

# **BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG**

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 15, 2015**

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Pote called the meeting to order 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.**

### **ROLL CALL**

Nehls [ P ] Black [ P ] Franklin [ P ] Joren [ A ] Gibbs [ P ] Mobus [ P ]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Engineer Tom Herits, Police Chief Joe Cina, and Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Hance.

There were 7 members of the public present.

### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Franklin reported a meeting was held Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at which time the Committee discussed the RFP's for banking services, the summer hour schedule, and finalizing the office staff job descriptions. Councilman Franklin also reported they are reviewing the comp time policy and will be recommending a revision to the personnel manual. Other items discussed included the expiration of the Tax Collector's term, and the use of credit cards for tax payments. He noted that the total amount of assessments due to the Borough is \$1.4 million, and that amount includes all assessments due to 2032.
2. Police – No report
3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Council President Nehls reported the Committee has decided to hold off on the salt shed at this time because they want to look into an alternate location site for this since the original site was in a flood zone. He said there are about 180 tons of salt on hand at this time. Mayor Pote asked if this would be enough and Council President Nehls said it will be if we experience a "normal" season.
4. Public Affairs:
  - Open Space - No report was submitted.
  - Environmental – Councilman Gibbs had no report but said there is a meeting scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Recreation – Councilman Mobus reported that the improvements to the basketball court have been completed and information on the Harvest Festival has been distributed. Councilman Mobus also said the Commission is in need of several new members.
  - Historical – Councilman Mobus reported the Committee has recently been presented with several new artifacts, and that the History Day weekend went very well. Mayor Pote said about 100 people attended the two day event.
  - Board of Health- Councilman Black reported the next meeting is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.
5. Fire – Councilman Black reported there will be a Committee meeting scheduled to discuss getting Phase II completed and once reviewed, the Committee will send suggestions to the Mayor and Council, hopefully by next week. He also reported the architect's rendering has been received and Mr. Herits will distribute to Committee members. Mr. Atkins asked that the entire Council receive this as well. Councilman Black said the fire hydrant markers should be completed in a

month or two, and there was discussion on hydrant clearing. He said the Fire Department will clear as many as possible but if we have a heavy storm this may have to be readdressed. Councilman Franklin said even though residents are not required to clear hydrants in their area it would be helpful if a resident is able to do this. He suggested putting this on the website. Councilman Black also thanked Mayor Pote and Councilman Nehls for attending Sunday's Fire Prevention Day, and said it was well attended.

6. Laws/Ordinances - Filling in for Councilwoman Joren, Councilman Gibbs had no report but said the Committee is trying to schedule a meeting for October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**REPORTS - OTHER:**

7. Engineer – Tom Herits reported the DOT application for Washington Drive milling and paving is due at the end of the month and there should be a Resolution on the November 5<sup>th</sup> agenda. He also said the Knollwood Drive/Deer Run project bids will be due on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Herits explained the reason for the Department of Public Works grading on a portion of Johnston Drive was because the Borough has an easement for a sanitary sewer line there and this must be protected. At the prior Council meeting a resident was concerned that the Department of Public Works might be working on private property. That was not the case.
8. Police Chief – Chief Cina reported the September 26<sup>th</sup> unused/expired medicine collection went very well with approximately 24 pounds. He also said the he has received many resumes for the dispatchers positions which includes several with experience. Chief Cina said the Department is meeting with merchants to discuss the upcoming “Black Friday”. Mayor Pote asked about dates for the live shooter training drills, and Chief Cina said they are waiting to hear back to secure a date.
9. Fire Department – No report was submitted.
10. Rescue Squad – Denise Wilson provided the Squad's monthly report and statistics. She said they have three new cadets, and Gemmy Siegel has resigned after serving nine years since he is moving. Ms. Wilson then reported that Roberto Martinez's wife passed away. And condolences were expressed.
11. Emergency Management – No report was submitted.
12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report, but said he has one item to discuss in Executive Session regarding Affordable Housing.
13. Clerk – Ms. Hance had no report, but reminded everyone it is bill paying night and asked all to sign prior to leaving this evening.
14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins reported letters will be going out on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to residents who are part of the Knollwood/Deer Run project including a letter regarding an informative meeting for these residents which will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Atkins suggested when the Fire Committee reviews the final Rodgers report that they do so in blocks of 1 ½ hours since it has very extensive and comprehensive. Mr. Atkins also said the Planning Board met Tuesday evening and took action to recommend that the East Drive property is an area in need of redevelopment and this will come to the Mayor and Council.

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**PUBLIC PORTION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**  
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No one from the Public wished to be heard

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
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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 Councilman Gibbs and upon roll the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Gibbs, Mobus, “aye.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:  
October 1, 2015

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:  
Building Department Report – September, 2015

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #31- Dave Mobus 10/7/15 Letter of resignation as a member of the Recreation Commission, due to his appointment to the Governing Body c: M & C, TEA, LM
- #32- Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders 10/08/15 Resolution supporting the “Gateway Project,” which provides for rehabilitating the aging and deteriorating rail infrastructure between Newark and Manhattan, and doubling the overstressed capacity for cross-river rail travel between New Jersey and New York City c: M & C, TEA
- #33 James T. Clemens 10/11/15 Letter of resignation as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and the CERT organization c: M & C, TEA, CT

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**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:** Mr. Atkins asked Mr. Nehls if the active shooter response program was reviewed by the Police Committee and Mr. Nehls responded in the affirmative. Mr. Atkins also mentioned R4 was supported by the Chairperson of the Laws and Ordinance Committee. The Consent Agenda Resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Nehls and a second by Councilman Gibbs and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Gibbs, Mobus, “aye.”

- R1:10/15/15 Authorize Tax Sale Certificate #14-03 Payment – 153 Mountain Boulevard
- R2: Authorize Clerk to Advertise for Bids – Knollwood Drive and Deer Run Drainage and Roadway Improvements; and Drainage Improvements at Various Locations
- R3: Purchases Over \$2,000. – Office Business Systems (Telephone Equip. / PD)  
Winner Ford (SUV Vehicle / PD)  
Everbridge (2016 Nixle Contract / PD)  
Behavioral Science Application (Active Shooter Response)  
East Coast Emergency Lighting (Vehicle Equipment / PD)  
Danforth’s Inc., (Rescue Boat)
- R4: Authorize Expansion of Contract – Maser Consulting / Zoning Map
- R5: Authorize Clerk to Advertise for RFP’s – 2016 Professional Services

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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.

Introduction of Assessment Bond Ordinance OR:15/10 entitled “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE INSTALLATION OF GRANITE BLOCK CURBING AT KNOLLWOOD DRIVE (ENTIRE LENGTH) AND AT DEER RUN (PROPERTIES AT THE INTERSECTIONS WITH KNOLLWOOD DRIVE) IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, A LOCAL IMPROVEMENT, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$170,000 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 introduced. Councilman Gibbs

moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilman Gibbs moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Council President Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Gibbs, Mobus, "aye." Public hearing to be held on November 5, 2015.

R6: Introduction of Assessment Bond Ordinance OR:15/10 – Knollwood Drive Curb Improvements

Introduction of Bond Ordinance OR:15/11 entitled **“BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY 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 \$512,000 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 introduced. Councilman Gibbs moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilman Gibbs moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Council President Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Gibbs, Mobus, "aye." Public hearing to be held on November 5, 2015.

R7: Introduction of Bond Ordinance OR:15/11 – Police, Fire, Public Works Equipment, and Various Road Improvements

Councilman Gibbs introduced Resolution R8, and made the following statement: "I am voting in the affirmative for all items on the Bill List, but recusing myself on the purchase of energy commodity, due to his employment with an energy commodity supplier..." Council President Nehls seconded the motion and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Gibbs, Mobus, "aye."

R8: Payment of Bills

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**PUBLIC PORTION – GENERAL DISCUSSION**

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Chief Cina informed the Mayor and Council that Bruce Egnasko’s wife passed away at age 53. He said the viewing is tomorrow at Flynn and Sons in Metuchen 2-4 and 7-9.

Fire Captain Tim Erber inquired about the rescue boat and Council President Nehls said it was approved by resolution this evening. Mr. Erber then thanked the Mayor and Council members who attended the Fire Prevention awards on Sunday.

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Council President Nehls introduced Resolution R9, Councilman Gibbs seconded the motion and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Gibbs, Mobus, "aye."

R9: 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 regular session all council members previously in attendance were again present.

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

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## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M. to the call of the Chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*MaryAnn Hance*  
*Deputy Clerk*