

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2016- 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Acting Mayor Debra Joren 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 AND FOR THE ORLANDO VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

ROLL CALL:

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

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, CFO William Hance, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance and Engineer Tom Herits.

There was 1 member of the public present.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Gibbs had no report. The next scheduled meeting is July 7th.

2. Police – Council President Joren reported Sgt. Holzheimer will be retiring as of June 30th and there is another officer on disability who may also be leaving therefore, the Chief will be starting the process of looking for at least one new officer. She also reported the radios must be replaced and Motorola gave a quote of \$17,000 for the software and labor. Brian Townley could probably do the installation and save the Borough money. Council President Joren said the Committee is looking at the County dispatch again – we already use them for the 911 and Fire calls. The County will do a grid testing of the Borough to see if this is even feasible. She said the Police Committee is only gathering information at this time. She gave kudos to the Police Department for helping to rescue a deer from the lake.

3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Councilman Nehls reported all Public Works employees attended a JIF Training: Work Zone/Flagger Safety. Catch basins and potholes have been repaired. Public works also repaired berms on High Oaks Drive, Wetumpka Lane, Price Drive, King Richard Court, and Acorn Drive. The Department also installed 2 small window air conditioners at the library and prepared a closet at Borough Hall to accommodate the computer server. Councilman Nehls also reported PARSAs has taken over the maintenance of the pump station as of June 1st; and there was a delivery of bioxide on June 15th.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space – No report.

Environmental – No report.

Recreation – Councilman Mobus reported there are still 25 tickets available for the June 24th Yankee trip.

Historical – Councilman Mobus reported the meeting was postponed until next Monday.

Board of Health – Councilman Black reported he attended the meeting last evening and the main discussion was on water testing for lead at the High School and said the Commission Members are very adamant that flushing is not enough. He said the Commission would like the Council to either endorse some type of letter to Watchung Hills or the Board of Education stressing the need to test the water for lead. Councilman Nehls said this stems from an article in which Watchung Hills stated they will not test. He also said there is potential for lead affecting not only the young children but the older children as well. Eric Hostettler, Echoes Sentinel reporter, said he has been in touch with the Board of Education and he was told they are waiting for the New Jersey School Board Association to mandate testing so the school does not have to pay for it. Councilman Gibbs said he is in agreement with Councilman Nehls that this should be done immediately and suggests doing a resolution encouraging Watchung Hills to do the testing now. Councilman Nehls suggested they do random samplings. Councilman Mobus asked if the cost is under \$1,000 and was told it was. Councilman Gibbs made a motion to have the Council prepare a Resolution for the next meeting, Councilman Black seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, “aye.” Councilman Black thanked the Council on behalf of the Board of Health.

5. Fire – Councilman Black reported at the last Committee meeting the stipend was discussed and they will be finalizing the paper work and forwarding to Bill Hance. He said he spoke to Paul Ost who has ensured that this will be done. Councilman Black also said they discussed the fire truck purchase and would like to have the monies tabled last year for the SUV, about \$44,000, moved to the truck fund. Councilman Gibbs said if that is the formal recommendation by the Committee that the Administration/Finance Committee will discuss with Administrator Atkins and CFO Bill Hance at the July 7th meeting. Councilman Gibbs also suggested rather than buying new vehicles for various departments the Borough could use the Police vehicles that are no longer useful for them. Councilman Nehls said Chief Jon Erber would be willing to pass on the purchase of his vehicle. He also said if the Borough has \$500,000 for a new fire truck but if the Fire Department choses to try for one at a cost of \$800,000 then the Fire Department should supplement the Borough for the difference. Councilman Black also asked for an update on the building renovations and Tom Herits said the specs are ready for bid. Councilman Nehls said they are good to go out to bid.

6. Laws/Ordinances – No report.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Tom Herits reported that Knollwood and Deer Run are done and he is finalizing the quantities. He said he is finishing the plans for Valley Drive and adding some miscellaneous drainage repairs. Mr. Herits also reported he has given the road milling and paving information to Tilcon. He said he is also ordering a utility mark out for the 911 Memorial and taking soil samples. Council President Joren asked where the Memorial is going and Councilman Nehls said this will be discussed at the Public Works meeting next week and suggested meeting on Wednesday, June 22nd at 8 AM to look at the location.

8. Police Chief – No report.

9. Fire Department – No report.

10. Rescue Squad – No report.

11. Emergency Management – No report.

12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report.

13. Clerk – Michelle DeRocco reminded everyone the Girl Scouts will be planting 2 trees at Spratford Park at 8:30 A.M. Wednesday. She said Gray’s Florist donated one tree and the Scouts purchased one. Ms. DeRocco thanked the Police Department for their assistance with the traffic at Wilson Memorial Church on Election Day and said everything went very well.

14. Administrator – No report.

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PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one from the public wished to be heard.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Public Hearing on Bond Ordinance OR:16/07 entitled: “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AND A NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE 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 \$540,000 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.

Councilman Gibbs moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, “aye.”

With no one from the public wishing to be heard Councilman Gibbs closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution:

R1:06/16/16 Adoption of Bond Ordinance OR:16/07 - 2016 Road Resurfacing Program,
Acquisition of Additional or Replacement
Equipment, New Vehicle and Partial
Funding of New Fire Truck

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

A Public Hearing of Bond Ordinance OR:16/08 entitled: **“BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO PHILLIPS FIELD IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$27,000 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.

Councilman Gibbs moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Gibbs, Mobus, “aye”, Nehls, “abstain.”

With no one from the public wishing to be heard Councilman Gibbs closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution:

R2: Adoption of Bond Ordinance OR:16/08 – Phillips Field Various Improvements

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

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:
June 2, 2016

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Building Department – May, 2016
Recreation Commission Minutes – March 2, April 6, May 11, 2016
Police Department Activity Report – May, 2016
Youth Service Commission Minutes – March 22, April 19, May 31, 2016

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

None

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

R3:06/16/16 Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #12-007 / 131 Cedar Road

R4: Purchases Over \$2,000. – A & K Equipment (Accessories for New Truck)

R5: Authorize Cancellation of Outstanding Checks

R6: Certify General Fund 2016 - 2017 Tax Levy: Watchung Board of Education

R7: Certify General Fund 2016 - 2017 Tax Levy: Watchung Hills Regional Board of Education

R8: Authorize Liquor License Renewals: Ricks Liquor Shop LLC
Colorado Café, Inc.
GC Friday’s NJ PA LLC - 1701
VDK Ho Corp.
Twin Brooks Lounge
Tocci Restaurant Inc.
Watchung BWV LLC

Councilman Gibbs commented on R7 stating that the funding the Borough sends to Watchung Hills Regional High versus other towns is still significantly higher considering the assessed values are similar. The Borough pays approximately \$21,000 per student. It was suggested to lobby the State to change the funding formula. Councilman Black said former Mayor Addario tried very hard to do this but could not get it changed. Council President Joren suggested authorizing a resolution regarding this and sending it to the 21st District. All were in favor of this.

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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 Gibbs moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, “aye”, Black, “abstain.”

R9:06/16/16 Waive Chapter 2-25.10 of the Code – Gray’s Florist

Councilman Gibbs introduced Resolution R10, 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 my employment with an energy commodity supplier...” Councilman Nehls seconded the motion and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, “aye.”

R10: Payment of Bills

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PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

No one from the public wished to be heard

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM to the call of the chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting 7:30 PM, July 21, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk