE for Johnson Soils Company, presented the inspection report authorized as a result of the rock slope fall that occurred in November of 2013 behind the Public Works building, and recommendations possible options to prevent further rock slides in the future. Ms. Mahle-Greco said there is much erosion in addition to trees and other growth at the top the slope. She said Johnson Soil would propose putting in rock drains for the water seepage, and on the upper portion removing the trees and brush, and reinforcing the current rock fence on the top. Council members questioned if the proposed work would prevent any future rock slides and Ms. Mahle-Greco said there are no guarantees this would not happen again because rock faces are a maintenance issue and inspections should be done annually. Councilman Gibbs said his overall concern is that you can't stop nature. Administrator Tom Atkins said the report would now go to the Public Works Committee and Engineering for further discussion, and recommendations.

NJ American Water Co. Grant Presentation / Rescue Squad

Mike Bange, Operations Manager of New Jersey American Water presented the Grant to Adam Wexler on behalf of the Watchung Rescue Squad. Robert Schaefer, Senior Director Central Operations and Charles Gunter for the New Jersey American Water were also in attendance for the presentation. Adam Wexler, Captain of the Rescue Squad, said the grant will be used to purchase special high visibility jackets for squad members.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Administration & Finance- Councilman Franklin reported the Budget is being introduced this evening and also an Ordinance for the Budget Cap. He also said at the last Committee meeting they discussed the vacancy of the Deputy Court Administrator position and employee "comp time". Councilman Franklin said the Dispatcher negotiations are almost complete.

2. Police – Council President Nehls had no report. He said Chief Cina will have a report later in the meeting.

3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds - Council President Nehls gave the monthly report for activities performed by the Public Works Department. He also reported that the JIF CDL training and JIF safety training was completed last week at Borough Hall.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space - Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had no report. She said the next meeting is next Monday at 7 PM.

Environmental - Councilman Gibbs reported the "Queen of the Sun" movie had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather and the Commission is trying to reschedule for another date. He also said the next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 27th.

Recreation - Councilman Beck-Clemens said there is a vacancy on the Recreation Commission and anyone who is interested should fill out a volunteer form. She also reported the following event dates - the Community Picnic is Saturday May 17 from 12-3 PM, the Fishing Derby is September 20th, and the Harvest Festival October 25th. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens said the Texier House Museum will be open during the same hours as the Community Picnic.

Historical - Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the Texier House Museum will be open immediately following the Memorial Day Service and will also be open June 1st from 12-4. This year the Memorial Day Honoree will be Gregory F. Summers II.

Board of Health - Councilman Black had no report other than the next scheduled meeting is June 18th at 7:00 PM

5. Fire – Councilman Black reported there is a meeting scheduled 10 AM tomorrow with the Architect to discuss the options for renovations. He said he attended the first of the month meeting and the men are anxious to finalize the plans for the renovations. Council President Nehls asked if Chief Carlucci will be at the meeting tomorrow. Tom Atkins said the Chief could not attend but there should be two members in attendance.

Councilman Black also reported he attended the Green Brook Flood Control Meeting and the members agreed to review previous recommendations for flood control, including the upper basin.

6. Laws/Ordinances – Councilwoman Joren had no report. The next meeting is scheduled for May 27th at 5 PM.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Council President Nehls gave the Engineers' report received from Tom Herits. He reported the Borough received a grant from the NJ DOT for \$190,000 for Deer Run and Knollwood Drive project. Council President Nehls also reported on the status of all other projects.

Administrator Atkins gave an update on Mr. Olivio's request for plantings on his residence near the monopoles. He said Mr. Herits did submit a plan to PSE&G for review but they would not approve putting any plantings on their property. Mr. Atkins has requested Mr. Herits to meet with Mr. Olivio.

8. Police – Chief Cina reported that 43 lbs. of drugs were collected during the April 26th "Drug Take Back" program held last Saturday. He also reported they will be starting the process for promotions, and the newest patrolman, Chris Hoffman will be starting his field training this weekend.

9. Fire Department – No report was submitted.

10. Rescue Squad – Denise Wilson gave a report on the statistics for the month. She also reported they will be panning a drill to include the Fire Department, Rescue Squad, OEM, and CERT team members.

11. Emergency Management – Mr. Atkins reported that Mr. Greves has all annexes ready to go to County.

12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report but there is one item for Executive Session tonight.

13. Clerk- Ms. DeRocco had no report.

14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins said he had discussed resolution R6 with Al Ellis and Bob Burns, referring to the PARSA appointments.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, questioned the Rock Slope and asked if it was possible to scale the slope back, and also if the Borough is looking for alternatives.

Councilman Black said there were previous discussions to possibly "terrace" the slope and all options and the recommendations by Johnson Soils will be considered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Public Hearing on Ordinance OR:14/08 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 7-15, TITLED 'PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS', OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG PROHIBITING PARKING ON LAKEVIEW TERRACE, MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD AND WASHINGTON DRIVE" was held.

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

Lynda Goldschein questioned what parking the Borough is limiting, especially for residents of those blocks in the event that they had company and required additional parking in the street, and Councilwoman Joren explained this Ordinance gives the Borough the ability to enforce restrictions, if a problem were to exist.

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

R1 :05/15/14 Adoption of OR:14/08 – Amend Code / Prohibited Parking: Portions of Lakeview Terrace, Mountain Boulevard, and Washington Drive

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

A Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:14/09 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-43.4, TITLED "POWERS AND DUTIES GENERALLY", OF THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG TO AUTHORIZE THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE TO OPERATE THE TEXIER HOUSE MUSEUM" was held. Councilwoman Joren moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, 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:

R2:05/15/04 Adoption of OR:14/09 –Amend Code/Historical Committee to Operate Texier House Museum

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

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda Items listed below were unanimously adopted following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Gibbs and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye".

Approval of the following Council minutes:
May 1, 2014

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Building Department Report – April, 2014
Board of Health Minutes – January 15, 2014
Environmental Commission Minutes – March 24, 2014
Tax Collector's Report – April, 2014

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #15 - Borough of Bernardsville 4/30/14 Resolution urging the NJ Legislature to adopt and the Governor to sign an amendment to the Fair Housing Act c: M&C, TEA
- #16 - Township of Branchburg 5/13/14 Resolution expressing their objections to Bills S-1801, A-2621 and A-2495 which would authorize the appointment of a county assessor and county assessment c: M&C, EK
- #17 - Loretta Shpunder -5/12/14 Letter of resignation due to retirement, effective June 1, 2014 C: M&C, TEA

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: Consent Agenda resolutions unanimously adopted following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilwoman Beck-Clemens and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye."

R3:05/15/14 Purchases Over \$2,000. – N. Plainfield Auto Rebuilders; Gold Type Business Machine, Inc.; Predator Tree Service; Atlantic Detroit Diesel/Alison;

R4: Appeal to DLGS for Extension of Time – Budget Introduction

R5: Establish 2014 Sewer Fees

R6: Clarification of Appointment Term and Appointment of Alternate – PARSA / Al Ellis, Robert Burns

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:14/10 entitled " AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK" was introduced. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and directed the Clerk to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing.

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

R7:05/15/14 Introduction of OR:14/10 - Cap Bank

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

R8: Introduction of 2014 Municipal Budget

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

R9: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 of Code – Steve Monetti

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

R10: Payment of Bills

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

Wendy Robinson, Hill Hollow Road, asked if it is possible for a meeting to be held at Borough Hall to discuss the proposed Pipe Line and she questioned what benefit the Borough would get from this pipe line. Council President Nehls said nothing was discussed at the meeting he attended. Administrator Atkins reported that the Borough has had no response from the request put out to residents if they had received a letter from Pilgrim and Mr. Cruz said there has been no response from Pilgrims' attorney to date. Acting Mayor Nehls advised Mrs. Robinson to contact Clerk DeRocco to make arrangements to organize a meeting, and that when the Borough has information to disseminate, a meeting for residents will be held.

Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, had a complaint regarding all the random advertising signs on Valley Road and other locations. She asked, since the Borough does have a sign ordinance in place, who regulates the signs. Council President Nehls said the issue will be brought to Mr. Bennett's attention and Bob Burns will be directed to remove of the signs. Ms. Goldschein also questioned the increase in the sewer tax and asked if there is a more equitable way to assess residents. Councilman Franklin said options had been discussed and right not, this was the best way. Mr. Cruz clarified that R5 increases the sewer fees they are not included in the budget.

Wendy Robinson asked if the Borough has ever considered a dog park in town, and Councilman Franklin said that it had been discussed and he personally is not in favour, citing health issues. Councilman Black said there is a very successful one at Colonial Park in Somerset County. Council President Nehls said the issue will be sent to the Recreation Commission and Buildings and Grounds for discussion.

With no other public wishing to be heard Acting Mayor Nehls close the public portion.

The Borough Council may take official action on those items discussed in executive session upon completion of the executive session.

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

R11:05/15/14 Executive Session - Contract Negotiations-Amendment to Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of North Plainfield for Municipal Court Services

Upon return to open session, 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 10:00 P.M. to the Call of the Chair, and to the next scheduled Council meeting to be held on June 5, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance

Deputy Clerk