

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

February 25, 2003

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2003 at 8:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 200 Division Avenue, corner of the Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Mayor Torre stated that the meeting complied with the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting having been made to all members of the Council by personal service on January 1, 2003 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 1, 2003.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor William J. Torre, Councilman Andrew Link III, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilman Herbert D. Heeren, Councilman Garrett R. Pepe, Councilwoman Marlene Verrastro, Councilman John Wassberg

Absent: None

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Torre led in the Salute to the Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION: Former Fire Chief Arthur Knobloch

Mayor Torre read a Proclamation into the record which was presented to former Fire Chief Arthur Knobloch for his years of service as Fire Chief, who was present with his family. Councilmen DiPisa and Pepe assisted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The following correspondence has been received as of this date:

County of Bergen Community Development informing the Mayor and Council that the Pocket Park project was approved in the amount of \$54,000.

Paul and Julia Roskowski who are anxiously awaiting the Senior Center and would like make sure that the advisory committee is kept abreast of the status of the center.

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

Lincoln School PTA regarding National PTA Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week from March 3-7 and invited the mayor and council to the activities planned.

A motion was made by Councilman Wassberg, seconded by Councilman Pepe, and unanimously carried, to accept the Correspondence.

Mayor Torre noted that the pocket park was actually one half of the amount needed and application for additional funding was being requested. Councilman DiPisa noted he would respond to Mr. and Mrs. Ratkowski's letter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (Sine Die - January 5, 2003, Reorganization - January 5, 2003, January 14, 2003)

On a motion by Councilman Link, seconded by Councilman Wassberg, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

None

BILLS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$286,595.14 specified in the schedule hereto annexed, having been examined and approved by the Finance Commissioner, or his Deputy, be paid and that warrants be issued therefore.

Signed Andrew Link III
Commissioner of Finance

On a motion by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

STREETS & TRANSPORTATION AND SANITATION:

Under Streets & Transportation, Commissioner Link reported that it took approximately 30 hours to plow the streets during the recent storm with streets plowed five times. Snow was removed from the DPW garage and recycling center, fire and police departments, sanitary pump stations, business district on the Boulevard, all crossing guard posts, schools and roadways to and from school areas, churches, the library and the Masonic Lodge which is used for Court and meetings. The corners of the Boulevard, Burton, Terrace and Oak Groves were being cleared presently. Equipment repairs were minimal.

FINANCE, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Under Finance, Commissioner Heeren reported that the Annual Debt Statement has been completed and submitted prior to the Jan. 31 deadline. The Annual Financial Statement has also been submitted before the statutory deadline of Feb. 10. The borough is operating under a temporary budget pending the introduction of the 2003 municipal budget. All numbers have been compiled, including the Presidents Day snow storm. The budget should be introduced at the March 11 council meeting. Extraordinary Municipal Aid applications are due by March 14. It was noted that last year application was denied and estimated tax bills were needed as notification caused a delay in the adoption of the budget. Under Social Services, he reported certificates have been used for those in need, due to lack of storage space. Certificates are on hand for turkeys, and from stores such as Walden Books, Modells, Clothestime, Toys R Us and Old Navy. During January there were two eviction problems helped, help with high rents, food distributions. The quarterly meeting was held in early February. The director attended a workshop and reported the Hackensack office is now only a branch and applicants must now go to Edison. Under Health, Commissioner Heeren gave the following report for January: 5 births recorded, 2 male, 3 female; burial permits 63, out of town 60, in town 3; certified transcripts 514, marriage 1; funeral directors requests 505; Fees collected: burial permits, \$60; certified transcripts, \$2,570; food licenses and late fees, \$930; vending machines, \$1,395; marriage licenses, \$84; with total fees collected \$5,392. Total deaths recorded 65, residents in town 8, residents out of town 8; non resident 50. Food licenses issued 6, marriage licenses 3, marriages recorded 4; and a total of 118 calls to the office. He invited everyone to the Masons Cornerstone Ceremony of the Municipal Complex on March 2 at 2 p.m.

FIRE:

Commissioner DiPisa gave the Fire report for January (Firematic year is 12/1-11/30): Fire Alarms: Hasbrouck Heights, 44 calls, year to date 64; Teterboro 9, year to date 15; mutual aid 1, year to date 3; total for the month 54, year to date 81. Ambulance calls for January: Hasbrouck Heights, 101, year to date 227; Teterboro, 17, year to date 31; mutual aid, 11, year to date 25; total 129, year to date 283. He commended Chief Thomasey and the department regarding the serious fire on Coolidge Avenue. He commended the members regarding the cold temperatures in the temporary headquarters. As liaison to the Chamber of Commerce, regular meetings are being held resulting in recommendations to streamlining new business openings, permitted usage, signage and the Design District Review committee. He noted the Senior Advisory committee will be meeting again on the Senior Center. Mayor Torre added his thanks to the seniors for their patience and that the end result is forthcoming.

PUBLIC FACILITIES:

Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Pepe reported in approximately two weeks the library should be 99% complete, with suspended ceilings, permanent lighting, bathrooms tiled, first coat of paint. The remaining work is carpeting and furniture, with carpeting done at one during throughout the entire building. The basement has permanent lighting in most areas, bathrooms are being tiled, telephone equipment has been installed in the telephone room, with painting and ceiling work begun. Suspended ceiling work will begin in the community room. Permanent lighting has been installed in the storage rooms. The first floor has been fully sheet rocked, taping and spackling is ongoing, suspended ceilings started. The senior center is housing all contractor supplies. Outside work is on hold due to weather. Storm sewer connections and sanitary sewer connections should be completed within a few weeks. He congratulated the DPW on a magnificent job with the streets.

LAND USE AND RECREATION:

Under Land Use, Commissioner Verrastro reminded residents that contractor signs are not allowed. Under Recreation, she had attended a Recreation Committee meeting and upcoming events include hosting the Wrestling district tournament on Sunday, Girls Softball and Track and Field sign ups, a traveling girls softball tryouts in early May, adult running/fitness club new this year, summer camp registration in mid April which will again be held in Woodland Park. Senior Olympics training will be held in April and May. She had attended the coalition meeting for Teterboro Airport and on Jan. 23, Port Authority had presented 10% of the report asked for, Feb. 4 a summary of the tape, and they have finally responded to the FOA request for information. She had a detailed lengthy report on this matter. She commended the DPW for the cleanup of snow and felt that no overnight parking really helps. She reminded residents to try to not park on both sides of street during snow.

POLICE AND PARKS:

Under Police, Commissioner Wassberg also thanked the DPW and said he was surprised to have his regular refuse pick up during the snowstorm. He also thanked the Police and Fire Departments who had a busy month in January. He reported that there were 922 calls to the desk, with 197 9-1-1 calls., There were 65 traffic accidents, with 32 injuries, 14 driver license revocations or suspensions, two unlicensed drivers, one with fictitious plates, five unregistered vehicles, illegal passing summonses, 12 speeding, five DWI. The DARE Sports World trip was held Feb. 11 with 180 children from grades 5 thru 8 attending. The final phase of radio upgrades have been installed and tested. The new computer system has been installed at the police desk and detective bureau, with Hasbrouck Heights being one of the first on line, Sgt. Thomas Archer has been working on a large truck ban survey. Lt. DeLorenzo and Sgt. Mullins has spoken with middle level and high school students about snow shoveling and a list

POLICE & PARKS (cont'd):

is being compiled and at the police desk. Under Parks, he reported that to date there have been 169 brick pavers ordered for the Veterans Walkway. Proofs have been received and checked and returned for completion. Mayor Torre thanked Assemblywoman Heck on helping to obtain the grant for the radios, and also thanked Chief Thomasey, former Chief Knobloch, Chief Colaneri, EM Coordinator Roger Szanto, and DPW Supt. Heck as well as members of the council and himself.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

Mayor Torre reported that in February a meeting of the Emergency Management Committee had been called as a result of the heightened security alert. The ongoing efforts behind the scenes were recently reported in the local newspaper. Also under discussion was the snow storm and Mayor Torre added his commendations to the DPW, especially noting the Boulevard cleanup which is helpful to the businesses. He labeled it the "Perfect Storm" it being the President's holiday with schools and some businesses closed. He also thanked the Police and Fire Departments. He had attended the Wrestling Dinner, congratulated the team, coaches and volunteers. He noted again the Masons Cornerstone Ceremony on, March 2 and invited all residents to attend. Regarding the budget, he reported that for 2002, the Tax Collection Rate was 99.01%, up slightly from last year's figure of 98.91%; the surplus is estimated at \$1,38,537.35, with last year's at \$1,439,052.50, a decrease of approximately \$90,000; the Net Valuable Taxable of Property is \$872,992,173, 2001 was \$870,362,831, with a net increase in rateables of \$2,629,342. He continued that for 2003, the Finance Committee will continue to meet until the budget introduction. Last year the average local tax increase was around \$110; this year with general liability and sewer service charges increased by 22%, plus interest rates are very low, but favorable for bonding -- a bond sale is anticipated in June or July to permanently fix the indebtedness of the two new structures with no major tax increase anticipated from the new structures, with \$7 million in insurance and grants applied to that also. The Finance committee is working diligently to deliver the most cost effective budget possible while still providing the same level of services.

APPOINTMENTS: Michael Christensen to Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Link, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Appointment was approved.

Jesse D'Amore as Local Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Inspector
from 1/1/03 to 12/31/03

On a motion by Councilman Heeren, seconded by Councilman Link, and unanimously approved, the foregoing Appointment was approved.

RESIGNATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: None

- RESOLUTIONS:**
- 38. Issuance of Check Re: Acquisition of Shell Station
 - 4. Ratifying and Confirming Sale of Bond Anticipation Note

On a motion by Councilman Link, seconded by Councilman Wassberg, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolutions were approved (Copies attached).

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 1971:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO INCLUDE THEREIN A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED “CHAPTER 128, ENTERTAINMENT, PUBLIC,” WHICH REQUIRES THE ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT, WHICH SETS FORTH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH LICENSE AND WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A FEE FOR THE SAME**” was introduced this date be and the same is hereby passed on first reading and the Borough Clerk be directed to advertise notice of public hearing on said Ordinance to be held at the regular meeting of the Borough Council on March 11, 2003.

ORDINANCE NO. 1972:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 133 ENTITLED “FEES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO INCLUDE THEREIN A NEW SECTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE FEES TO BE CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH THE LICENSING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 128 OF THE CODE**” was introduced this date be and the same is hereby passed on first reading and the Borough Clerk be directed to advertise notice of public hearing on said Ordinance to be held at the regular meeting of the Borough Council on March 11, 2003.

ORDINANCE NO. 2003:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE I ENTITLED “WOODLAND**

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION (cont'd):

PARK” OF CHAPTER 194 ENTITLED “PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS" was introduced this date be and the same is hereby passed on first reading and the Borough Clerk be directed to advertise notice of public hearing on said Ordinance to be held at the regular meeting of the Borough Council on March 11, 2003.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Pepe, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinances were approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Torre opened the public hearing for anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2001. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was continued until the Planning Board review.

ORDINANCE NO. 2001:

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED “ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS”** be now continued on public hearing until the Planning Board review.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Heeren, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Public Hearing was continued until March 11. 2003.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Torre opened the public hearing for anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2002. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2002:

BE IT RESOLVED that an ordinance entitled **“AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE NO. 1967 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF AN EASEMENT TO THE COUNTY OF BERGEN OVER PORTIONS OF LOTS 18 AND 19.02 IN BLOCK 48 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROAD WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS” SO AS TO INCLUDE THE AUTHORIZATION TO ALSO CONVEY A LIKE EASEMENT OF A PORTION OF LOT 20.1 IN BLOCK 47”** be now passed on second and final reading and the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to publish said Ordinance, same to be published in The Observer, a newspaper circulating and published in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING (cont'd):

On a motion by Councilman Wassberg, seconded by Councilwoman Verrastro, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Public Hearing was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

At this point the meeting was open for comments from the public.

Robert Schwab, 167 Field Avenue, wondered what was going on with respect to the property behind the VFW, that there was more housing proposed. He was advised that a possible application to the Planning Board, with nothing received as yet, that his attorney had appeared here, to request an application for housing. Data on the impact on sanitary sewerage has been requested with nothing received as yet. There will be ample public hearings if and when he submits his application.

Carol Skiba, 191 Field Avenue, noting that in July it was said that nothing further would be added to the Field Avenue sewer until the problem is resolved. She was told that is correct, that these developers had alternatives, that the reason for the data is to see if there is any impact to any lines which would be determined by the borough engineer. She was concerned that parking from Route 17 businesses is again increasing on Field Avenue, with cars parking right up to the Stop sign. She was reminded that some type of parking restriction was offered, which was denied and that the businesses were notified. Other alternatives were discussed, such as resident parking only with stickers (stickers have been denied in previous requests), or resident parking only between 4 and 8 p.m. These concerns would be discussed at the next Police committee meeting. She next questioned what kind of activity was occurring at the deli on the north side of Route 17 (Family Video) She was advised that the zoning ordinance in effect placed a limitation on adult entertainment and the certificate of occupancy had been reversed.

CLOSE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION NO. 40: The meeting was closed for Executive Session for any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation.

RECESS:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

I, ROSE MARIE SEES, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are to the best of my knowledge a true account of the Regular Meeting held on February 25, 2003.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk