

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 – 7:30 PM

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

Also present were Attorney Albert Cruz, CFO Bill Hance, Chief Joe Cina, 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):

“Celebration of Constitution Week” - September 17th through September 23rd

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Gibbs reported the next meeting is scheduled for September 12th. He also said there are two resolutions on the agenda this evening, R3 to renew membership with JIF and an introduction of Ordinance OR:16/10, allowing for a transfer of capital dollars from a previous Bond Ordinance to the Fire Department Apparatus Fund.

2. Police – Council President Joren said Chief Cina is here and he will give a report.

3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Councilman Nehls had no report but reminded Council that Mr. Iovino will be at the next Council meeting to give his presentation on the Library and between now and then the Public Works Committee will be meeting with him to go over his final thoughts. Mayor Pote asked if there are any known costs yet and Councilman Nehls said it is too early but Mr. Iovino has had conversations with the County and has a good idea for the layout but this could change. Mayor Pote asked if the public will be able to comment or ask questions during the presentation and Councilman Nehls said they would. He said the next step would be to get some cost estimates and then specifications to go out to bid. Mayor Pote asked if there was any feedback on the milling and paving projects and Councilman Nehls said there were no complaints. Mayor Pote said he received an email from a resident with positive remarks and he will forward this to Councilman Nehls.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space – No report.

Environmental – No report - the next scheduled meeting is September 26th.

Recreation – No report – the next meeting is scheduled for September 7th.

Historical – No report – the next meeting is scheduled for September 14th.

Board of Health – No report – the next meeting is scheduled for September 14th.

5. Fire – No report

6. Laws/Ordinances – Council President Joren reported the Committee met this evening and said they discussed GPS Mapping. Councilman Gibbs explained this will be helpful when updating the tax maps. He said if a resident files for a site plan they will be required to submit it electronically which will allow updating easily. Council President Joren said they also discussed preparing an Ordinance to ban the sale of crib bumpers and Mr. Cruz will have the Ordinance ready for introduction at our next Council meeting. She also said the dog tethering Ordinance will be re-introduced with the correct language to include fines. The Committee also discussed an Ordinance to prevent pet stores from selling “puppy mill” pets and Mr. Cruz has prepared a draft ordinance for this. Council President Joren said they discussed eliminating the triangle from the overlay zone and the possible elimination of the Historical Preservation Committee. She said all duties included in the Code book for the Historical Preservation Committee are taken care of through the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment and the Historical Committee can also help since they have a very active Committee.

Mayor Pote asked if the banner for the Fishing Derby could include the information that any fishing is “Catch and Release” only and suggested the Borough put signage at the lakes for this.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – No report

8. Police Chief – Chief Cina on the impact for the Borough on the Bail Reform which will take effect January 2017. This will require electronic fingerprinting and the Department does have a program (cross match) but it is not capable of being updated to “Live Scan” and as the date gets closer the Department may have to purchase new software. Chief Cina said the Departments’ three year accreditation status is coming up for renewal this fall and onsite inspections will be scheduled soon but he said the Department is in good shape and does not anticipate any problem with this renewal. Chief Cina reported all members of the Department have been trained and certified on the new radar equipment-Lazer Tech is target specific. Council President Joren asked about calibrating and Chief Cina said this must be done each day for accuracy. Mayor Pote asked about the road work on Hillcrest Road and Chief Cina said these were repairs from the water main break. Mayor Pote questioned the safety issues and asked about possibility of using rough patch on the road surface and Chief Cina said he would have to discuss this with the engineer.

9. Fire Department – No report.

10. Rescue Squad – Councilman Sopko said there will be discussions on the shared services plan at the next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting on September 12th and he will report on this at the next Council meeting. He said hopefully the Rescue Squad will give some input on this. Councilman Sopko also reported that the bees are not fairing to well due to stress and mites. However, a local beekeeper in Watchung will take the bees when they can be transported.

11. Emergency Management – Carolyn Solan and Charlie Delaney from the CERT team reported on some of the events they have covered. Ms. Solan said in August CERT members took Point of Distribution (POD) training at the Somerset County Training Academy given by the County Department of Health and Human Services. They learned the new State regulations regarding POD distribution and the team will be following these guidelines in the County wide POD drill in September and CERT will be responsible for setting up, maintaining and demobilizing a POD Station. The goal is to serve the greatest number of people in 48 hours. Ms. Solan also reported she met with the Warren and Green Brook CERT to set up quarterly meeting/drill agendas, the September and January drills will be hosted by the Watchung CERT and the topic will be “search and rescue”. She said the April meeting will be sheltering with a tour of overnight sheltering facilities in Warren. Ms. Solan reported both she and Mr. Delaney became members of the SC SAR team and have become certified by NASAR (National Association of Search and Rescue) with SARTECH III credentialing. She said they have also taken Map and Compass training and their goal is to take this level of training and increase the “search and rescue” skills the Watchung CERT team has.

12. Attorney – No report except there is one item on executive session to update the Council on Affordable Housing.

CFO Hance had no report.

13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco asked if everyone received their newsletter and all responded they had. She thanked Ms. Hance for getting the newsletter out in a timely manner and also for filling in for Jessica at the Farmers Market this weekend. The Farmers Market is rain or shine unless Gary Greves shuts it down because of the tents if there are strong winds. Ms. DeRocco reported a face painter will be at the September 11th Farmers Market. Ms. DeRocco also said the Garden Club will be holding a fund raiser on October 13th at Saint Mary’s Stony Hill Church. It will include a custom fragrance bar, and two raffles – a 50/50 and a basket raffle. Ms. DeRocco wished everyone a happy and safe Labor Day.

Mayor Pote asked if Councilman Gibbs would like to mention the September 11th ground breaking ceremony. Councilman Gibbs said it will be held at 9 A.M. and Senator Kean will be in attendance.

14. Administrator – No report

Mayor Pote reported in the next day or two there will be a public announcement on the Pilgrim Pipeline regarding the Coalition of the fifteen towns who have financially contributed to the legal and environmental counsel. They are looking at putting out a press release on the strength of the group.

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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
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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, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:
August 18, 2016

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
None

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #27 - Borough of South Bound Brook 8/25/16 Resolution in support of H.R.814, known as the “Thin Blue Line Act” c: M&C, TEA
#28 - JCP&L 8/25/16 Notice of filing and Public Hearing for Basic Generation Service Charges C: M & C, TEA, Post
#29 - PSE&G 8/26/16 Notice of filing and Public Hearing for Basic Generation Service Charges C: M & C, TEA, Post
#30 - Township of Warren 8/29/16 Notice of Amended and Restated 2016 Master Plan Reexamination Report c: M & C, TEA, Pl. Bd.

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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, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

- R1:09/01/16 Authorize Clerk to Issue Raffle Licenses – Garden Club of Watchung (2 Licenses)
R2: Authorize Salary Adjustment – Judge John Richardson
R3: Authorize Renewal in the Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (JIF)
R4: Purchases Over \$2,000. – Beyer Fleet (PD – New Vehicle)
Dell, Inc. / 2 PO’s (PD – Computer Equipment)
ERT Consultants, LLC (FD – Rescue Training)
R5: Accept Project, Authorize Change Ordinance and Final Payment – Reivax / Improvement to Knollwood Drive and Deer Run
R6: Authorize Mayor and Clerk to sign 2016-2017 Municipal Alliance Grant Contract
R7: Authorize Tax Sale Redemption Certificate #15-02 / 32 Beechwood Pl.

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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 Ordinance OR:16/10 entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PARTIAL FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FIRE TRUCK FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$44,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.”**
Public Hearing to be held on September 15, 2016.

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

R8:09/01/16 Introduction of OR:16/10 - Capital Ordinance for Fire Department Apparatus

Councilman Gibbs states there is no increase in either taxes or bonding this Ordinance is not incurring any additional debt.

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

R9: Authorize 2016-2017 Deer Management Program / Blue Ridge Sports Club

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PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

No one from the Public wished to be heard.

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

R10: 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

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

Upon return to regular session, all Council members previously in attendance were again present.

Mr. Cruz said he just gave the Mayor and Council an update on the affordable housing litigation that the Borough is participating in along with related litigation on the gap period and litigation arising from South Brunswick.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 P.M. to the Call of the Chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting 7:30 PM, September 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk