

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 19, 2016 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Pote 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:

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

Although not present at roll Councilman Sopko arrived at 7:33 PM

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

There were 3 members of the public present

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Pote read the following proclamation: (copy attached)

Commending Rose Anne Barr on years of service / Traffic and Beautification Commission

Mrs. Barr said she is moving to Pennsylvania near where her daughter resides, and that she has enjoyed volunteering for the Borough and the church. Councilman Gibbs said his first experience with the Borough was working with her and Sue Forton on the Traffic and Beautification Commission and he wished her well.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Gibbs had no report, the next meeting is scheduled for June 6th.

2. Police – Council President Joren reported all officers have completed the spring firearms qualifications. She said the Operation Take Back program on April 30th was very successful with 41 pounds of unused medicines collected. Council President Joren said the Department is getting prepared for the next accreditation inspections.

3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Councilman Nehls reported all Public Works employees attended a JIF Training program, and the Department completed catch basin repairs, spring leaf bag removal and performed maintenance at various buildings including concrete sidewalk repairs at the Court and Police facility. The Department also assisted Traffic and Beautification with preparing triangle for plantings. Councilman Nehls said the Public Works Committee met on May 13th and discussed the roads to be included in the Bond Ordinance, and Texier House maintenance and repairs including the ceiling and lighting. He said they also discussed the request from the Recreation Commission to look at the drainage at Mobus Field prior to any repairs to the basketball court & pavilion. The Committee also discussed concerns about assessments for Belgium block curbing and they recommend not having input from residents, and that moving forward this should just be included in the contract. Councilman Nehls said there must be a more consistent procedure in place for projects that include curbing, since the 50/50 does not seem to work. Councilman Mobus asked if Belgium block is part of any of the road projects that would be included in the Bond Ordinance and Mr. Herits said it is only milling and paving. Councilman Gibbs asked all to get costs for any major projects or capital improvements to Mr. Atkins and Mr. Hance so they may be included in the Bond Ordinance for June 2nd.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space – No report

Environmental – Councilman Sopko reported the next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd.

Recreation – Councilman Mobus reported the Commission met on May 11th and discussed some capital improvements. The priorities would be the drainage, the basketball court repairs, replacing the floor inside the pavilion and the deck and railing at Phillips field. Councilman Nehls requested Ms. DeRocco speak to Mr. Atkins about JIF doing a safety inspection and provide the Borough with a list of priority items for Phillips and Mobus fields. Councilman Mobus said Chris Murphy resigned

from the Commission due to a new job which will require him to travel out of State. Councilman Mobus reminded all that the Community Picnic will be held this Saturday from 12-3:00 PM, rain date Sunday. Linda Monetti has received many donations, including a Home Depot donation of a gas grill to raffle off. He also said there will be a trip to a Yankee/Minnesota Twins game on June 24th, cost is \$65 per person. There are plans in the works for some type of summer programs in conjunction with the Youth Service Commission.

Historical – Councilman Mobus reported the Historical Commission won the 2016 Somerset County Historic Preservation and History Recognition Award which will be presented on May 25th at 7 PM at the Brook Arts Center in Bound Brook. He is planning on attending and hopes everyone will try to attend also. The Commission has been discussing the possibility of purchasing a shed for storage purposes to display and store antique tools. Councilman Nehls asked for more specifics, ie. size, proposed location. Councilman Mobus said their first priority is the ceiling lighting.

Board of Health – Councilman Black had no report the next meeting is June 15th at 7:00 pm.

5. Fire – Councilman Black reported the Committee is still waiting on the final stipend report, and the fire truck report.

6. Laws/Ordinances – Council President Joren reported the Committee met this evening and discussed the Planning Board review and revision of the Master Plan for the Weldon Quarry. She gave an overview of the revisions which have been thoroughly discussed by the Planning Board, with input from the Environmental Committee and many site visits. The Laws and Ordinance Committee is recommending an Ordinance be introduced at the June 2nd meeting, and then it would be sent back to the Planning Board for review and approval at their June 21st meeting, prior to the Public Hearing at the July 21st Council meeting. Council President Joren asked if Council was in agreement to introduce the Ordinance at the June 2nd meeting and it was the consensus by all that this be done.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Tom Herits reported the Knollwood Project has been completed with only a few punch list items to be done. He said the Valley Drive plans have been sent to Department of Transportation, and granite block will only be used at the inlets. Mr. Herits would like all proposed road work completed during the summer while schools are out and he will work up prices for some drainage issues. He also said he has looked at the foundation at the Texier House and it looks alright and recommends that the gutters be replaced before doing any work on the fascia boards.

8. Police Chief – No Report

9. Fire Department – No Report

10. Rescue Squad - Councilman Nehls said he attended the Installation Dinner and wished to congratulate Ms. DeRocco on receiving the Past President award.

11. Emergency Management – No Report

12. Attorney – No Report

13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco thanked the Rescue Squad for the award and thanked Denise for her service as President.

14. Administrator – No Report

Mayor Pote reminded all the annual clean-up will be the first two weeks in June and the Memorial Day Service will be held May 30th at 9:30 AM. The Fire Department Service will be at 9:00 AM.

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PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one from the Public wished to be heard.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion: Architects’ Design – Proposed Firehouse Renovation / Borough Engineer Tom Herits

Engineer Tom Herits explained the renovations planned for the first and second floor of the Fire House. The first floor will have a new unisex bathroom and will be ADA compliant, and room for storage. There will be an entrance ramp to the first floor. The second floor will have a shower and change room, and new men’s and ladies rooms, both will be ADA compliant. The kitchen will also be remodeled to accommodate the 2 bathrooms, and in addition to an exhaust hood, the back drying area will be moved to create another storage area. Councilman Gibbs asked if there would be an automatic door opener and Mr. Herits said it is not necessary but this could be added at any time. Councilman Nehls said the request for a “bump out” was not approved but if the fire department wants it they would have to pay for it.

Mr. Herits if it can go out to bid and Councilman Nehls said it should be finalized through the Building and Grounds Committee.

Councilman Gibbs this is a lot of money for the renovations and would like to make sure the public recognizes and understands the reason for these expenditures, and that this confirms our commitment to our Fire Department. Councilman Nehls said the Fire House will also be able to be used as a warming station, if the need ever arises. Mayor Pote asked that it be made clear and in writing, exactly what the Borough will be paying for, and what the Fire Department will have to pay for, if they want anything additional.

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda items listed below were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Joren and a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:
May 5, 2016

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Building Department – April, 2016
Finance Department Revenue Report – January, February, March, April, 2016
Library Advisory Board Minutes – January 6, February 3, March 2, 2016

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#14 - Chris Murphy 5/2/16 Email notification of Resignation as a Member of the Recreation Commission c: M & C, TEA, LM

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda Resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Joren and a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

R1:05/19/16 Purchases Over \$2,000. – Winner Ford (PD Vehicle)

R2: Authorize Renewals of Towing Licenses / 3 Year – Benham’s Service & Garage, Inc.
Berkeley Collision Repair
JVD Towing Service, LLC
Mike’s Towing & Recovery

R3: Authorize Professional Service Contract / Tax Map Update – Maser Consulting

R4: Authorize Appointment of Grant Writer – Maser Consulting

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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, Black, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

R5:05/19/16 Waive Chapter 2-25.10 of the Code – Sparta Discount Tire, Inc.

Introduction of Ordinance OR: 16/05 – **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG CH.5-12-12.76 ET. SEQ., THEREOF AND TO FIX AND DETERMINE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES AND COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES”** Public Hearing to be held June 2, 2016.

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

R6: Introduction of Ordinance OR:16/05 – 2016 Salary Min/Max

Councilman Gibbs moved the following Resolution R7 with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll Call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

R7: Payment of Bills

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PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

None

Engineer Tom Herits said he has spoken to Eric at the Board of Education regarding testing for lead at our schools. Eric confirmed that they flush the systems every morning. The first flushing would remove lead that is standing in the pipes, the 2nd flush would remove any lead from the system and the 3rd would flush any standing in the pipes going into the buildings and this is done every day. All the local schools were tested and were fine.

Mayor Pote said the Weldon Ordinance and the Bond Ordinance will be on the June 2nd Agenda, and there will be a discussion regarding the 9/11 Memorial. Councilman Nehls questioned why a discussion was necessary on the 9/11 Memorial other than to formally adopt by vote. Councilman Gibbs said the Chair of the Committee wished to address the Council.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM to the Call of the Chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting 7:30 PM, June 2, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk