

# **BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG**

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

**APRIL 16, 2015**

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Acting Mayor 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.**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Attorney Albert Cruz, Engineer Tom Herits, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Hance.

There were 6 members of the public present.

### **PROCLAMATIONS:**

Council President Nehls read the following Proclamations (copies attached)

Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month – April

Municipal Clerks Week – May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 9, 2015

### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Franklin said all members of the Council now have their budget books and asked that they review them prior to the meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM. He said this budget does not use any of the appropriation surplus and, in fact, there may be the possibility for some additional revenue generated to add to the surplus. Councilman Franklin also said there is an Administration/Finance Committee meeting on the morning of April 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss matters that were temporarily on hold so the budget could be discussed. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens said the capital budget requests were not included in the books and she also would like every department head at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> evening meeting to so they can present their budget. She asked for Council opinion on her request and all were in agreement.
2. Police - Council President Nehls had no report.
3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Council President Nehls gave a summary of the monthly activity which included ongoing pothole repair, lights repaired at the upper parking lot at the Police Department, and the installation of a new traffic sign at High Tor Drive on Ridge Road. He also said leaf bag pickup began April 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue until April 30<sup>th</sup>. Council President Nehls also reported water service has been turned on at Phillips & Mobus Fields, and the bat boxes have been installed at both lakes by Tom Fiorilla for his Eagle Scout project. He said the Recreation Commission has made a request to have the roof replaced and the concrete floor repaired or replaced at the Mobus Field Pavilion. Council President Nehls said the Public Works Committee met with the new library architect last week and he said Mr. Iovino would like to get started as soon as possible. Council President Nehls also said there will be a meeting with the Warren Library Director on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM to discuss options. Councilwoman Joren asked why the Warren Director is the person who will be meeting with them instead of Doug who has been the Watchung Director for many years and knows the needs of the Library? Council President Nehls said Doug has been reassigned but he would request that Doug be at the meeting.
4. Public Affairs:
  - Open Space- Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had no report.
  - Environmental – Councilman Gibbs had no report
  - Recreation – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had no report but noted the meeting has been scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Historical – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens had no report but said the Commission continues to meet every Tuesday to work on cataloging items and working on the new exhibit.

Board of Health- Councilman Black reported on items discussed at the Board of Health meeting last night. He said Health Officer Kevin Sumner is in the process of reviewing how he provides monthly reports to the Board. Grease trap reporting for the swim club and churches was discussed, and Mr. Sumner said he has discussed the grease trap Ordinance with Councilwoman Joren. Councilman Black said Board members asked if the Borough Police and Rescue Squad have been trained to use NARCON and if they now have it in their departments. He then wished to acknowledge the two new members of the Board of Health, Francesca Escaleira and Julia Gunther.

5. Fire – Councilman Black had no report but hopes that the refurbishing of the Fire Department Building would soon progress.

Councilman Black then gave a brief report on the Green Brook Flood Control Commission. He said the upper basin will be under a limited review by the Army Corp of Engineers and hopefully once the review is completed there will be some relief of the flow coming down through the gorge.

6. Laws/Ordinances- Councilwoman Joren said the Committee met on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. She said she had discussions with Kevin Sumner regarding the grease trap requirements and the possibility of a revision to the Ordinance in regard to the reporting requirements for the swim club and churches. Councilwoman Joren also reported the Committee is reviewing the fee structure for some of the licenses and registrations. She said the Committee will continue looking at Construction and Land Use fees but they would not like to have any fee increases affect Borough residents. Councilwoman Joren said Ms. Hance will be giving the Committee input for some possible changes to other fees. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens said the Recreation Commission is also reviewing their fees. Councilwoman Joren then discussed a draft ordinance to prohibit unregulated pipelines to go through the Borough. At this time Councilman Gibbs recused himself from discussion and stepped down from the dais. Mr. Cruz explained this would be an amendment to the Land Use Ordinance for pipelines not regulated by the Board of Public Utilities and does not serve end customers. He said this request would first have to go to the Planning Board and then would come back to the Council. Mr. Cruz said this is not specific to one company. Councilwoman Joren then mentioned an article regarding trail grants and although it may be too late to apply this year because applications are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>, it may be something to look at for future applications. She said NJ DOT Commission Fox was the speaker at the Governing Official's dinner and both Council President Nehls and Councilman Gibbs discussed the Diamond Hill Road issue with him.

#### **REPORTS – OTHER:**

7. Engineer – Mr. Herits reported the first pole barn has been installed, and that he has quotes for lighting and the ceiling at the Texier House. The Historical Committee would like to replace the fluorescent lights with LED lights and also have track lighting around the perimeter for the displays. He also reported he is in the process of getting some numbers for the drainage at Mobus Field. Mr. Herits said he will be looking for alternatives for the Washington Rock Wall since it is more involved than originally suggested. He also reported on the pre-construction meeting with PSE&G regarding the gas main replacements. He said the project would go from the triangle to Johnston Drive up to Woodledge, and not start until after schools are closed for the summer. He said there will be gas main replacement from Hillcrest to the Circle which will be done at night.
8. Police Chief – No report was submitted.
9. Fire Department – No report was submitted.
10. Rescue Squad – President Denise Wilson gave a report of the monthly statistics. She also reported on some upcoming events the squad will be participating in, such as the Little League Parade, visiting Bayberry School on April 29<sup>th</sup>, and hosting a Girl Scout badge workshop.
11. Emergency Management – No report was submitted.

12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report.
13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco had no report.
14. Administrator – No report was submitted

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**PUBLIC PORTION AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

No one from the Public wished to speak.

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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 Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin and upon roll the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:

April 2, 2015 Special Meeting, Regular and Executive Sessions

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Recreation Commission Minutes – January 7, February 4, 2015  
 Building Department Report – March, 2015  
 Tax Collector’s Report – January, February 2015  
 Historical Committee Minutes – March 11, 2015  
 Board of Adjustment Minutes – January 8, March 12, 2015

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#11 - Township of Bridgewater 4/2/15 Notice of Hearing on Master Plan Re-examination Report to be held on April 27, 2015 c: M & C, TEA, Pl. Board

#12 - NJ American Water Co. 4/7/15 Notice of Filing of Proposed Rate Increase, and Public Hearing c: M & C, TEA

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

- R1:04/16/15 Authorize Subordination of Housing Rehabilitation Mortgage – 75 Lakeview Terrace
- R2: Purchases Over \$2,000.00 – Orchard Holdings, LLC (Crosswalk Light Repair)  
 Penyak Roofing Co. (Roof Repair at Mobus Pavilion)  
 Seashore Amusements (Community Picnic Amusements)
- R3: Authorize Tax Sale Certificate #14-08 Redemption – 124 Edgemont Road
- R4: Appointment of Member of Volunteer Fire Department – Spencer Adriaanse
- R5: Authorize Expansion of Contract – Maser Consulting / Affordable Housing  
 Consulting Services / Maser Consulting
- R6: Authorize Waiver of Municipal Portion of Construction Permit Fees – Rescue Squad
- R7: Authorize Tax Sale Certificate #13-06 Redemption – 47 Redmont Road
- R8: Authorize Tax Sale Certificate #2-2008 Redemption – 47 Redmont Road

**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, Beck-Clemens, "aye."

R9:04/16/15 Payment of Bills

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**PUBLIC PORTION – GENERAL DISCUSSION**

No public wished to speak.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M. to the call of the chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2015 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*MaryAnn Hance*  
*Deputy Clerk*