

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**MINUTES
JUNE 01, 2017
7:30 PM**

OPENING STATEMENT: Mayor Stephen K. Pote called the meeting to order at 7:33 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 [A] Black [P] Nehls [P] Gibbs [P] Mobus [P] Sopko [P]

Although not present at roll call Council President Joren arrived at 7:37 P.M.

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

There were 20 members of the public present

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Bronze Awards / Troop 65631:

Jenna Maziekien, Isabelle Motta, Kayla Nunes, Marisa Piccininni, Kendra Taylor

Marisa Piccininni explained the project the girls chose to do for their Bronze Award. She said they decided to raise awareness for dogs in a shelter near them called "Home for Good Dogs" in Berkeley Heights. The girls set up a booth at the Community Picnic to raise awareness, and collect donations for supplies for these dogs, purchasing food, leashes, collars and toys, in addition to making some toys themselves. Marisa said they worked on this for one year. The Scouts received a pin, a certificate, and a "congratulations" from Mayor Pote and the Governing Body.

Mayor Pote recognized Rob Walton of Jersey Central Power and Light and invited him to come forward.

Mr. Walton provided a brief report on JCP&L and added that their Capital Budget is \$359,000,000, He also said they are in the process of putting a new sub-station in Warren, in addition to offering the LED lights.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Gibbs said he has no official report. However, he wished to note that the school bond has been paid and they no longer have a two million dollar debt service. The savings to the tax payers should be in the next quarterly tax bills. The approximate savings per year will be \$600 on an average assessed home.

2. Police – Commissioner Joren reported Chief Cina has been going through the promotional process for a new Sergeant and he has been in contact with the Police Committee with a recommendation. They are recommending Detective Jim Kimock. She said Jim started as a dispatcher in the department in 2000 and put himself through the Somerset County Police Academy in 2002 and became a police officer in 2003 serving as a patrolman for several years before being assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2012. The Police Committee feels he is well balanced and it is a good recommendation. The Committee asks for a consensus from the Council. All were agreeable for this promotion. Commissioner Joren will let Chief Cina know and hope to have this appointment occur at the next Council meeting.

3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Councilman Nehls said there is a Bond Ordinance on the agenda this evening to do the road projects suggested at the last meeting. He also said he will be setting up a meeting within the next week or so. Councilman Nehls said painting on the Texier House will begin this week.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space – no report

Environmental – Councilman Sopko said the Committee met on May 22nd and discussed the possibility of raising the contribution amount for the tree bank. He also said they will be meeting with the Recreation Commission on June 7th to discuss the conceptual plans for the Ness property. Councilman Sopko also said there has been no further advancement on the Pilgrim Pipe Line. He also reported the Committee gave a suggestion to replace the use of round-up with a 20% vinegar solution to control weeds (not the vinegar from super markets). The next meeting is scheduled for June 26th.

Recreation – Councilman Mobus said the Community Picnic was very successful and there were many donations and volunteers. He said the summer camp program is moving along and there are resolutions on the agenda this evening for the counselors. He also said there were concerns about the tent but these have been resolved and he met with Brook Hill to discuss the placement and agreed on the site. He said the tent is 32' x 20' and four metal picnic tables have also been purchased, all of these will be paid for by the donation fund. Mayor Pote asked if the tent would be a permanent structure at Brook Hill and Councilman Mobus said it would only be there for the camp program.

Historical – Councilman Mobus said the Memorial Day Ceremony was well attended. In regard to the 911 Memorial, he said the footings have been poured and the project is progressing.

Board of Health – Councilman Black said the next meeting is scheduled for June 21st at 7:00 P.M.

5. Fire – Councilman Black said a Committee meeting is scheduled for next week, and that the Award of Contract is on the agenda this evening for the Fire House renovations.

6. Laws/Ordinances – Council President Joren said she had no report.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – No Report.

8. Police Chief – No Report.

9. Fire Department – No Report.

10. Rescue Squad – No Report.

11. Emergency Management – Carolyn Solan gave a brief report on CERT Team. She said they have completed a drill on Sheltering, which refreshed members on basic sheltering requirements and took a tour of facilities required for residential overnight requirements. She also reported MaryAnn Weber is now a member. Ms. Solan said they are working on getting all credentialing paperwork prepared and a few members are enrolled in the next class of ICS-100. There is a meeting with Jane Asch on Monday with the 4 CERT team captains and OEM Coordinators to establish requirements for sheltering and to discuss any additional requirements that we should require for credentialing purposes. Ms. Solan also said both she and Charlie Delaney completed a FEMA class on Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness class and also completed an Incident Action Plan development class. Mr. Atkins said he had met with Carolyn and Gary Greves several months ago and they gave him a large packet about a schedule of activities regarding credentialing of CERT. Mr. Atkins said Gary and he think a few more Council members should know more about this. He said Gary, as our coordinator, thought Carolyn, Mr. Atkins, and he meet with the Mayor, Council President Joren, as Chair of the Police, Councilman Black, as Chair of the Fire Department, to go over these requirements which he feels are considerable. He said there could be some major work involved in this for the towns.

12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report but said there is an item for Executive Session this evening.

13. Clerk – Mrs. DeRocco said that MaryAnn Hance is assisting with the Farmer's Market this year and announced that we are always looking for additional vendors. She also said that although summer is just starting, it's not too early to start to work on the Fall newsletter article, especially since this year we will want to have it out in advance of September 11th. She reported that she is coordinating a CPR refresher session for the Borough employees with Rescue Squad Captain Ali Dieke, and reminded all that Tuesday is Primary Election Day and the polls will be open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm.

14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins suggested asking the Camp Director Desiree Somerville to attend the next Council meeting, so all may meet her. He also said with the timing of our meetings he asked the approval of the Public Works Committee to have the Bond Counsel prepare a Bond Ordinance for introduction tonight on the roads and the sooner we get the Ordinance adopted and legal requirements met Mr. Herits and Mr. Burns will then be able to work with the contractor to have the work completed prior to school opening in September. Mr. Atkins said there are recommendations from the Police Committee but they were not ready to go into the Ordinance. He also said the Borough must appropriate monies for the East End Communications issue with the tower and antenna so the next Bond Ordinance will not only have some police items but will have the necessary funding to handle the East End coverage concern. Mr. Atkins said he has been in touch with Emil Philibosian Tax Counsel for the tax appeal on the golf course and he will continue communicating with him and will keep the Council posted as to how that is going process wise. Mr. Atkins then reported there was a communication sent to the contractor, Real Antique Wood, trying to verify that the proposal made to some Borough offi-

cials was correct. Before coming to Mayor and Council it will be verified that what they are doing is correct and that they have Certificates of Insurance. He also reported there was an email sent out today to the Labor Counsel that the Mayor, Council President Joren, Councilman Gibbs received, and it is important because of the timing of the Council meetings that there is the opportunity to ratify the PBA contract at the June 15th meeting. The salary rates are scheduled to go into effect on July 1st and cannot be changed until the contract is in place.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one wished to speak at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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:

April 20, 2017 and May 4, 2017 – Executive Sessions
May 12, and May 16th (continuation), 2017 – Bid Opening
May 18, 2017 – Regular Session

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #27- Township of Green Brook 5/17/17 Resolution of Adoption of their Master Plan Re-Examination Report c: M & C, TEA, Pl. Bd
- #28- Township of Berkeley Heights - 5/17/17 Resolution of Adoption of Master Plan Re- Examination c: M&C, TEA, Pl.Bd.
- #29- Township of Berkeley Heights 5/30/17 Notice of Adoption of two (2) Land Use Ordinances #15-2017 and 16-2017 on May 23, 2017 c: M & C, TEA, Pl. Bd.

Councilman Gibbs thanked the Council for appointing the Special Counsel to support the Borough’s position at the Berkeley Heights meetings and the newspaper for reporting why the Borough is doing this.

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.”

- R1:06/01/17 Purchases Over \$2,000. – Verizon Networkfleet (PD – GPS Hardware, accessories)
Campbell Freightliner,LLC(PW-Dump Truck w/plow & spreader)
- R2: Appointment of Alternate Counsel – Steven Warner, Esq.
- R3: Appointment of Recreation Camp Assistant Director / Seasonal – Antoinette Burns
- R4: Appointment to Green Team – Annika Schmidt, Jacqueline Lee
- R5: Appointment of Recreation Camp Counselors / Seasonal – Melissa Rofrano,
- R6: Award of Bid – “Fire House Renovations” – Cypreco Industries Inc.

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.

Proposed Ordinance OR:17/08 entitled: “BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE 2017 ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$240,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, 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 introduced.

Council President Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Council President Joren moved the following resolution be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing:

R7: Introduction of Bond Ordinance OR:17/08 – 2017 Road Resurfacing Program

The motion was seconded by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Nehls, Gibbs, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.” Public Hearing to be held on June 15, 2017.

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

R8: Appointment of Recreation Camp Counselors / Seasonal – Ryan Mobus, Jessica Mobus

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

Dory Harvey, Johnston Drive, thanked the Council for their information and support and said the residents were able to use the Library for their meeting as it pertained to some Watchung Board of Education matters.

Dennis Bakos, Brook Drive, thanked the Council for their concerns with the Berkeley Heights housing project and he also asked if the Borough has come to any decisions regarding the Affordable Housing in Watchung. Mayor Pote said there is an Executive Session this evening to continue discussion but he cannot comment at this time.

Pete Martino, Sunbright Road, had questions regarding missing stipend checks and also asked if there had been an audit of the stipends. Mr. Atkins responded that a letter has been sent to each individual in question with an explanation, as discussed with Mr. Martino prior to the start of the meeting.

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”.

R9:06/01/17 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

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

Mr. Cruz said the options available to the Mayor and Council were discussed and instructions were given to him and the Administrator to proceed forward.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM to the Call of the Chair and to the next scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council to be held on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk