

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

January 25, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at 8:07 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees 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 4, 2005 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 4, 2005.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ronald R. Jones, Councilwoman Carol J. Skiba, Councilman Leonard Introna, Councilman Thomas E. Meli, Councilman Ronald F. Kistner, Councilman Andrew Link III

Absent: Councilman Justin A. DiPisa

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

INVOCATION: The Invocation prepared by Reverend Karyn L. Wiseman, Pastor of First United Methodist Church was read by Councilman Link.

PROCLAMATION: A Proclamation was presented to Mimi Hui for being named New York Times "Librarian of the Year" by Mayor Jones and Councilman Tom Meli, Library Liaison. It read as follows:

"WHEREAS, attaining the New York Times Librarian Award celebrates public librarians from across the country who have provided outstanding public service; and

WHEREAS, Mimi Hui was awarded the 2004 New York Times Librarian Award for her contributions and experience as a Librarian for 20 years, and as the Assistant Director and Reference Librarian of the Free Public Library of Hasbrouck Heights since 1999; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hui has proven her professionalism and expertise by taking her role as a public servant seriously, in carrying out her duties, and in her volunteerism, showing compassion and friendliness to all; and

PROCLAMATION (cont'd):

WHEREAS, Ms. Hui's achievement of attaining this award is a most prestigious accomplishment and one which will follow her throughout the rest of her life; and

WHEREAS, this governing body acknowledges the importance of Ms. Hui attaining the New York Times Librarian Award and wishes to recognize this achievement by one of our own;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, does hereby congratulate Mimi Hui upon attaining this Award and further wish her every success and happiness in the future." /S/ Mayor and Council.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Letter from Zhanna Berman of B.C. Dept. of Health Services regarding National Wear Red Day on February 4, 2005 which addresses the issue of women and heart disease.
- 2) Letter and check from Cablevision awarding franchise fee payment of \$35,978 to the Borough for the year 2004.
- 3) Letter from Rudy F. Steinthal of Noise Abatement Office, Teterboro Airport, which includes copy of report of noise monitor requested by a Roosevelt Avenue resident and the noise complaints report for 2003 and 2004.
- 3) Copy of Notice of Public Hearing by Planning Board for January 26, 2005, from LIN Cellular Communications, LLC an affiliate of Cingular Wireless. (*Since receipt of this Notice, Planning Board meeting was canceled.*)
- 3) Letter from Donna Bonelli regarding a benefit on February 27, 2005 at the Sound Garden in Lodi for Joseph Bonelli, Jr. who sustained a tragic accident on Aug. 14, 2004.
- 3) Letter from County Executive Dennis McNerney regarding creation of a "facilitation" center to function as the point for initiating and implementing feasible plans to consolidate, merge or share the services and equipment used by individual municipalities.
- 3) Letter from New Jersey State League Municipalities asking each municipality to post on its website the new statewide, centralized, toll free telephone hotline: 1-877-NJ ABUSE to report child abuse.

On a motion by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilman Kistner, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Communications were accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (November 23, 2004)

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

PETITIONS: None

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$114,370.53 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 Kistner, seconded by Councilman Meli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

FINANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Under Social Services, Commissioner Link read a statement from the Local Assistance Board thanking those listed for their donations during the holiday season which were distributed to 12 individuals or families. In January thus far, six families received food or certificates. Under Finance, Commissioner Link gave the Finance Report for the month of December. The current fund cash balance as of December 31, 2004 was \$2,247,152.06; on November 30 was \$4,080,570.04 which represents an decrease of \$1,833,417.98. The entire balance was invested and is earning 1.95%. Cash receipts for December totaled \$652,220.40 of which \$182,435.23 was for current taxes, \$76,414.73 was prepaid 2005 taxes, \$67,903.20 was grants and state aid, \$88,928.42 was interfunds, and \$236,538.82 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for December were \$2,503,882.93 of which \$1,379,290.20 was local school taxes, \$672,219.90 was salaries and 452,372.83 was for other expenses. He continued that the date established by the Division of Local Government Services for the introduction of the 2005 budget has been extended to March 10, and that the Annual Debt Statement has been submitted. He read a report on the financial position at December 31, 2004 which read as follows: The Tax Collection Rate was 98.89%, up slightly from the previous year which was 98.74%. The surplus is estimated at \$1,354,002.376, up \$52,000 from the previous year which was \$1,302,674.31. The total Municipal Debt was \$12,042,350, an increase of \$216,250 from the previous year which was \$11,826,100. The debt ratio was 95%, substantially below the 3.5% allowable under the statutes.

POLICE AND RECREATION: Under Police, Commissioner Kistner reported on the 2004 final numbers, an increase of 4,353 violations written, which include moving violations of 3,046. DWI violations went up 44. He, Councilman Meli and Mayor Jones attended the DARE graduation and commended Lt. Mullins and Chief Colaneri. He attended a Beefsteak Dinner for Special Olympics. In February the Polar Bear Club will be held in Point Pleasant, in which he will participate. Under Recreation, the first meeting took place January 20. New programs are proposed such as a summer time basketball league for all ages and concerts in the park during the summer. He was happy to report that under the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund, a basketball court and skating rink was proposed and \$67,493 was recommended to the Freeholders. Approval will be announced in May.

FIRE AND PARKS: Commissioner Meli reported that he had no formal report on parks. Under Fire, he reported 192 responses in December. He appealed for volunteers. Some minor issues with the building were being addressed. He requested residents to clear snow by fire hydrants as a courtesy and safety measure. He commended Mimi Hui on receiving this award, which was well deserved. He advised residents to visit the library for new and exciting events. He asked for assistance for the VFW which was in need of funding.

LAND USE, SANITATION, HEALTH AND PUBLIC FACILITIES: Commissioner Introna had been in touch with DPW Supt. Heck regarding the past snowstorm which was removed according to plan. Bergen County reimbursed the borough for plowing and salting the county roads in the amount of \$3,760 and \$2,050 respectively. Under Property Maintenance, he reported various complaints regarding garbage removal, broken glass, white goods out before pick up day, a building permit not sought for a new front porch, four violations of construction signs on properties, and water draining onto a neighbor's property. Under Health, as Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Introna reported that on Wednesday, January 5, 2005, the Re-organization meeting was held and the following Officers were appointed: President, Louis Castellito, Vice-President, Dona DeFranco, Treasurer Pam Link. New members appointed to the board were Dr. James Aversa, Linda Brandle and Pam Link. A Health Fair Expo will be held in the Spring. Under Public Facilities, as Deputy Commissioner, he reported that punch list items are being taken care including metal detectors in basement, flag pole lighting, the control DFM 2000 fire suppression system, smoke and heat detectors, new electric breakers, lock and key pads being installed, and the external PVC fencing repaired.

STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION: Under Streets and Transportation, Commissioner Skiba reported having called the Supt. of Public Works for any reports, and because of the stellar job the DPW did removing snow, he had left early. She commended the DPW for their efforts in the snow removal. Regarding the 2004 Road Program, the engineer had advised that State Aid was denied due to lack of priority points. With the funding available, repaving of Central Avenue from the Boulevard to Woodside Avenue, Longworth from the Boulevard to Terrace, Stanley from the

STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION (cont'd):

Boulevard to Terrace and Division from Terrace to Berkshire are proposed. As an alternate, Berkshire to Franklin may be considered. As retainage is paid back, there also may be funding to repave Hoehn and Pasadena. She also reported that with respect to the Municipal Alliance there is a program scheduled for the February 28 Town Hall Meeting for parents to learn listening and communication skills to prevent substance abuse.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

Mayor Jones commended Chief Colaneri, Lt. Mullins and officers involved regarding the DARE program and the Beefsteak Dinner for Special Olympics which he said is a very good cause. Hasbrouck Heights came in second for fund raising in the State of New Jersey, noting with only 32 members. He commended the volunteers in Hasbrouck Heights, and also commended the DPW on the excellent clean up of snow. He read a prepared note from Councilman DiPisa regarding the Community Awareness Access to All Committee will hold a re-organization meeting on Tuesday February 1 at 7 p.m. and invited all members to be present, and that the new directories are now available for handicapped persons. He invited any handicapped or family member to join this committee.

APPOINTMENTS: Lisa Quish to Committee of Community Celebrations

Tracie D'Amico to Committee of Community Celebrations

Robert Thomasey as Mechanic for Engine Co. 2

On a motion by Councilman Link, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Appointments were approved.

RESIGNATIONS: Sue Ellen Riordan from Community Awareness Access to All Committee

Marietta Prato from Committee of Community Celebrations

Frank Serek as Mechanic for Engine Co. 2

On a motion by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilman Introna, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resignations were accepted with regret.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: None

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Jones invited anyone wishing to speak to please come forward.

Sonia Buckman, 239 Central Avenue, first commended the DPW on snow removal. She was questioning the status of the cul-de-sac on Central Avenue. She was advised that it was status quo. One of the council persons was questioning the financing and if it could be reduced by eliminating the most easterly lot and reducing the cost approximately \$200,000. On questioning a time frame, Ms. Buckman was advised that the remediation of the Shell Station was still in question. This would be discussed in detail at the work session on February 8. If in fact the remediation cannot be immediately completed, temporary surfacing will be installed on this property. The speeding on Central Avenue and neighboring streets was discussed. It was noted the cul-de-sac was proposed due to the increased volume of cars and senior and pedestrian safety. She was invited to come to the next work session.

Dorothy Petroulis, 215 Central Avenue, was in favor of the cul-de-sac. She thought eliminating a lot would lose spaces. An explanation of different curb cuts that could cut down speeding vehicles, the average person's perception of speeding, and the validity of a traffic counter was given.

Rich Ortiz, 234 Central Avenue, commended Councilman Meli's with his desire to keep the cul-de-sac. He referred to the additional traffic on Madison and Washington. He remembered one of the compromises to the Central Avenue residents was the cul-de-sac. He felt traffic surveys should have been done before the compromise. Some of the draw backs of a cul-de-sac were given, parking on the street, U-turns, which the residents said they were aware of.

Chief Colaneri referring to the original proposals, there were no outlets promised on Madison, but traffic has increased. A traffic light had also been promised, but the County study did not warrant one.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the public portion was closed.

ADJOURN FOR CLOSED SESSION:

RESOLUTION: 28. Personnel

On a motion by Councilman Link, seconded by Councilman Meli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution to Close was approved.

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 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 January 25, 2005.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk