

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2017
7:30 PM**

OPENING STATEMENT: Mayor Stephen K. Pote called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 [A] Mobus [P] Sopko [P]

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

There were 8 members of the public present

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pote read the Proclamation for Radon Action Month (copy attached.)
He said everyone should test their homes for Radon, it is simple and inexpensive.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance- Councilman Mobus reported the Committee met on January 10th and discussed the 2017 budget which is being prepared by Mr. Hance and Mr. Atkins and it is hoped to introduce it on March 16th, and adopt on April 20th. Councilman Mobus asked if the Mayor and Council would like to have a special meeting for Committees to come and present their budgets. It was the consensus of the Council that they would like to schedule this for a Saturday. Mr. Atkins and Ms. DeRocco will set a date for this. Councilman Mobus also explained Resolution R1 - the refunding bond which will be for \$9,499,000 over a nine (9) year period, and could save the Borough approximately \$750,000 over that time period. Councilman Nehls said there are unexpended funds from 2015 of \$303,000 and 2016 \$400,000 and it will possibly be recommended to transfer a portion to the 5% down payment fund. Councilman Mobus said work is being done to file a claim with JIF requesting reimbursement for the October sanitary sewer break which was caused by a contractor on Route 22. He also said in order to finalize the tax map updates by Maser an additional \$6,900 is needed and it was also requested to move forward requiring all plans and permits to be done electronically. Mr. Atkins said this would be for future subdivision additions to the tax maps and an ordinance should be prepared to require this. Councilman Mobus also said it is a State requirement under the Public Contracts Law that municipalities have a Compliance Officer and Ms. DeRocco, as Clerk, will be appointed for this. Mr. Atkins said he, QPA Bill Hance, and Engineer Tom Herits will assist when needed. Councilman Mobus also said Mr. Atkins, Mr. Hance and Ms. DeRocco met with the Arts Center regarding their lease and the Borough is requesting a payment of \$500 per month for this. Mr. Atkins requested they respond by February 10th. Councilman Mobus said there were discussions regarding evening hours for 2017 at Borough Hall but no decision has been made. He also said they discussed working on a proposal for a summer camp program in coordination with Brook Hill and he, along with Linda Monetti and possibly another Recreation Commission member will be meeting with them on Monday.

2. Police – Council President Joren reported the Committee met on January 9th. She said some residents have requested setting up an internet safety zone in the Police Department parking lot. Chief Cina is familiar with this and if the Mayor and Council are in agreement for this possibility he will look into it. She also said residents have complained about speeding on certain roads and Chief Cina said the machine they have has some charging issues, however, two new signs have been purchased. One is portable and could also be used for messages and the other has to be attached to a pole. She also said there were delays getting qualified on laser guns but all requirements have now been satisfied. Council President Joren said there have always been issues about the street lights on Somerset Street being too bright but it was too costly to replace them immediately however, now that they have passed the five year mark this is a possibility. She has asked Mr. Atkins to speak with

PSE&G regarding replacement. Mayor Pote asked what the cost was for the smaller street speed limit sign and Council President Joren said it was \$2000. Council President Joren mentioned micro surfacing, a process which gives more traction of road surfaces and asked that this be looked into and possibly discuss with the County for Hillcrest Road.

3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds –Councilman Nehls reported Mr. Atkins gave the Public Works Committee a list of items to discuss and prioritize. He said they must stay within the amount of money available. He said they discussed the Valley/Washington Drive projects; grants from the DOT; and said he hopes to move forward this year on the Fire House renovations. He noted Mr. Herits has assured the specifications will be ready to go out next month. Councilman Nehls said the Committee also discussed replacing the dump truck which was lost due to fire, the cost to replace has increased to \$180,000 so it was determined to purchase the basic truck this year and in 2018 add the other items to it. He also said the County is on board to share the cost of the salt storage shed at Weldon but they would like to have the Borough pay the full amount and they will reimburse them for half. Mr. Cruz is working with Weldon on a lease agreement. Councilman Nehls said the Borough is looking to move forward with the remediation of the Ness Property and the remediation cost must not go over the escrow held by the Jewish Federation. He said they would like to begin tearing down the buildings. There are three plans prepared for the property by Maser, and would like the Open Space Committee, Recreation Commission and the Environmental Commission to review them and provide input. Mayor Pote agreed and said the public should give input also. Councilman Nehls said the Committee discussed roads to be considered for milling and paving and asked Mr. Herits and Mr. Burns to prepare a list of streets and the costs to see which need the most work. He also said after many comments about the conditions on Somerset Street, Town Hall and the Circle, a goal is to get these looking more presentable. Mr. Atkins said he met with Traffic and Beautification and they are looking forward to working on this. Councilman Nehls said due to the muddy conditions excavations were not able to be started at the 9-11 Memorial site. He also said the East End Fire House generator has not yet been installed they are going back to the State to request a diesel generator instead so it is movable. He said they are trying to get quotes for the rock wall at Public Works. Councilman Nehls reported on the need to dredge Watchung Lake, which is a major project which requires much planning and determine where the dredged material would go. Councilman Nehls announced since December 15th, Public Works has salted/plowed for six storm events and used approximately 230 tons of salt and the current supply on hand is 200 tons. Christmas tree pickup has begun and will continue until February 3rd. He also said pothole repairs are ongoing as weather permits. Councilman Nehls said new solar powered crosswalk lights have been installed on Stirling Road. Public Works personnel painted and installed new flooring in the upstairs entrance foyer. Mayor Pote asked about the Library and Councilman Nehls said there is a resolution on the agenda this evening to authorize Mr. Iovino to move forward. The resolution is not to exceed \$50,000. Councilman Nehls said he received a proposal today from Mr. Iovino for \$9,000. Mayor Pote said he was happy to see plans to beautify the areas mentioned and mentioned that the Traffic and Beautification Committee is in need of members. He also asked if Public Works Committee has asked the Fire Department for a donation to help with the renovations. Councilman Nehls said they have not as this matter was in the Fire Committee.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space - Councilman Sopko had no report but would like to schedule a meeting soon to look at the plans for the Ness Property.

Environmental – Councilman Sopko had no report, a meeting is scheduled for January 23rd.

Recreation – Councilman Mobus had no report.

Historical – Councilman Mobus reported a grant has been approved for the lighting at the Texier House and they are working with Mr. Herits to get quotes and checking the specifications on the LED lighting. He also said the Texier House will be painted in the early spring.

Board of Health – Councilman Black reported the Board of Health met last evening and they are still waiting to hear from the High School regarding the lead testing report. He also said the State is lowering the levels for lead testing.

5. Fire – In regard to the renovations, Councilman Black said the Fire Department does not want the “bump out” at this time. The Council could look for a contribution toward the new truck and he would like to hear from other companies, not just Pierce, for trucks. He said the Committee will prepare a number and get it to the Mayor and Council. Mayor Pote said it is important that the Fire Department contribute something. Councilman Black said membership has increased and hopes this will continue.

6. Laws/Ordinances- Council President Joren had no report.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Mr. Herits said there are Resolutions authorizing submission of DOT grant applications for High Tor and Scott Drive on the agenda this evening. He also said in addition to roads in need of repair the Police parking lot has to be repaved. He is working on the specs for Washington Drive and he will go out to bid for Valley Drive. Mr. Herits said he met with PJ Panzarella who is donating time and work for the 9-11 Memorial, and as soon as the weather is conducive, work will begin. A Police officer will be used to direct traffic so the work can be completed in one day. He also said the Mobus drainage work has been completed. Mr. Herits said fire apparatus can be purchased from the National Co-Op program. Mr. Cruz said joining the National Co-Op is not that easy and referred to a Finance Bulletin explaining the requirements.

8. Police Chief – No report was submitted.

9. Fire Department - No report was submitted.

10. Rescue Squad – President Don Monetti gave the statistics for 2016 noting most calls are motor vehicle related. He also said they have 10 new members, 5 members have received EMT status and there are 10 cadets. Mr. Monetti said one of their high school members who attends Watchung Hills, Emma Redman, saved a student today who stopped breathing during a gym class. She and another person performed CPR and “shocked” her. The student was then taken to the hospital.

11. Emergency Management – Mr. Atkins said Gary Greves is at a County OEM Coordinator meeting this evening where they will be discussing winter planning and storm preparations.

12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report.

13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco reported that January is a very busy month in the Clerk’s office with dog license renewals, marriage license applications, and death certificates. She also reminded everyone to get their newsletter articles in to MaryAnn Hance, as there is a deadline at the end of February.

14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins said the JIF reorganization meeting was last Thursday and he will send Mayor and Council a report. The summer park program will be a tremendous undertaking and will have to come up with a cost, noting the program must be self-sufficient. Mr. Atkins also said the refunding bond includes professional staff fees and an Official Statement must be prepared. Mr. Atkins said they will be working with Standard and Poors for a bond rating. The bond sale is scheduled for February 16th and this will give the Borough time to approve the 9 year Bond Ordinance after receiving the bids. Mr. Atkins also said he is getting information for an overview of Public Works projects based on the Bond Ordinance which will be introduced at the next meeting. This will include Washington Drive, the Public Works truck and the salt storage area.

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PUBLIC PORTION

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No one from the public wished to speak.

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A Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:17/01 entitled “REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF \$9,499,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING BONDS OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING A SUM NOT EXCEEDING \$9,800,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$9,800,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF REFUNDING BONDS OF SAID BOROUGH TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.” was held.

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

With no one from the public wishing to be heard Council President Joren closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution:

R1: Adoption of Ordinance OR:17/01 – Refunding Bond Ordinance

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

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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, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:

December 15, 2016
January 5, 2017 Reorganization Meeting

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Finance Department Report – December, 2016
Building Department Report – December, 2016
Recreation Commission Minutes – December 7, 2016
Library Advisory Board Minutes – November 2, 2016
Tax Collector’s Reports - June, July, August, September, October, November, and
December, 2016

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #1 - PSE&G 12/20/16 Notice of Petition and Public Hearing for Approval of the Construction of the Mason Substation damaged during Superstorm Sandy c: M&C, TEA, Post
- #2 - NJ American Water 1/9/17 Notice of Petition and Public Hearing to Change the Levels of its Purchase Water Adjustment Clause and Purchased Wastewater Treatment Adjustment Clause c: M & C, TEA, Post
- #3 - Debbie Devine 1/2/17 Letter of resignation as a member of the Recreation Commission c: M & C, TEA, LM
- #4 - Township of Scotch Plains 1/17/17 Notice of the Adoption of their Master Plan Re-examination Report c: M & C, TEA, Pl. Board

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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, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

- R2:01/19/17 Appointment of Member to Volunteer Fire Department – Anthony Rossi
- R3: Purchases Over \$2,000. – All Traffic Solutions, Inc. (PD – Mobile Speed Display)
KPI Tactical (PD – Tactical Equipment, Vests, Helmets)
This and That (PD – Uniforms)
Signs & Safety Devices, LLC (CERT/OEM- Water Barriers)
Fail Safe Testing, Inc. (FD – Hose & Ladder Test)
Cleaning Services of Hudson Valley (B&G – Facility
Maintenance)
City Connections (M&C - Website Agreement &
Maintenance)
Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corp. (B&G – Elevator
Maintenance)
OSI Technology (PD – Phone System Maintenance)
- R4: Authorize 2017 Recycling Contract – Somerset County
- R5: Authorize Professional Service Contracts – Auditor/ Suplee Clooney & Co.
Bond Counsel/ Rogut McCarthy LLC
Engineer/ Maser Consulting
Labor Attorney/ Ruderman Horn &
Esmerado, P.C.
Bd. of Adj. Attorney/ McDonald & Rogers
Bd. of Adj. Engineer/ Engineer/Planner
Pl. Board Attorney/ Francis P. Linnus, Esq.
Pl. Board Engineer/ Maser Consulting

- R6: Authorize Towing License – C&L Towing Service
- R7: Endorsing the Submission of the Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the State of New Jersey, and Designate Recycling Coordinator / MaryAnn Hance
- R8: Authorize Execution of Agreement with Somerset County / Certified Recycling Professional (CRP)
- R9: Authorize Submission of NJ DOT Grant Application / High Tor
- R10: Authorize Submission of NJ DOT Grant Application / Scott Drive
- R11: Authorize Treasurer to Remit Tax Sale Certificate #16-12 / 30 Brook Drive
- R12: Authorize Treasurer to Remit Tax Sale Certificate #16-07 / 80 Hillcrest Road
- R13: Authorize Treasurer to Remit Tax Sale Certificate #16-03 / 27 Winans Lane
- R14: Authorize Revocable License Agreement / 77 Knollwood Drive

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

R15:01/19/17 Award Professional Services Contract - Continued Architectural Services / Arcari + Iovino Architects PC

Councilman Mobus moved the following resolution. Councilman Nehls seconded the motion and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Nehls, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

R16: Payment of Bills

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PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

Rachel Funcheon – Cedar Road asked if the Deer Hunt discussion will be on the February 2nd agenda and also if there is a date set for the aerial survey. Mr. Atkins said the survey should be scheduled by mid to late February but there is no date from the contractor yet. He also said the discussion will be on the February 2 agenda topic entitled deer management discussion.

Don Monetti – Beechwood Place asked if there was any further discussion on replacing Atlantic as the day squad and Mr. Atkins said Mr. Hance and the Administration Finance Committee looked into a shared service but decided not to go into one at this time.

Enzo Ruta – Orchard Road questioned the costs to replace stone vs other type for the wall in front of Borough Hall and Councilman Nehls said the Borough does not have any figures yet and Mr. Herits said he hopes to have some figures soon. Councilman Black asked Mr. Ruta why he has attended this evening and Mr. Ruta said he is working on a Communication badge for Boy Scouts. Council President Joren said it is not just the cost it also has to be aesthetically appealing. The Mayor and Council welcomed him and noted his attentiveness during the meeting.

Lynda Goldschein – Sherwood Drive asked if the unexpended 2015/2016 monies could be put toward the Library. Councilman Mobus said some of the monies go into the 5% Capital down payment fund which will increase the Bonding capacity and the balance will go into surplus to replace some that was used.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M. to the Call of the Chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting February 2, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk