

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Pote called the meeting to order 7:32 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 [P] Joren [P] Gibbs [A] Beck-Clemens [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Engineer Tom Herits, Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance, Police Chief Joseph Cina, Fire Chief Tom Carlucci, and Administrative Assistant Shelini Parikh. Although not in attendance at the time of roll call Councilman Gibbs arrived at 7:40 PM.

There were 16 members of the public present.

PROCLAMATION

Constitution Day – October 17th

Mayor Pote read the Proclamation in the minutes (copy attached):

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October

Mayor Pote read the Proclamation into the minutes (copy attached):

Christine Schaumburg, Executive Director, Resource Center of Somerset County. was present to accept this Proclamation, and thanked Mayor Pote. She spoke about the Resource Center and also about the Purple Purse Campaign. She reported Somerset County lost its 31st victim to Domestic Violence last year. She also mentioned Franklin Township will be holding a candlelight vigil at 6 PM, October 9th, and all are welcome to attend. Mayor Pote said this would be something the Borough would like to have in our Community.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Proposed Energy Audit Program / Ciel Power LLC – Scott Fischer

Mr. Fischer gave a brief background on Ciel Power which included municipalities that have participated in the Energy Audit Program. He explained that interested homeowners request the audit and then the company visits the home and performs a complete audit which takes approximately 3 hours. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens questioned the cost to homeowners, and asked if there is any cost to the Borough. Mr. Fischer said the cost to the homeowner is \$49.00 but there is no cost to the Borough. Councilman Gibbs asked if the company is selected to do surveys, how the company advertises or gets the word out? Mr. Fischer said they have campaign literature for street fairs, farmers markets, Twitter and FaceBook, but the municipalities take care of getting the word out. Mayor Pote asked if they company does any follow up with those who have work done after the assessment and Mr. Fischer said not at this time. Council President Nehls suggested getting copies of RFP's from other towns and Mr. Fischer said there are examples on the Sustainable Energy website. Councilman Gibbs said the State does have a Clean Energy Program with funds but very few consumers pursue this and the funds are then used to help balance the State Budget. Administrator Tom Atkins suggested our two staff members of the Green Team, Bill Hance, and Shelini Parikh, should prepare an RFP. The Mayor and Council agreed.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Franklin reported the Committee met on Monday, September 15th and continued discussion on the pros and cons of a sewer utility possibility. He said they also they are still working on the sewer bills for 2 bedroom units but are waiting for a total number of these units and their location. Councilman Franklin said they are looking at the zoning issues for a property on Bonnie Burn Road. He said there is a salary issue for an employee with a new job title and also since the Borough Community Service Director, Mr. Jackson, retired there is ongoing discussion as to how best fill this spot. Councilman Franklin also said the bond rating by Moodys is under review and CFO Bill Hance is working on this. He also reported the Committee has been discussing the Animal Control Contract in the Borough. Administrator Tom Atkins said our contract is up December 31st and he is working on this and should have a recommendation by October.
2. Police - Council President Nehls reported the Committee met on Monday, September 15th and that the hiring of an officer for one vacancy is in progress. He said the Police Department received 155 applications and 43 were for a first interview and now there are ten applicants coming in on September 29th for a second interview. Councilman Nehls said there is a County program that is tracking pawn shops and businesses who give cash for gold. He then reported a situation with a resident calling police to move an obese person from one location to another, sometimes from a chair to another room. If a policeman is injured they are not fully covered since this is not in their job description. Councilwoman Joren said these have not been emergency calls they are only calling for help to move the person. Council President Nehls said there needs to be some type of policy on how to deal with situations like this and asked if Administrator Atkins could get some information from JIF and then Laws and Ordinance could address this issue.
3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Council President Nehls reported Public Works employees continued to fill potholes, repaired catch basins, removed a hazardous tree from Johnston Drive and installed a “No Outlet” sign on Oakridge Lane. He also reported the Department installed an AED in the foyer of Borough Hall, trimmed vegetation around Texier House, and did concrete repairs at Borough Hall. Council President Nehls said Public works will start removing playground equipment next week, and finally the Department is prepping equipment for the winter.
4. Public Affairs:

Open Space- Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had no report at this time.
5. Environmental – Councilman Gibbs had no report other than the next meeting will be September 22nd. Councilman Gibbs did complement Shelini on the “great job” on the Farmers Market with a fantastic blend of vendors. Ms. Parikh reported there will be some changes in the layout for the next one two have space for seniors and the handicapped to have better access to parking, and the hours will be changed to 9 AM-2PM. Councilman Gibbs said one of the suggestions people were mentioning for the future would be to have beverages available to purchase. Ms. Parikh said she did reach out to the Fire Department, Rescue Squad but they were not available to do this at the time. She also said the Borough gets sustainable energy credits for this and should reach the Bronze Certification. Ms. Parikh said the review process is lengthy. Mr. Cruz said the certifications are announced at the League of Municipalities.

Recreation – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the Gerald M. Mobus Memorial Fishing Derby will be held this Saturday from 9-11:30 and that the Texier House Museum will be open from 11 – 1. She also reported the Harvest Festival will be held October 25th, rain date October 26th, from 2-5 pm. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens said the Mobus Playground is moving along and would like to have it completed as soon as possible. She said the drainage under the playground area is being addressed at the same time.

Historical – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported History Day is September 27th from 10 am-5pm. She said there will be exhibits for children, period games and music, hot dogs, and ice cream. The Texier House Museum will be open and the debut of the Oral History will be available, in addition to the Scalara Eagle Scout Project, a “Then and Now” photo exhibit. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens said the Historical Committee continues to work hard.

Board of Health- Councilman Black reported the Board of Health met last evening and discussed the grease traps. He said Health Officer Kevin Sumner, Health Inspector Robyn Key, and Secretary MaryAnn Hance, have implemented a report which seems to be working out well. He said Mr. Sumner said they will “re-visit” the system in one year to see if changes need to be made. He also reported the Board discussed the possibility of having carbon monoxide detectors for all

businesses and it was suggested that when the businesses are inspected by Mr. Greves he could recommend to the owner to have one installed. Councilman Black said there is a Flu Clinic on October 1st from 12:30 – 1:30 at Our Lady Of the Mount Catholic Church in Warren, and a rabies clinic December 6th from 9-10 am at the Borough Fire House.

5. Fire- Councilman Black reported things are moving ahead for the renovations. He said the Architect was there with an electrician and it is hoped it can go out to bid as soon as possible. Councilman Black also said the aprons are due to be completed next week. He said there were discussions on the possibility to use DPW employees as firemen during the work day and this will be discussed with the Personnel/Finance Committee. Mayor Pote inquired on the time line for the flooring and Councilman Black said hopefully by the end of the year.
6. Laws/Ordinances- Councilwoman Joren had no report but will be trying to schedule a meeting by the end of the month.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Tom Herits reported the DOT applications for next year are due in October and he will be putting in for Valley Drive which is the road in the worst condition. He said the Fire House apron will be started the end of next week, one side at a time since it does take time for the concrete to cure. Mr. Herits said he met with Weldon and they discussed the salt bin which must be moved and the Borough will be using a Pole Barn as a salt shed, which will be located by Police Headquarters. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens asked if the one we have been using was destroyed and Mr. Herits said no it was not but it is not in a safe area at this time. Mr. Herits said regarding the playground at Mobus, the timbers are being raised another six inches, and the area will be squared off, and the drainage under the playground will be taken care of at the same time prior to installing the new equipment. The other areas with drainage problems will be addressed at another time. Mr. Herits also reported that the generators are all wired and testing will be done. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens asked how long this would take and Mr. Herits said a day and Council President Nehls said the time frame for completion will be by the end of October and Mr. Herits said hopefully sooner.
8. Police Chief – Chief Cina reported the hiring process is ongoing. There were initially 155 applications received with some additional coming in. He said they narrowed the applications down to 45 for a first interview and have now asked 10 of the applicants to return for a second interview. Councilman Franklin questioned the mandatory CAM Legislation and whether the Borough Police Vehicles have these, noting that if required to install them it would be at a cost of about \$5,000 per vehicle. Chief Cina said some of the vehicles do have this and some don't. He said he will keep an eye out for the Bill from the Legislative Committee. Councilwoman Joren said she can email Chief Cina the Bill. Councilman Franklin said he has concerns that this is an unfunded mandate and the Borough would be required to pay for these.
9. Fire Department – Chief Carlucci reported the majority of the members of the Fire Department were not able to attend the 9/11 Ceremony since it was the Firemen's Convention. He then gave the stats for the month. Chief Carlucci also discussed the floor and said he had met a vendor at the convention who does an epoxy floor which is only guaranteed for one year. He also said the tile flooring is indestructible and if you use an epoxy it will not last. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens asked the cost for each type and Chief Carlucci said the epoxy floor would cost approximately \$31,240 and the tile flooring would be \$23,000 and includes a lifetime guarantee. Engineer Tom Herits explained that Watchung used regular chains on the fire trucks because of the hills. Mayor Pote asked what Committee should review this and was told it should be the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Councilman Franklin asked if tiles are used if the existing floor would require repair prior to installation, and Chief Carlucci said it is put on the existing floor and the company levels it prior to installation.
10. Rescue Squad – Denise Wilson gave the statistics for the month and highlighted some upcoming events. She said they are working on the Tree of Lights for December 6th and there will be a Mass Casualty Event on October 18th.
11. Emergency Management – No report was submitted.
12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report but said there is one item for Executive Session this evening.

13. Clerk – Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance reminded Council to sign the bill list.

14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins had no report.

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PUBLIC PORTION/AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Hans Juette (Member of Wildlife Committee), Elisnore Drive, reported on the deer culling issue. He said the Committee has been meeting regularly this year to try to provide some feedback to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Juette said the Committee fully supports using the Blue Ridge Sports Club, noting that the culling yields are significantly lower partly due to using the same sites every year and partly because the hunters are not out every day. He also mentioned the State’s approval for cross- bow hunting and Councilwoman Joren said this was thoroughly discussed at the last Council meeting and the majority of the Council voted against this. Mr. Juette said in order to get more sites the Borough must get approval from surrounding residents (450’). He also urged the Council to continue efforts to control the deer population.

Ray Miller, Valley Road. suggested looking into deer contraception which he said is now only one shot not two. He also said according to the survey the response to a question about the number of deer on properties the results were 133 saw more, 211 saw no change and only 98 saw less.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A public hearing on “BOND ORDINANCE OR:14/17 TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES AND A NEW FIRE TRUCK (PARTIAL FUNDING), INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,050,000 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 ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS” 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:

R1:09/18/14 Adoption of Bond Ordinance OR:14/17 - Various Public Improvements and Acquisition of Equipment

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

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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 the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:
September 4, 2014, Regular and Executive Sessions

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Construction Department Report – August, 2014
Tax Collector Report – May, June, July, August, 2014
Finance Department Revenue Report – May, June, July, August, 2014

Council President Nehls moved the following correspondence with a second by Councilwoman Joren and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Beck-Clemens, “aye,” Gibbs, “abstain.”

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#30 - PSE&G 09/04/14 Notice of Public Hearing on Petition to continue its Energy Efficiency Economic Extension Program c: M & C, TEA

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The resolutions listed below were submitted to the Governing Body for review and will be adopted by one motion.

Prior to the vote Councilwoman Beck-Clemens requested R2 be pulled for discussion.

Councilman Nehls moved Resolutions R3 through R9 be adopted, with a second by Councilwoman Joren and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

R2: 09/18/14 Purchases Over \$2,000. – Communications Specialists , Oswald Enterprises, Inc., Weaver Printing & Digital Copies.

R3: Appointment to Planning Board – Alternate #2 / Ellen Spingler

R4: Waive Chapter 6-2.11 of the Borough Code / Fireworks - Rescue Squad Tree of Lights

R5: Authorize Return of Escrow – As listed

R6: Authorize Execution of Court Shared Service Agreement

R7: Acceptance of 2013 Annual Audit Report

R8: Approval of Corrective Action Plan

R9: Authorize Submission of Fire Department Grant to FEMA

Councilwoman Beck-Clemens questioned the cost of the magnets on Resolution R2 and Ms. Parikh explained that these are 8 ½ x 5 ½ double-sided magnets and after much research this company was the lowest price. Councilwoman Joren asked what they are and it was explained that these magnets have much emergency information on them and that it is hoped they can be inserted in the newsletter, if produced in time. They can also be distributed during other Borough events.

Councilman Nehls moved Resolution R2, Councilman Gibbs seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, 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 with a second by Councilwoman Beck-Clemens and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.” Joren, “nay.”

R10:09/18/14 Authorize 2014/2015 Deer Management Program - Warren Blue Ridge Sportsmen, Inc.

Councilman Black 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.”

R11: Payment of Bills

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PUBLIC PORTION – GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ray Miller, Valley Road, said he was asked to remove a sign he had on his property that said “slow down” and asked if it is possible for the Borough to have some type of sign requesting speed reduction on his street, noting other towns have this type of sign posted. Mayor Pote said the Borough is trying to control the number of signs, however, the Administrator and Public Works could look into this. He said there should be some method to control speeding on the Borough roads.

Tom Roughneen, Pine Lane, said if Council did not approve continuing the culling of deer, how would they control the population, and Councilman Black said the Borough will have to look at alternatives methods, most of which have already been investigated.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 PM to the Call of the Chair, and to the next scheduled meeting to be held on October 2, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk