

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MINUTES

MEETING

JUNE 15, 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]

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

Although not present at roll call Council President Joren arrived at 9:07 PM during Executive Session.

There were 45 members of the public present

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

POLICE PROMOTION:

Prior to reading the Resolution Councilman Nehls read a brief synopsis of Detective Kimock's career.

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

R1:06/15/17 Appointment of Sergeant – James Kimock

Mayor Pote administered the OATH to Sergeant Kimock.

Chief Cina congratulated Sergeant Kimock. He said being a small department, with several qualified candidates for the position it is a difficult decision to choose only one. However, Mr. Kimock has worked hard and was highly recommended by several of his supervisors.

INTRODUCTION:

Desiree Somerville / Recreation Summer Camp Program Director

Administrator Tom Atkins introduced Desiree Somerville as Camp Director and Annie Burns as the Assistant Director. He said he wanted Mayor and Council to meet them prior to the start of Camp.

Both Desiree and Annie said they are looking forward to starting the program. Training for staff will be held next Friday so all are prepared for the first session.

COMMENDATION:

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

R2: Charles Delaney – "Profiles in Positive Aging" Recipient

Mayor Pote presented the Resolution to Mr. Delaney, and he was congratulated by all Council members.

CERT member & President Carolyn Solan, said Charlie is her right hand person. He is reliable and she can contact him anytime day or night for assistance. She said it is awesome to have him on the CERT team knowing he always has "her back".

Mayor Pote expressed his thanks to all members of the team.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – No report.

2. Police – Councilman Nehls requested Chief Cina give his report at this time. Chief Cina said there was a meeting last Thursday at the County to discuss Hillcrest Road. The County has put together a comprehensive plan. He said there are counters set up on Hillcrest at this time and it will then be determined the best approach, possibly a coating of a special epoxy which has been used on other roads and has been successful, to try to alleviate the slippery road surface, which has caused approximately 80% of the accidents on Hillcrest. The plan will include input from the public. Engineer Tom Herits said Chief Cina and Lt. Hart attended this meeting. Councilman Mobus asked if truck traffic could be restricted and Chief Cina said there is a weight limit already, however many trucks come off Route 78 because that is how GPS guides them, and said there should be more signage on Route 78 to have the trucks use Exit 41.

Councilman Gibbs thanked Chief Cina for allowing Detective Emerick and Kimock, and Officer Moberly to attend the Bear Cub's meeting on Monday. It was a great experience for the kids.

Councilman Black said some residents on Johnston Drive have asked if the Police Department could place one of the small electronic speed signs permanently on the road. Chief Cina said the Department only has one sign which they rotate to different locations. Councilman Mobus asked the cost for these signs and Chief Cina said \$4,500-\$5,000.

3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds- Councilman Nehls reported Texier House exterior painting and renovation has begun, Mr. Burns is awaiting quotes for the siding and trim repairs. Traffic and Beautification along with DPW employees planted flowers at Borough Hall and at the triangles. Councilman Nehls also said potholes have been filled on Old Somerset Road, Stanie Brae Drive and Valley Drive, dead trees were removed on Drift Road and Ridge Road and the DPW assisted the PSE&G tree service to remove 2 dead trees on Oakridge Lane. He also said the new irrigation system has been installed on the islands on Somerset Street and DPW assisted at the community picnic, installed new duct work for the dispatcher A/C unit and replaced wood on the carriage house. He also said Galbraith completed the plantings at Spratford Park.

Councilman Nehls then said he, along with Council President Joren and Gus DeBlasio of Maser Consulting walked along Mountain Boulevard to assess which trees should be removed or trimmed at Watchung Lake. They came to an agreement and marked those identified. He said all underbrush will be removed first and the root system will remain for the trees that will be cut down to maintain the banks of the lake.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space – No report.

Environmental – Councilman Sopko reported there was a meeting on June 2nd and most of the discussion consisted of reviewing the Conceptual Plan for the Ness Property. He said the Committee then attended the Recreation Commission meeting on June 7th to finalize which plan they want to move forward. There are two buildings in the plan but these will be for potential future building. Councilman Sopko said the plan will now go to Buildings and Grounds. Councilman Nehls said Buildings and Grounds Committee will work with Mr. Herits and then it will go to full Council for review.

Recreation – Councilman Mobus reported a meeting was held on June 7th with most of the discussion on the Ness Property plans. He said they also discussed the summer camp program and at this point revenue collected is \$38,000 and expenses to date are \$32,000 therefore it is anticipated this program will be self-sustaining. He said enrollment will be flexible since there are still a few openings each week.

Historical – Councilman Mobus said the next meeting will be June 21st. Councilman Nehls then said the form is up for the 9-11 Memorial and it is hoped it will be ready for September. Councilman Mobus said right now it looks high but once it is backfilled it will not be. The next step will be the timing for the Artist to come, and communicating with him to determine what he will need.

Board of Health – no report.

5. Fire – Councilman Black said there was a Committee meeting and they discussed the purchase of a new truck, and said they are looking at approximately \$700,000 and discussing how to raise additional monies. They also discussed possible needs for this year.

6. Laws/Ordinances – No report.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Mr. Herits reported the Valley Drive project will begin on June 26th with some drainage issues being complete first. He also reported Washington Drive bids are due on July 12th. He said the foundation for the 9-11 memorial has been laid. Mr. Herits said the Department of Transportation did not give any of the grant funds the Borough had applied for. He also reported there will be a pre-constructions meeting prior to starting the Firehouse renovations. A tent was ordered and received for the Summer Camp program and it will be installed on Tuesday. Councilman Mobus asked what the plan was for the mulch and Mr. Herits said this would be used under the tent area.

8. Police Chief – No report.

9. Fire Department – No report.

10. Rescue Squad – No report.

11. Emergency Management – Carolyn Solan reported that she and Charlie attended a meeting with Jane Ashe, Frank Gafney, and representatives from Bound Brook and Green Brook to review the standards for training and they have reached out to the County with some of their recommendations. Ms. Solan also said the CERT team has a table at the Warren Expo with information on what CERT does and they hope to recruit more new members.

12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report other than there is one item for Executive Session this evening.

13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco said if the Farmer’s Market does not go forward this year Bill Hance said it will not affect our Bronze Status. She said only two farmers are signed on and have paid. Councilman Gibbs said it is not fair to those vendors if it is only two or three. Ms. DeRocco also reminded everyone to sign the bill list.

14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins said there is a vacancy in the Finance Department, interviews have been conducted and a conditional offer has been made. He also thanked the elected officials, Mayor Pote, Council President Joren and Councilman Gibbs for meeting the goals, objectives and parameters for Resolution R10. He said there was constant communication with the Council and no proposals were presented to the PBA until a consensus was reached by the Mayor and Council. Mayor Pote said there was much number crunching and the PBA members were excellent. Councilman Gibbs also said the PBA leadership came to negotiations with open minds and there was a good compromise.

Mayor Pote said he and Mr. Atkins met with County Library members, Brian Auger, Keith McCoy, and Chris Corsini who wanted to get an update on what is going on with the Library and to discuss their concerns and ADA access. Mayor Pote has requested they send a memo to the Borough regarding all their concerns.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Maria Alberto, Acorn Drive, asked if it is possible to re-route traffic exiting from Route 78 by changing the GPS. She also questioned if the Borough pays to remove the trees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Cruz explained due to an error on the Publication of the Public Hearing, the Public Hearing has been rescheduled to a Special meeting to be held on Thursday, June 22nd at 8 AM. He explained in order to complete the project prior to school opening in September this meeting has to be held on this date. Mr. Cruz said if anyone wished to comment at this time they may do so, however, the official Public Hearing will be on June 22nd.

Public Hearing of 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.” **(Public Hearing to be re-scheduled to a Special Meeting scheduled on June 22, 2017 at 8:00 am)**

R3: Adoption of OR:17/08 – Bond Ordinance / 2017 Road Resurfacing Program (Carried to the Special Meeting of June 22, 2017)

NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval of the following Council minutes:

June 1, 2017, Regular and Executive Sessions

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Building Department Report – May, 2017
Police Activity Report – May, 2017

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #30- NJ Department of Transportation 6/12/17 Notice that the NJDOT is unable to provide a Municipal Aid Grant for Scott Drive Improvements c: M & C, TEA, TH
- #31- NJ Department of Transportation 6/12/17 Notice that the NJDOT is unable to provide a Municipal Aid Grant for High Tor Drive Improvements c: M & C, TEA, TH

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

R4:06/15/17 Purchases Over \$2,000. – Galbraith Landscape Construction (CC- Medians)

R5: 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

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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.

Mr. Cruz said due to some technical comments to the Laws and Ordinance Committee, the Chair of the Committee has recommended the following Ordinances be pulled for further review and discussion.

~~Introduction of Ordinance OR:17/09 entitled: “AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 11-1, TITLED “HAWKERS AND PEDDLERS”, OF CHAPTER XI OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG AND REPLACING WITH A NEW SECTION 11-1, TITLED “PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND CANVASSERS.” Public Hearing to Be Held on July 20, 2017.~~

~~R6:06/15/17 Introduction of OR:17/09 Revise Code / Peddlers, Solicitors and Canvassers~~

~~Introduction of Ordinance OR:17/10 entitled: “AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 6-10, TITLED “DO NOT KNOCK LIST”, OF CHAPTER VI OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG AND REPLACING WITH A NEW SECTION 6-10 TITLED “DO NOT KNOCK LIST AND DO NOT DROP OFF LIST.” Public Hearing to Be Held on July 20, 2017.~~

~~R7: Introduction of OR:17/10 Revise Code / Do Not Knock and Do Not Drop Off~~

~~Introduction of Ordinance OR:17/11 entitled: “AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 6-2.4, TITLED “DISTRIBUTING OR STREWING PAPERS PROHIBITED”, OF CHAPTER VI OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN ITS ENTIRETY.” Public Hearing to Be Held on July 20, 2017.~~

~~R8: Introduction of OR:17/11 Revise Code / Distributing or Strewing Papers Prohibited~~

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

R9: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 of the Code – Gray’s Florist & Greenhouse

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

R10: Authorize Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – PBA Local 193

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

R11: Payment of Bills

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ray Barrett, Valley Drive, asked if a date has been set for September to discuss the deer survey. Mayor Pote said it will be sometime mid-September as a special meeting.

Rachel Funcheon, Cedar Road, asked when the next Wild Life Management Advisory Committee meeting will be held so residents may attend. Ms. DeRocco said she had been in contact with Mr. Juette but at this time there has been no date set. She said she will let Ms. Funcheon no once a date is set.

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

R12:06/15/17 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 and including Council President Joren, were again present.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM to the Call of the Chair and to the Special Council meeting to be held on June 22, 2017 at 8:00 P.M. and then the next scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council to be held on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk