

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**MINUTES**

**April 22, 2003**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, April 22, 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 Herbert D. Heeren, Councilman DiPisa, 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.

**TEMPORARY CLERK APPOINTMENT:** In the absence of Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees, Michael Kronyak was appointed temporary clerk.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** (March 18, 2003)

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

None

**BILLS:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the claims and accounts amounting to \$155,498.02 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 Herbert D. Heeren  
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 the sanitary collection system along the Ottawa Avenue apartments right of way had a back pitch of about five inches which was repaired this past week and should eliminate flooding of that area. Under Trees, the DPW has planted 125 trees. Residents were asked to water the trees. Fall planting of 125 trees is scheduled for October.

**FINANCE, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**

Under Finance, Commissioner Heeren reported that the Current Fund Balance as of March 31, 2003 was 1,736,956.91 and at Feb. 28, 2003 was \$3,435,279.44, a decrease of \$1,698,322.53, with the entire balance invested and earning approximately 1.75%. Cash receipts for the month of March totaled \$248,550.14 of which \$149,593.84 was for Current Taxes, \$23,507.80 was for Delinquent Taxes, \$11,500 was Grants and State Aid and \$63,948.50 was Miscellaneous Revenues. Cash disbursements for the month of March totaled \$1,946,872.67 of which \$1,213,929.17 was Local School Taxes, \$416,506.20 for Salaries and \$316,437.50 for other expenses. He continued that the 2003 Budget was introduced March 11 and public hearing held on April 8. No decision has been received on Extraordinary Aid. The finance committee continues to review each line item to make adjustments. He reported the Tax office would be open April 26 for collection of second quarter taxes due May 1. Under Health, Commissioner Heeren gave the following report for March: 14 births recorded, 9 male, 5 female; burial permits 63; certified transcripts 477; marriage 2; funeral directors requests 463; Fees collected: burial permits, \$60; certified transcripts, \$2,385; food licenses and late fees, \$915; vending machines, \$225; marriage licenses, \$224; with total fees collected \$3812. Dog licenses, \$675, with \$310 of this for late fees. Total deaths recorded 68, residents in town 6, residents out of town 9; non resident 53. Food licenses issued 9, marriage licenses 8, marriages recorded 10; and a total of 87 calls to the office. One new ordinance which controls

**FINANCE, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (cont'd):**

food handlers courses was adopted which requires an 18 hour course for management personnel. Under Social Services, he reported that 14 office interviews were held, 2 home visits, 12 calls for various needs, food packages and certificates delivered. The director assisted those needing housing.

**FIRE:**

Under Fire, Commissioner DiPisa gave the Fire report for March: Fire Calls: Hasbrouck Heights, 37 calls, year to date 130; Teterboro 7, year to date 32; mutual aid 2, year to date 9; total for the month 46, year to date 171. Ambulance calls for March: Hasbrouck Heights, 102, year to date 403; Teterboro, 5, year to date 51; mutual aid, 11, year to date 41; total 118, year to date 495. On March 9 at the demolition of the Shell Station, he experienced what a firefighter does by putting on fire equipment and found it to be a chilling experience. He thanked the Fire personnel. He had attended the Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting. On Tuesday April 1 the Senior Advisory committee met.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:**

Under the Municipal Complex, Councilman Pepe reported work is progressing nicely due to good weather. The emergency generator was delivered and set, sewer work is almost complete, curbing 80% complete, barrier curbs to be done, grading started, parking lot sub grade, brickwork is continuing, sidewalks in front and on Madison Avenue side of building to be started. A meeting was held to discuss the Boulevard restoration program, the architect has some modifications. New lighting, trees and pavers will be installed. Shell demolition is almost complete. This will be made into a park like and parking lot with 32 additional spots, increasing the number of parking spots to 65. It will not be paved until the Fire Department is moved. The construction trailer will be removed the end of the month and that area will be used for Fire Department parking. Furniture has been ordered and scheduled for delivery the end of June, some carpeting and tile installed, phone lines to be installed. The Public Safety building is ongoing, with some rock excavation causing delays.

**LAND USE AND RECREATION:**

Under Land Use, Commissioner Verrastro reported 63 new permits were issued in March. She cautioned that a permit is needed to resurface your driveway and to be wary of transient contractors. Also, a permit is needed to install central air conditioning. She also recommended checking with the Building Department before doing any home renovations. Under Recreation, she listed the Adult programs: Men's over 30 Basketball meets every Monday, Adult Co-ed Volleyball meets every Wednesday and registration for an Adult fitness club will be held in May. Under Youth

**LAND USE & RECREATION (cont'd):**

Programs, she listed Recreation Track and field for children 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Softball will begin in May for 3-5 grades and 6-8 grades; Traveling Softball will include a 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and a 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade team. Camp registration will be held in May. Practice for Senior Olympics will be held every Wednesday in May, with the Olympics slated for June 4 in Sparta. The Senior Picnic is scheduled for July 10. Regarding Teterboro Airport, she commended Congressman Rothman for holding up the FAA regarding Indigo Airlines, whose planes are 46,000 pounds and do not require security checks.

**POLICE AND PARKS:**

Under Parks, Commissioner Wassberg reported the engraved pavers for the Veterans Memorial Walkway will be installed next week. Under Police, Commissioner Wassberg reported 924 calls in March, with 143 for 9-1-1. There were 57 accidents, with 14 injuries. He enumerated the types of traffic summonses issued. An e-mail received by the Police Chief commended Patrolmen Baker, Colaneri, Albanese and Capt. Castiglione who averted a possible suicide. Caution was advised with respect to outdoor activities with the warm weather. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade DARE graduation was held for Lincoln and Euclid School with Sgt. Mullins conducting the program. The children were congratulated. Plans have begun for the Bicycle Marathon to be held Memorial Day weekend and a Junior Police Academy. The County's Prosecutor's office has donated counters which will soon be installed in all patrol cars.

**REPORT OF MAYOR:**

Mayor Torre reported the School Budget had been defeated and now would come before the Mayor and Council for review and possible cuts. He has called a meeting to discuss the Riser Ditch with neighboring mayors for possible ways to alleviate problems associated with improper flow. He noted that this was dug by the Dutch in the 1700s and was an adequate system for drainage for the entire area until the industrial area in the 20s, 30s and 40s when toxic waste was dumped into the ditch and the towns below Hasbrouck Heights are fearful of removal and major environmental problems. He continued the problem for this town is only blockage. Some dialogue is ongoing with Teterboro for other ways to resolve. An inspection of the ditch is proposed for the public who live in the vicinity and council members, and DPW Supt. Heck was asked to set this up. Regarding the budget, application for Extraordinary Aid in the amount of \$700,000 is awaiting word, the mayor has met with the local senator for his assistance and no cuts will be made until this application is processed. He congratulated the DARE graduates and Sgt. Mullins and the entire Police Department. He also attended Little League opening day and commended those involved. He mentioned that after the Memorial Day Parade and Services, an open house will be held at the new Municipal Complex. He announced publicly that he will be seeking a third term as Mayor of Hasbrouck Heights along with Councilmen Heeren and Wassberg. He

**REPORT OF MAYOR (cont'd):**

enumerated this administration's past accomplishments: low tax rates, the fire of 1999, the rebuilding project, paving of at least 25-30 miles of streets, reconstruction of Jefferson Avenue, Summit Street and Industrial Avenue, Plant Road, new fields, updates on parks including gazebos and new park equipment, increased the Recreation budget, and planted many trees.

**PRESENTATION:**

Mayor Torre noted that he, the borough clerk and VFW Post 4591 member Michael Conti had instituted a program whereby Bill O'Shea's Florist and Heights Florist collected a donation for each yellow ribbon ordered to be placed along the Boulevard and these ribbons were placed along the Boulevard by Mr. Conti. These donations were presented to Mr. Conti to be used for calling cards for the veterans who were stationed overseas. He also commended the VFW Post and American Legion for their efforts.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**RESIGNATIONS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**RESOLUTIONS:** 78. Confirmation of Bond Anticipation Note

79. Confirmation of Bond Anticipation Note

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

**ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2008:**

On a motion by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing ordinance was withdrawn and referred back to committee.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2009:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT SECTION 198-2 ENTITLED “PROHIBITED ACTS” OF ARTICLE I ENTITLED “GENERAL REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 198 ENTITLED “PEACE AND GOOD ORDER” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE II ENTITLED “TRAFFIC REGULATIONS OF CHAPTER 261 ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK SO AS TO INCLUDE IN EACH SAID CHAPTER A PROHIBITION AGAINST THE USE OF A HAND HELD CELLULAR TELEPHONE WHILE OPERATING A MOVING MOTOR VEHICLE UPON ANY PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN THIS BOROUGH**” 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 May 13, 2003.

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

**ORDINANCE(S) ON CONTINUED 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 Attorney comments.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Heeren, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Public Hearing was continued until May 13, 2003.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

Ann McGill, 139 Field Avenue, questioned that when driving on Terrace Avenue she has not observed 25 mph signs and requested same.

Chief Colaneri advised her that when speed limit is not posted, it means the speed limit is 25 mph. He would advise Sgt. Thomas Archer to check on Terrace Avenue

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):**

Carol Skiba, 191 Field Avenue, noting that the north end of the Boulevard parking lines need to be repainted. DPW Supt. Heck reported this could be scheduled for September/October. She had a letter from Katie Schwab, 167 Field Avenue, which she submitted which asked "Mayor Torre to please stop the planes, they are too low. I am friends with Carol." Mayor Torre asked that Katie be advised that this mayor and council would continue to fight these low flying planes through the Coalition, their own authority and through the legislators and thanked Katie for her letter. Ms. Skiba continued with regard to field renovations behind the high school, that she had heard it cost \$650,000 and would appreciate the council looking into this, if fact or fiction, when reviewing the school budget.

Ann McGill, 139 Field Avenue, asked about cost overruns and contracts and that this be looked at when reviewing the school budget.

**CLOSE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 80:** The meeting was closed for Executive Session for any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation or any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, disciplinary action unless individual requests a public meeting.

**RECESS:**

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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 April 22, 2003.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC  
Borough Clerk