

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2018
7:30 P.M.**

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 MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD

ROLL CALL

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

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

There were 19 members of the public present

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Mobus reported the Committee met on Tuesday and discussed the two animal control proposals and they do support R12 accepting St. Hubert’s contract. The Committee also discussed the 2018 budget and Mr. Atkins and Mr. Hance should have a draft early February and be ready to introduce at the March 15th Council meeting. Councilman Mobus also said the Borough has a double A plus rating but the goal is to work toward a triple A rating. Bond Council gave some suggestions including a surplus and cash management policy for the Borough in order to help get this and the committee is asking the Mayor and Council for input. Councilman Mobus said the Borough does already have a cash management policy which is appropriate and proper but it should now be formalized. The Committee also discussed the revenue received from residents who pre-paid their taxes, which amounted to approximately 4.3 million and they have asked the CFO to look into some investing possibilities. Councilman Mobus also said the Committee also discussed and approved the change order, needed to continue and complete the Fire House renovation. He explained that there were unforeseen issues with this project, and the monies will be used from a 2001 Bond Ordinance which has been completely paid so there will be no new bonding. Mr. Atkins also said there have been preliminary discussions with Warren regarding a ride share and Warren is receptive for a joint effort.
2. Police – Commissioner Joren reported Chief Cina said interviews will be starting this week to fill a vacancy.
3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Councilman Nehls reported he is in the process of scheduling a Committee meeting. He said the Public Works Department had two snow events - January 8th and January 17th. He also reported that the Department will continue to pick up Christmas trees until February 6th.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space – Councilman Sopko had no report but said the Committee is trying to schedule a meeting in March.

Environmental – Councilman Sopko reported a meeting is scheduled for January 22nd at which time they will be discussing an article for the Newsletter.

Recreation – Councilman Mobus reported the Commission met on January 3rd and formalized the events for the year. He also said there will be new trips with joint towns, Warren, Long Hill, and Green Brook.

Historical – Councilman Mobus reported the Committee met last evening and members discussed their goals for 2018, the budget, the annual report and the by-laws. He also said they discussed the mural and possible locations for it. One of their members, Seth Alexander has an art background and is looking at other ways to restore the mural at a lessor cost.

Board of Health – Councilman Black reported the Commission met last evening and the members asked him to speak to the Mayor and Council regarding the legalization of marijuana and get their input so he may report back to the Commission. Councilman Black then said member Fran Ellis has been on the Board of Health Commission for 47 years, Harriet Stambaugh for 27 years and Robert Riedinger for 26 years. Councilman Black thanked them and all volunteers for their service to the Borough, without them it would be impossible to do everything.

4. Fire – Councilman Black reported the Committee met last week and discussed the Fire House renovations and the additional funds needed. He also said they are waiting for the specs for the fire truck. Mr. Atkins asked about looking at the apparatus in Berkeley Heights and Councilman Black said he has tried setting this up with them. .
5. Laws/Ordinances – Councilwoman Joren said they are looking at all the Boards and Commissions and are working on “tweaking” the Ordinances to have conformity. Attorney Ed Purcell has sent the Committee revised drafts of the Ordinances.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Tom Herits said he and Bob Burns are looking at Borough roadways to consider for milling and paving this year. He also said he is closing out the Washington Drive project with the DOT in order to get the final payment and he has started to close out the Valley Drive project. Mt. Herits said the generator for the Public Works Department has shipped and it is hoped the work would start next week and the portable generator for the East End Firehouse just needs wiring and could possibly be done at the same time. Councilman Mobus asked about the FEMA grant time frame. Mr. Atkins said Kelsey from Maser Consulting would be able to answer that but usually they are awarded in the 3rd quarter.
8. Police Chief – No report was submitted.
9. Fire Department – No report was submitted
10. Rescue Squad – Diddy Addario gave the report for Alison Diecke. She said in early December the Squad was able to re-establish the Sunday day coverage and they will continue to evaluate the ability to provide full weekend coverage. Ms. Addario said in early January a NJ Legislature Bill passed in both the Assembly and Senate stipulating that all patients treated with Narcan must be provided with information concerning substance treatment programs and resources. She also said the Squad has identified three priorities, the first being increasing recruitment and member retention; the second would be increasing members’ training and skillsets to allow them to move off probationary status; and finally to make repairs and updates to the building and equipment.
11. Emergency Management – Mayor Pote said he and Mr. Atkins met with Gary Greves to discuss the increasing requirements and the need to reinforce those on OEM. He also said some of the Annexes need to be rewritten and the Council needs to review all of these in the next several months. Councilman Black asked if an office space has been found for Mr. Greves and Mayor Pote said not yet. Mayor Pote also said the CERT Team has an increasing viable role in the Borough and they are a critical part of the Emergency services.
12. Attorney – Mr. Purcell had no report.
13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco reminded January is the month for dog license renewals and after January 31st there is a late fee charges.
14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins said he sent information to all regarding the Re-organization meeting of the Joint Insurance Fund.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Lynda Goldshein, Sherwood Drive, questioned the fire apparatus and why we can not share with other towns. Mr. Atkins said there is shared service through county mutual aid, but this is needed for our fire insurance rating. Council President Gibbs explained a prior report done by the Rodgers group looked at the most prudent way to replace old apparatus. He also said this is to replace an old fire truck which is now costing more for repairs. Ms. Goldshein then asked if something could be done for the potholes on Bonnie Burn Road. Councilman Nehls said he will ask Bob Burns to address this issue.

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda Items listed below were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Council President Gibbs, and second by Councilwoman Joren.

Prior to Roll Call Council President Gibbs requested item #2 be removed for separate vote.

Council President Gibbs moved to adopt the Consent Agenda items as amended with a second by Councilwoman Joren and upon roll call as follows: Gibbs, Black, Joren, Nehls, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

Councilwoman Joren moved to adopt Correspondence #2 with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, “abstain,” Black, Joren, Nehls, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:

- December 7, 2017 / Regular Meeting
- January 6, 2018 / Emergency Re-Organization Meeting

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

- Tax Collector Report / September, October 2017
- Police Activity Report / November 2017
- Recreation Commission Minutes / October 4, and December 6, 2017
- Youth Services Commission Minutes / October 24, 2017
- Library Advisory Committee Minutes / November 1, 2017
- Building Department Report / December 2017
- Environmental Commission Minutes / August 28, and October 23, 2017

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #1- New Jersey American Water 12/18/17, 1/2/18 Two (2) Notice of Petitions and Public Hearings on Proposed Rate Increases c: M & C, TEA, Post
- #2- PSE&G 1/2/18 Notice of Petition and Public Hearing on Gas System Modernization Program c: M & C, TEA, Post
- #3- Andy Baldassarre 1/2/18 Letter of Resignation as a member of the 911 Memorial Committee: c: M & C, TEA

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

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

- R1:01/18/18 Appointment of Member to Volunteer Fire Department – Thomas Sicola
- R2: Purchases Over \$2,000. – Gold Type Business Machine, Inc. (PD – Info Cop Lic.)
All Traffic Solutions Inc. (PD – Speed Display & Mount)
Everbridge (PD – Nixel)
The Rodgers Group (PD– Subscription & Training Prog.)
Atlantic Tactical (PD – Firearms)
- R3: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 of the Code – The Brooklyn Press
- R4: Waive Chapter 2-25.10 of the Code, and Purchase Over \$2,000 – Sparta Discount Tire
- R5: Authorize Mayor and Clerk to Sign Developer’s Agreement / Weldon Materials Inc.,
154 Bonnie Burn Road, LLC, and Weldon Quarry Co., LLC
- R6: Authorize Clerk to Issue (2) Raffle Licenses – Sisters of Mercy of The Americas
- R7: Authorize Clerk to Issue Bingo License – Sisters of Mercy of The Americas
- R8: Endorsing the Submission of the Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the State
of New Jersey, and Designate Recycling Coordinator / MaryAnn Hance

- R9: Authorize Execution of Agreement with Somerset County / Certified Recycling Professional (CRP)
- R10: 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/ Ventura, Miesowiz, Keough & Warner
Bd. of Adj. Engineer/ Engineer/Planner David A. Stires Associates
Pl. Board Attorney/ Francis P. Linnus, Esq.
Pl. Board Engineer/ Maser Consulting
Pl. Board Planner / Mark Healey
- R11: Authorize Professional Services Contract Expansion – Maser Consulting / Affordable Housing Consulting Services – M. Shiffman
- R12: Authorize 3-year Contract / Animal Control Services – St. Hubert’s Giralda, Inc.
- R13: Appointment to Committees: Heidi Rubino, Wildlife Management Advisory Comm.
Tamara Benc, Library Advisory Committee
- R14: Authorize Change Order #1 / Fire House Renovation – Cypreco Industries, Inc.
- R15: Authorize Re-submission of FEMA AFG (Assistance to Firefighters) Grant
- R16: Authorize Payment of 2017 Stipends/Volunteer Fire Department

NON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Proposed Ordinance OR:18/01 entitled: “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN A LAND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND WELDON MATERIALS, INC., FOR LOT 4, BLOCK 78.01 TO HOUSE A SALT STORAGE DOME BUILDING AND ACCESSORY IMPROVEMENTS.” was introduced.

Councilwoman Joren moved Ordinance OR:18/01 be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilwoman Joren moved the Ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Black, Joren, Nehls, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.”

Councilwoman Joren moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Black, Joren, Nehls, Mobus, Sopko, “aye.” Public Hearing to be held February 1, 2018.

R17:01/18/18 Introduction of OR:18/01 – Authorize Land Lease Agreement for Salt Storage / Weldon Materials

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

R18: Authorize Professional Service Contract – Borough Attorney / Albert Cruz

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

R19: Authorize Appointment and Professional Service Contract – Municipal Prosecutor/ Richard Guss

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

R20: Payment of Bills

PUBLIC PORTION-GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ray Barratt, Valley Road, said there was a hunter on the Brook Hill Swim Club site who started before the date specified. He said there are too many safety issues with the hunt and requested that the Borough put the hunt on hold immediately for this year.

Mr. Reginald Garret, Roger Chaffee Square, Delaware, a former State Trooper came forward to give the Mayor and Council a copy of his complaint regarding racial profiling, abuse of authority and improprieties related to police/citizen interactions. He said he was held for 32 minutes and suggested that officers in the Borough have sensitivity training. He did thank both Chief Cina and Lt. Kelly for their professionalism.

Ms. Kinder, Anderson Road, asked if the hunt club is self-policed. Her child told her last year there was a hunter 50' from their home with an automatic rifle. She said the Warren Club should be watched more closely and asked the Council to require better control from the Warren Club. Council President Gibbs said the only firearms allowed are shotguns and muzzle loads and if she sees anything different she should contact the Police Department immediately. He said there has been illegal hunting in the past.

Rachel Funcheon, Cedar Road, said the Borough should let residents know when the hunters are there and she has spoken to the Police Department regarding safety issues. Ms. Funcheon also questioned the Signatures on the permission forms for the Brook Hill Swim Club, and the unauthorized hunter who was on that site prior to the 22nd time frame. Council President Gibbs explained all members of the hunt club were emailed with the start date and the hunter who was there before was not aware since he was on vacation. Council President Gibbs said all trustees of the Brook Hill Swim Club approved permission to hunt on that property.

Lynda Goldshein, Sherwood Drive, said she is disappointed with some remarks regarding the role of libraries. She said if the concern is tax increases for Seniors, then there is a tax freeze, and she noted that all prior and present Mayors have been supportive of a new library. Ms. Goldshein commented that there have always been problems in the Borough with illegal hunters.

Virginia Hartmann, Ellisen Road, said she had heard there have been objections to building a library because of the affordable housing requirements for the Borough. Mayor Pote affordable housing should not affect the library – they are two separate issues.

Diddy Addario, Rock Avenue, said the Librarians of today are all trained in the latest technology. She also said with all the programs the Library has, the membership is worth it, plus the Borough does need a community meeting room.

Peggy Ellis, Valley Road, said there was a referendum on the November ballot for the NJ Bond Construction Acts for construction of new libraries and Watchung voters approved this. She said its our State tax dollars. Ms. Ellis said the next step is to approve plans and get the application in for the State Funds.

Anita Martire, Crystal Ridge Drive, said she has safety concerns for the East Drive hunting site with hunters being very close to a path which is utilized by residents of Crystal Ridge to get to Walmart. She said there are no signs and no information about when and exactly were the hunters will be.

Tom Franklin, Wildwood Terrace, said the Borough does not have a town center and there is no place for residents to gather. If the Borough gives the library up it would be worse for the community. Mr. Franklin said a referendum is not a good idea since they are not binding.

Tamara Benc, Lakeview Avenue, said she always took her children to the library and she encourages the Mayor and Council to move forward on a new library. She said she is embarrassed that Council members are allowing children to go into this library in its current condition.

Diddy Addario, Rock Avenue, thanked Councilwoman Joren for looking at the Ordinances for the Committees and Commissions. She also asked if the Historical Committee could be changed to a Commission.

Rachel Funcheon- Cedar Road said she runs a special recycle program at the Library and when she left one day there was a very strong gas odor in the area. Council President Gibbs said he will ask Mr. Atkins to reach out to the Public Service Administrator.

Ray Barratt, Valley Road, asked if the Mayor and Council will put the deer hunt on hold and Mayor Po-
te responded "no".

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ADJOURNMENT
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There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 P.M. to
the Call of the Chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 7:30
P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk