

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER 16, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Pote called the meeting to order 7:33 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 [A] Franklin [P] Joren [A] Gibbs [P] Beck-Clemens [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance, Chief Joe Cina, and Engineer Tom Herits, Fire Chief Tom Carlucci was in attendance until 8:10 PM

There were 11 members of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Franklin reported the Committee met on Tuesday, October 16th and discussed animal control services for the next year. He said the current contract expires December 31st and the Borough is looking at several options. Councilman Franklin said the Committee also discussed the possibility of a sewer utility and he said Mr. Atkins and Mr. Hance consulted with the Borough's Auditor, Bob Swisher, who said this would not be advantageous at this time. He also said the Committee is continuing to work on the sanitary sewer billing for one and two bedroom units. Councilman Franklin also reported the Committee is looking at the work load in the Construction Department and the possibility of hiring temporary help. He said the Committee will be looking at the current personnel manual regarding the accumulation of sick time. There is a sentence in the manual that does not allow accumulation from year to year for employees hired in 2011 and beyond and this could be a problem since the Borough does not offer State disability insurance for employees. He said the Committee will be looking at the cost of getting State disability insurance instituted.

2. Police – Council President Nehls had no report.

3. Public Works/Buildings and Grounds – Council President Nehls reported Public Works has been working on the Mobus Playground and where the new equipment was just installed. He said there was a Public Works Committee meeting last evening and they discussed the structural engineer proposals received for the Library. He said the Committee will be recommending awarding the contract to Lortech. Councilman Franklin said both proposals were very close but Lortech has more experience with this type of work. Councilman Nehls said the Committee would like to award the contract at the next Council meeting.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space- Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had no report.

Environmental – Councilman Gibbs had no report. He did ask the Council if they had any objections to the Eagle Scout Project for the bat houses and if not he would like to refer it to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for review. Council had no objections but Mayor Pote wanted to make sure there will be no problems with the flight path. Councilman Gibbs said he will make sure they are placed well away from the pathways. He said they must be at least 15 feet above ground and facing the sun at all times.

Recreation – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the contractors will be working through the weekend and should have the playground equipment installed by Monday, October 20th. She said Mr. Burns will be scheduling the stone delivery and will have the filter fabric picked up and placed over the stone and then have the fiber mulch delivered and spread before the Harvest Festival, which is scheduled for October 25th and all vendors are in place and many fun

events are scheduled for the day. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens also reported repairs have been done at the pavilion and it is now presentable. She also said the tennis program was well attended and that women's volleyball and men's open gym basketball has started. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens said the Senior Mah-Jong club had asked if they could get a heater and some more comfortable chairs for their game days and the Recreation Commission has supplied these for them.

Historical – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had no report but reminded everyone that the Texier House Museum is open on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month from 2-4 pm.

Board of Health- No report was submitted. However, Mayor Pote said the next meeting is scheduled for November 19th at 7 PM

5. Fire – No report was submitted. However, Mr. Atkins said the floor contract will be awarded this evening.
6. Laws/Ordinances- No report was submitted.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Mr. Herits reported the 2015 DOT applications for Valley Drive have been submitted. He also said that the installation of the generators is complete and he will be meeting with PSE&G next week to schedule final testing. Mr. Herits also said the \$100,000 grant received for generators will be used to install generators at the East End firehouse and replace the DPW generator with a gas one. Councilman Gibbs said he thought this money was going to be used to possibly purchase an OEM trailer and Mr. Herits said he will research what these funds can be used for. He also said he and Bob Burns will be meeting with Tilcon to discuss scheduling the paving work for Washington Rock Road and Anderson Road. Mr. Herits said the playground at Mobus should be completed by Monday and Mayor Pote questioned if there will be an impact on the playground area if the entire drainage issue is not corrected. Mr. Herits said it will not affect the playground. He said that one of the aprons has been completed at the firehouse and the second one will be started shortly. He also said the preliminary plans for the renovations to the Firehouse should be sent to us very soon. Council President Nehls said the Public Works Committee would like to meet with the company when these are received and Mr. Herits said they will set this up. He also reported the borings have been completed at the Ness Property. Mayor Pote asked if the potholes on Knollwood would be addressed and Council President Nehls said Mr. Burns is aware of the situation and this will be looked at for repairs.
8. Police Chief –Chief Cina reported the Department is in the process of their fire arms qualification which should be completed shortly. He said the Department had offered the position for the vacant police officer to a candidate, however, after this person initially accepted the position, he since has declined it to pursue other options. Chief Cina also reported the traffic bureau is researching signage, both temporary and permanent, mainly for the Hillcrest Road traffic. He said they hope to have something in place before the winter. He also said the Department is preparing for Black Friday and they are already receiving calls from local businesses. Chief Cina said the last two years have gone very well and all businesses have cooperated.
9. Fire Department – No report was submitted
10. Rescue Squad – Denise Wilson reported on the monthly statistics and upcoming events including the Tree of Lights. She also reported that this Saturday there is a mass casualty drill scheduled and both Berkeley Heights and Warren will also be part of this. Councilman Franklin asked Ms. Wilson about any precautions which will be taken regarding the Ebola situation. Ms. Wilson said the Squad has the basic requirements needed and that they assess all situations before entering a site – safety first.
11. Emergency Management – No report was submitted.
12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report but said there is an item for Executive Session this evening.
13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco - No report but reminded Council this is bill payment night.

14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins had no report.

Mayor Pote said he, Mrs. DeRocco, and Mr. Hance met with Toshiba regarding electric signage. He said they asked for a proposal to include one for Borough Hall and one for the Police Department. He also said they will look for additional vendors. Ms. DeRocco asked if Mr. Herits has anyone he could suggest and Council President Nehls suggested contacting Warren to see who they had used.

PUBLIC PORTION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Denise Wilson said she just received a text from Mr. Greves that there is an Ebola training date scheduled for November 5th. Mayor Pote asked Ms. Wilson if CPR training can be scheduled for employees who wish to do this and she said to just give her an idea on dates.

Tom Roughneen, Pine Lane, asked for a time line once the contract is awarded for the Structural Engineer for the Library. Mr. Herits said it would take approximately six weeks after the contract is signed to have a report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:
October 2, 2014, Regular and Executive Sessions

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Historical Committee Minutes – August 13, 2014
Recreation Commission Minutes – September 9, 2014
Building Department Report – September, 2014

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

None

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda Items listed below, with the exception of R4, were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Nehls and a second by Councilman Gibbs and upon roll the vote was as follows: Nehls, Franklin, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.” Councilwoman Beck-Clemens requested R4 be pulled for separate discussion.

- R1:10/16/14 Authorize Cooperative Pricing Agreement – Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System
- R2: Authorize Return of Escrow – As Listed
- R3: Authorize Insertion of Special Items of Revenue in Budget – Recycling Tonnage Grant, Body Armor Grant, Distracted Driving Grant
- R4: Purchases Over \$2,000. – A&J Contractors Group Inc.; L-3 Communications Mobile Vision, Inc.; Danforth’s Inc.; Seashore Amusements; Armor-Tuff Flooring
- R5: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 – Mobus Pavilion Renovations / Steve Monetti Builder
- R6: Authorize Treasurer to Issue Refund for Overpaid Sewer Payment – 659 Mountain Blvd
- R7: Authorize Treasurer to Issue Refund for Overpaid Sewer Payment – 153 Mountain Blvd
- R8: Urging Legislators to Protect the Strength of the local PERS and local PFRS Systems
- R9: Supporting the “Forward New Jersey” Coalition and Urge Legislators to Ensure Adequate Funding to Meet Infrastructure Needs

Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had questions regarding the water boat on R4. She wished to know the purpose of the purchase, why it is needed, where it would be stored, and who will be maintaining it. Council President Nehls asked if other bids had been received and Mr. Atkins said there was one other one. Council President Nehls said we do need more information and Councilman Gibbs said this was discussed in the Fire Committee meetings. He said we do have two bodies of water in town and we do need some type of life saving devices. Mayor Pote asked Councilwoman Beck-Clemens to put all of her requests in writing and give it to the Public Works Committee and Fire Committee for answers to her questions. He also said the Borough should revisit having some sort of life saving equipment at the two sites.

Councilman Nehls then made a motion to accept R4 as amended with a second by Councilman Gibbs and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Franklin, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye."

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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.

Councilman Franklin moved the following resolution

R10:10/16/14 Payment of Bills

With a second by Councilwoman Beck-Clemens and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Franklin, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye."

Councilman Gibbs again wanted the public to recognize that the majority of the tax monies being spent, approximately \$.74 of every tax dollar collected, goes to the schools and the County.

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PUBLIC PORTION – GENERAL DISCUSSION

Lynda Goldshein, Sherwood Drive, said there was nothing regarding a boat listed on R4 so residents would have no way of questioning this during the public portion for agenda items. She would like to see more information on the agenda. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens suggested putting a brief description for these items on the agenda. Ms. Goldshein also questioned the 9/11 Memorial design and if this went through the proper Committees for review. Mayor Pote said the final design will be determined after several Committees have reviewed it and the full Council has approves it. He said he will discuss with Mr. Atkins to see which Committees have to review. Ms. Goldshein then asked what the East End Firehouse is used for, and Councilman Nehls responded that a fire truck is housed there. She suggested that this could be used for a warming site if a generator was put there. Mr. Atkins explained that it helps the Borough with our ISO rating in fire insurance.

Doris Fine, Johnston Drive, asked when the street sign on Bonnie Burn/Johnston Drive that was knocked down would be replaced. Mr. Atkins will check with Mr. Burns. She also wanted to know about the re-enactment on History Day and if the Council has any input on selecting this event, as it was her opinion that a Revolutionary War Period re-enactment would be more appropriate for the Borough considering our history, and Councilwoman Beck-Clemens explained that History Day was not just our town's history and if Ms. Fine has any information on other types of re-enactments to please email it to her.

Pete Martino, Sunbright Road, said the East End Firehouse is not on Borough property and it has been used many times. He then questioned the article in the Echoes regarding the use of Borough employees as firemen during daytime hours. He wanted to know why this had not been discussed with the Department and Councilman Gibbs said it certainly was discussed and at the last meeting there were at least 9 or 10 members in attendance. Mr. Martino had questions regarding additional payment to these employees since they are already being paid for their time and if payments would be coming from the firemen's stipends. Mayor Pote said this is being discussed. Administrator Tom Atkins said the Administrative/Finance Committee has discussed this at least two times and the Fire Committee also. They are now in the process of working out details for the program and its elements. He said hopefully there will be a draft in the next week or so. Councilman Franklin said the rating system for the stipend payments is very difficult to understand and it must be reviewed. Mr. Atkins said there were recommendations from the Borough Auditors regarding how this should be handled and there was a resolution passed by the Council in 2013. Council President Nehls said the criteria for payments of the stipends must be reviewed again.

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

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

R11:10/16/14 Executive Session:
Contract Negotiations – Weldon Materials, Inc. / Donation Agreement

Upon return to open session, all Council members previously in attendance were again present.

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

R12: Amended Resolution – Donation Agreement / Weldon Materials

Mr. Cruz will await an answer from JIF and once received will contact Mr. Butler with the final agreement.

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ADJOURNMENT
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM to the Call of the Chair, and to the next scheduled meeting to be held on November 6, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk