

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

September 9, 2003

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on September 9, 2003 at 8 p.m. at the new Municipal Complex, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.

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 September 3, 2003 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on September 3, 2003.

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

Absent: Councilman Justin A. DiPisa

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

INVOCATION: Mayor Torre announced that the first order of business in the new Municipal Complex would be a blessing by Rev. George Yoder of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. He invited Rev. Yoder to come forward.

CITIZENS WHO ATTENDED FIRST MEETING IN NEW MUNICIPAL COMPLEX:

Mayor Torre asked that each person in attendance sign in: Sonya Buchman, 239 Central Avenue, George D. Pertuz, 535 Boulevard, Tom Verrastro, 117 Oldfield Avenue, Ed Sees, 47 Wood Street, Ron Jones, 124 Oak Grove Avenue, Dot Petroulas, 215 Central Avenue, Chris Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, Lawrence Lesho, 54 Summit Street, Daniel P. Vecchio, 313 Hamilton Avenue, Carol Skiba, 191 Field Avenue, Robert R. Heck, 7 Alger Avenue, Michael Kronyak, Borough Administrator, Ralph W. Chandless, Jr., 239 Walter Avenue, Kenneth Job Jr., Borough Engineer, Cathy Brunetti, The Observer, Patricia M. Godfrey, The Observer, Ed Trawinski, 3-33 Lyncrest Avenue, Fair Lawn, Rose M. Heck, former Mayor, 501 Collins Avenue, Rose and Paul S. Mulle, 321 Kipp Avenue, Gilbert Hunt, 117 Henry Street, Bryan David Horowitz, 414 Kipp Avenue, Ron Kistner, 75 Oak Grove Avenue, Juergen Hofheinz, 250 Kipp Avenue, Fritz Rethage, 231 La Salle Avenue.

PRESENTATION: VFW Post 4591 Commander Daniel Vecchio presented a Certificate of Recognition to Hasbrouck Heights which read, "In recognition and sincere appreciation of your support of VFW Operation Uplink to provide phone cards to the men and woman serving on active military duty around the world as well as hospitalized veterans. Your commitment to help support this program has earned you special recognition for your efforts to assure that Operation Uplink continues to meet the needs of America's heroes," signed by Raymond Sisk, Commander-in-Chief, VFW National Headquarters. The second plaque was presented to the citizens of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights which read, "In recognition for your patriotism in support of the efforts to supply our Armed Forces engaged in Iraq with phone cards, Operation UpLink," signed by Daniel Vecchio, VFW Post 4591 and its membership. Mr. Vecchio said that numerous letters were received, and he read one letter from Shawn McNeilly of Hasbrouck Heights.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letters from Servicemen/Servicewomen who participated in Operation Uplink.
2. Letter from Arthur J. Cifelli, Assistant Director, NJ Government and Community Relations, Port Authority of NY and NJ regarding a recent article that appeared un USA Today regarding a lawsuit filed in Hailey, Idaho, concerning Weight Based Restrictions at airports. He will inform this council of any updates and changes.
3. Letter from Mark W. Tomko, Secretary to the Wallington Fire Dept. with thanks for the use of the fire apparatus last month.

On a motion by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilman Heeren, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Correspondence was accepted.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR:

Mayor Torre gave some thoughts on this historic evening, thanking the hundreds of people involved, including the collaborative effort of this mayor and council, the building committee - Councilman Pepe and Councilman DiPisa, the administrator, clerk, attorney, engineer, employees, architect, Arcari & Iovino, Beragan Construction Co., and the residents. He has said many times that the tragedy of the fire was not about the building itself, because without people the building means nothing. However, the building is a tool for our employees and mayor and council to better serve our residents and it is our hope that this building will provide the enjoyment, leisure time activity, knowledge, and public service to the people of Hasbrouck Heights. He also thanked Assemblywoman Heck who was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

PETITIONS: None

BILLS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$1,475,997.68 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 therefor.

Signed Herbert D. Heeren
Commissioner of Finance

On a motion by Councilman Wassberg, seconded by Councilwoman Verrastro, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

149. Bingo License for Corpus Christi Church

150. Bingo License for Concerned Parents of Corpus Christi School

On a motion by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilwoman Verrastro, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Resolutions were approved (Copies attached).

RESOLUTIONS:

151. Payroll

152. Dog License - Payment of Fees to State

153. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2002-02

154. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2003-02

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

APPOINTMENTS: Rita Ratkowski as Substitute School Crossing Guard

On a motion by Councilman Wassberg, seconded by Councilwoman Verrastro, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Appointment was approved.

RESIGNATIONS: None

ORDINANCE (S) ON INTRODUCTION: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING: None

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Torre thanked Michael Kronyak, Rose Marie Sees, and the DPW employees and all employees for their hard work in the move to the new complex.

Rose Heck, 501 Collins Avenue, extended congratulations, noting that it took a lot of meetings and hard work. She reported on the status of Teterboro Airport, and that she had been in touch with Congressman Rothman and Senators Corzine and Lautenberg. She also discussed the East and West Riser Ditch, that the work started several years ago, was now coming to fruition. She felt it was important that Hasbrouck Heights and Hackensack be represented.

Edward Trawinski, former mayor of Fair Lawn, was present as Lou Tedesco's aide, and on his behalf, himself and Freeholder Mola, wished all the best with the new building. He also commented that on Sept. 17 Freeholder Tedesco would be holding a meeting regarding the half million dollars needed for the study of Teterboro Airport and asked for support. Mayor Torre encouraged the council to attend and asked that a letter be sent to Freeholder Tedesco in support.

Sonya Buckman, 229 Central Avenue, was concerned with the traffic issue on Central Avenue. She was advised that the Police Department felt it was not safe to close the street until the Fire Department vacates. There were several concerns, but hopefully would be short term. No Left Turn and Children signs have been ordered. She also brought up the subject about subdivisions, that the town was losing character. She was advised that to change size of homes or lots would render many homes becoming nonconforming. The balance of the burden on zoning versus the benefit to the community needs to be addressed.

Juergen Hofheinz, 250 Kipp Avenue, questioned when the contractor who did the reconstruction of Kipp Avenue was going to make his curb boxes accessible. Since the reconstruction many of the valve boxes have been buried and cannot be accessed. He was also concerned with the buckling sidewalk near Hennessey-Powell. As this was a safety issue, the engineer was asked to respond. The engineer assured Mr. Hofheinz that the retainer had not been released. He elaborated that the project is funded by the State DOT and under these terms the borough cannot fine the contractor until the time limit on the contract expires which is the end of September. Assemblywoman Heck said if this was a public safety issue, she asked that the information be supplied to her office and she would write the DOT. Mayor Torre directed the borough attorney to write a letter of urgency and that Job give the particulars to Assemblywoman Heck. Mr. Hofheinz, regarding cars being parked in driveways and blocking sidewalks, asked for police enforcement.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (CONT'D):

Lawrence Lesho, 54 Summit Street, was back again asking the status of the project. The overlap of blacktop on the handicapped curb was one previous issue. The engineer discussed the responsibilities of the contractor, that once the repaving of Plant Road (which was part of this project and to begin the next day) was complete, then he would be coming back to Summit Street to address the punch list items. Mr. Lesho had brought some of the top soil that had been replaced and it was full of rocks. The engineer said that the contractor would be back to remedy any problems. It was stressed that the residents had been patient. These items should be addressed within the next two weeks and final inspection with Mr. Lesho present was requested.

Carol Skiba, 191 Field Avenue, asked for status of the requested noise monitor for Teterboro Airport noise and was told by Councilman Heeren that a letter would be sent to the Roosevelt Avenue resident the following day. He also said an additional telephone line will be necessary. He had spoken with the airport official who noted the location requested was ideal for identifying airplane noise. Councilwoman Verrastro noted five new towns had joined the Coalition.

Dorothy Petroulis, 215 Central Avenue, asked if the generator for the new complex was to be tested every week and was told this would be addressed with the contractor, to make sure there would be no warranty problems. She was concerned with speeders and traffic. She asked if something temporary could be used as a deterrent such as rumble strips, which the engineer could be noisy. The Police Chief discussed his concerns. No Left Turn and Children Playing signs have been ordered.

RECESS FOR CAUCUS:

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 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 Mayor and Council Meeting held on September 9, 2003.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk