

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Pote called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 [P] Beck-Clemens [A]

Also present were Attorney Albert Cruz, CFO Bill Hance, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Hance.

There were 7 members of the public present.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

September 11th Memorial Committee – Update

Committee members in attendance were Seth Alexander, Anthony Ingrassia, Thomas Hartmann and Andy Baldassarre.

Thomas Hartmann presented the Council with new drawings of the proposed 911 Memorial and a map with several location suggestions for them to review. Mr. Hartman suggested Council members visit each proposed site to determine which one would be best suited for the Memorial. He said the Committee will be at the September 17th meeting and it is hoped a decision can be made at that time so they may move forward with fund raising. Anticipated construction start time would be in the spring of next year. Councilman Black commended the Committee for all the time they have put into this project. He questioned the liability for some of the locations and Mr. Hartmann did not know the answer to that. Mayor Pote thanked the Committee for their sustained support on this memorial.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Franklin had no report – the next meeting is scheduled for September 14th.
2. Police – Council President Nehls had no report. He said there should be a meeting before the next Council meeting.
3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Council President Nehls reported all metal has been removed from Camp Endeavor and the asphalt will be next. He also said there is a meeting scheduled for September 10th at 3:30 to meet with the Architect for the Library.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space- No report was submitted

Environmental – Councilman Gibbs reported the Committee met on August 24th. He said it was decided the native tree/plant list will only be available on the Borough website, paper copies will no longer be available. They also discussed possible changes to the tree ordinance and they will give their suggestions to Laws and Ordinance for review. Several trees at the Public Works Building are dead and need to be replaced and Bob Burns is looking into the warranty for these. Councilman Gibbs said there will be a meeting at the end of September.

Recreation – No report was submitted

Historical – No report was submitted

Board of Health- Councilman Black had no report – next meeting is September 16th at 7 PM

5. Fire – Councilman Black reported the Firemen’s Convention is September 18-20th, and Fire Prevention week is October 4-11. He also reported all annexes have been submitted to the State for final approval. Councilman Black reported the background checks for new members through Identco cost \$55.45 and they would like to have the Borough consider reimbursing this to both Fire and Rescue Squad. The Fire Department would also like Council to further consider the purchase of the inflatable boat. Councilman Gibbs said the Committee did recommend purchasing this boat and after the recent floods there is a need for it. Councilman Black mentioned the Firehouse refurbishing, and Council President Nehls said they are waiting for the architect to provide the additional plans, as requested.
6. Laws/Ordinances- Councilwoman Joren had no report.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – No report was submitted
8. Police Chief – No report was submitted
9. Fire Department – Chief Erber provided the Department’s monthly statistics. He wished to publicly thank the Scotch Plains Department for their assistance during the recent floods and the Borough Firemen for a great job well done. Chief Erber also reported two men have started fire school and the Department also has two new applicants. He said the truck committee members will be determined at the next meeting. Councilwoman Joren asked Chief Erber why the Department is not using the same company for background checks as the Rescue Squad does and he said the Fire Department needs a more detailed check.
10. Rescue Squad – No report was submitted
11. Emergency Management – No report was submitted
12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz reported on Judge Miller’s Order and decision granting the Borough temporary immunity from Builders lawsuits through December 8, 2015. He said this is also the date the Borough’s Affordable Housing and Fair Share Plan is due to the Court. Mr. Cruz also said there is one item in Executive Session tonight.
13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco – Reported this is the last week for the summer hour schedule and she will ask all departments for a report of the number of residents who may have taken advantage of the longer hours and if there were any complaints regarding the early closures on Fridays.
14. Administrator –No report was submitted.

Mayor Pote asked CFO Bill Hance if he had anything to report and he reminded all that the Farmers Market will begin on September 13th, 10 am to 2 pm at the Best Lake parking lot. Mayor Pote thanked Shelini and Bill for all their work on this project.

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PUBLIC PORTION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one from the Public desired to be heard.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:15/08 entitled: “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG CH. 5-12.76 ET SEQ., THEREOF, “PERSONNEL POLICY,” AND TO FIX AND DETERMINE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES AND COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.” 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, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs “aye.”

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

R1:09/03/15 Adoption of OR:15/08 – Salaries – Min/Max Employee Compensation

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

A Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:15/09 entitled: “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SECTION 11-9, TITLED “RIGHTS-OF-WAY USE LICENSES”, IN CHAPTER XI, TITLED “GENERAL LICENSING”, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG AND CONSENTING TO LIGHTOWER’S USE OF THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY.” 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, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs “aye.”

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

R2: Adoption of OR:15/09 – Authorizing Use of Rights-Of-Way / Lighttower

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:
August 20, 2015 Regular Session

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Finance Department Revenue Report – May, June, and July, 2015
Building Department Report – August, 2015

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #23- JCP&L 8/20/15 Notice of Filing and Public Hearing – Notice of Proposed Recovery through its Basic Generation Service Charges of costs resulting from Statewide Auction for Basic Generation Service c: M & C, TEA, Post
#24- Township of Berkeley Heights 8/24/15 Notice of Public Hearing regarding proposed Land Use Ordinance to Prohibit Unregulated Pipelines in the Township c: M & C, TEA

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, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs “aye.”

- R3:09/03/15 Purchases Over \$2,000.00 – Global Computer (PD Desktop, Monitor, supplies)
Traffic Safety Service (PD Safety & Emergency Supplies)
Cit-e-net, LLC (on-line Credit Card Paym’t Services)
R4: Authorize Professional Service Contract – Sewer Map Update / L T. Purcell Associates
R5: Authorize the Acceptance of Electronic Payments and Establish Convenience Costs Per Transaction
R6: Authorize Reduction of Hours / Part-Time – Shelini Parikh
R7: Authorize Fee Schedule Revision – Recreation Field/Facility Use
R8: Authorize the Award of Professional Services Contract – Preliminary Investigation of an Area in Need of Redevelopment Study and Redevelopment Plan / Maser Consulting

R9: Authorize Watchung Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation –
Proposed Study Area as an Area in Need
of Non-Condensation Redevelopment /
Block 5701, Lot 6.01 (East Drive)

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

R10: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 and Purchase Over \$2,000. – Sparta Discount Tire, Inc.
(PD – Tires for Vehicles)

Councilman Franklin moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Gibbs “aye”, Joren, “no”

R11: Authorize 2015–2016 Deer Management Program – Warren Blue Ridge Sportsmen,
Inc.

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PUBLIC PORTION – GENERAL DISCUSSION

No one from Public desired to be heard.

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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, “aye.”

R12: Executive Session: Litigation – In the Matter of the Borough of Watchung for a
Judgment of Compliance of its Third Round Housing Element
and Fair Share Plan, Docket No. SOM-L-902-15

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 9:12 P.M. to the call of the chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk