

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

January 24, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 8:01 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Borough Administrator Michael Kronyak 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 3, 2006 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 3, 2006.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ronald R. Jones, Councilwoman Maryetta Saccomano, Councilwoman Carol J. Skiba, Councilman Leonard Introna, Councilman Thomas E. Meli, Councilman Ronald F. Kistner, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa

Absent: None

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING BOROUGH CLERK:

On a motion of Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, Michael Kronyak was appointed Acting Borough Clerk.

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

INVOCATION: The Rev. Edward J. Glasser, Associate Minister, The Community United Church of Christ

COMMUNICATIONS: 1) Notice from the State of NJ DOT of Hearing on February 7, 2006 for Exempt Crossing Designation for Railway Crossing on Route 17 in Lodi

2) NJDOT Train II-Railroad Preemption for Traffic Signals Intersection of Malcolm Avenue and NJ Route 17

3) Letter from B.C. Office of County Counsel for continuance of Emergency Notification Services via Telephone Alerting System

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

- 4) Thank You letter from Mayor Matthew J. Avara of Pascagoula, MS for assistance to Hurricane Katrina victims
- 5) Thank You letter from Doug of Pascagoula, MS for assistance after Hurricane Katrina
- 6) Resignation Letter from Community Celebrations Committee from John and Nancy Pirilli
- 7) Resignation Letter from Board of Health from Martin Saccomano
- 8) Letter from Cablevision and Check for #35,674.00 for franchise fee for January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

Councilman Meli requested to read Item #4 into the record (copy attached). Councilwoman Saccomano requested to read Item #7 into the record (copy attached). On a motion by Councilwoman Skiba, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, with Councilman Introna recusing himself from Items #1 and 2 as his wife is an employee of NJ Transit, the foregoing Correspondence was accepted. Mayor Jones accepted the resignation letters with regret.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (October 25, 2005 Regular Meeting
December 13, 2005 Regular Meeting, Work Session
and Closed Session
December 27, 2005 Regular Meeting)

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

None

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$442,941.79 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 Thomas E. Meli
Commissioner of Finance

BILLS (cont'd):

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

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND PARKS: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported the reorganization meeting was held on January 9, with the new president being Pam Link, vice president Margaret Jengo and appointed secretary/treasurer Colleen Jarvis as well as four new members, Jack Coneys, Patrick McCarthy, Connie Doheny, and Colleen Jarvis. A registered environmental health specialist Robert Jurnick is now on the Board from the B.C. Dept. of Health Services who explained the Chapter 12 new regulations and food handlers re. A new Baby Keep Well Program which had been with Garfield must be instituted. The registrar Marilyn deRussy and deputy registrar Carol Palmieri were reappointed. The entire board will be participating in the planning and production of the next health fair. Under Parks, Commissioner DiPisa reported on the accessibility project of Woodland Park. The total project cost would be \$157,000. An application for Community Development funding resulted in an award of \$48,375. An additional application has been submitted for more funding. In the interim, a report that the DPW was removing leaves from Woodland Park due to the good weather, and if conditions prevail, the soccer field will be reconditioned by preparing the soil and removing some grass to lay down sod (to be donated by a local landscaper) where needed. Under Community Awareness Access to All Committee, he reported officers were sworn in, and that Committee member Brenda Colaneri and Chief Colaneri were instrumental in presenting a handicapped awareness proposal for the Athletic Field.

POLICE AND RECREATION: Under Recreation, Commissioner Kistner reported he and Deputy Commissioner Saccomano had attended the monthly meeting where plans were made to hold six concerts in the park and a Movie Night during the summer. He continued the basketball program includes 200 boys grades 1st through 8th. The wrestling program includes 70 boys on the traveling team and Coach Dan Guido was commended. The Battle of the Bands is scheduled for February 11 in the Community Room with the winners to perform at the Bicycle Marathon. He commended Donna Wipper for coordinating the chaperones for the Recreation Center. Councilman Introna questioned if there was a girls program, and the commissioner reported there is a program for 3rd through 8th grades for girls who have started their season. Under Police, he reported that he had attended the DARE graduation for the middle schools. He commended the Police Department on this program. He announced that he and Chief Colaneri will be attending the Polar Bear Plunge on February 26.

FINANCE AND FIRE: Under Finance, Commissioner Meli read the following Finance Report: The current fund cash balance as of December 31, 2005 was \$2,471,918.99; on November 30, 2005 was \$4,731,700.32 which represents an decrease of Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 1/24/06 - page 4

FINANCE AND FIRE (cont'd):

\$2,259,781.33. The entire balance was invested and is earning 4.25%. Cash receipts for December totaled \$761,673.61 of which \$201,624.36 was for current taxes, \$175,900 for Prepaid 2006 Taxes, \$67,903 was grants and state aid, \$195,035.08 was for interfunds and \$221,211.17 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for December totaled \$3,019,491.05 of which \$1,473,942.42 was local school taxes, \$951,242.10 was salaries, and \$594,306.53 was for other expenses. He continued the process for formulating the 2006 municipal budget is underway. The annual debt statement was filed. Under Fire, he reported average response to over five calls per day, that the relationship with the Pascagoula, MS department is continuing, with two firefighters attending the Fire Department Installation Dinner. The Hook and Ladder was in for repairs. The foam truck from Port Authority should be received this month. Plans are to have each piece of apparatus contain a carbon monoxide detector. Under Library, he attended "Gulino Day."

SANITATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Introna reported that the DPW along with Chief Colaneri requested assistance of the Bergen County Inmate Work Release Program in painting the interior of Police Headquarters, Municipal Court, the Senior Center and Community Room at Borough Hall. Under Sanitation, he reported the main sewer line that runs along Route 17 south had a blockage on January 22, reoccurring on Jan. 23, resulting in a sewer back up, possibly from grease build up from the fast food restaurants in that area. NJ Dept. of Transportation approval is needed to close traffic lanes. The Health Department was requested to inspect these restaurants for compliance with grease trap cleaning.

TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: There was no Social Services report. Under Transportation, Councilwoman Skiba reported she had been working with Congressman Rothman and Senator Lautenberg's offices regarding the recent airplane off the runway at Teterboro. She announced that on March 13 at 7:30 p.m. the NJ DEP in conjunction with Environ Corp. will be announcing the kickoff study of the air impact study at Teterboro Airport and giving a presentation in the Senior Center.

STREETS AND LAND USE: Under Streets, Commissioner Saccomano reported that the Borough had two ice storms as well as significant rainfall in January. The DPW distributed salt on the roads due to black ice hazards. Frequent cleaning of stormwater catch basins has continued and she requested residents to help if they see leaves accumulating at these sites. Potholes were patched with the DPW applying three tons of winter mix asphalt to our streets. This program will continue. Under Land Use, she reported nine complaints were made on property maintenance of neighbors which were investigated by Property Maintenance officer Ed Carter, resolved, with no summons issued. There were five violations with residents with violations abated. There were six separate violations with contractors who were displaying contractors signs,

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 1/24/06 - page 5

REPORT OF MAYOR: Mayor Jones gave his report as "progress," commending the Police Department on the DARE Program.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS: Frances Sanzo as Police Matron - 1 Year

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

RESIGNATIONS: John Pirilli from Committee of Community Celebrations
Nancy Pirilli from Committee of Community Celebrations
Martin Saccomano from Board of Health
Gail Cardaci as Police Matron

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

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: 21. Raffle Licenses for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

22. Raffle Licenses for H.H. Junior Woman's Club

On a motion by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda resolutions were approved (Copies attached).

RESOLUTIONS: 23. Authorizing the Conclusion of Niram Inc. Matter

24. Authorizing Agreement to Participate in PARIS County Shared Services Demonstration Grant

24. Authorizing Continuance of Emergency Notification Services via Telephone Alerting System with B.C. Office of Emergency Management

24. Approving List of Volunteer Fire Department Members Who Qualified for Credit Under the LOSAP Program for 2005

24. Supporting Competition Among Cable Television Providers in New Jersey

RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2119:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO PROVIDE THEREIN A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED ‘CHAPTER 18, CONTRACTS, PUBLIC’ REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE BY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS OF CERTAIN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROHIBITING THE AWARD OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS TO CONTRACTORS HAVING MADE CERTAIN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS,” BEING ORDINANCE NO. 2064 ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 14, 2004”** 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 February 14, 2006.

On a motion by Councilwoman Skiba, seconded by Councilman Kistner, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Introduction was approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing on Ordinances No. 2118.

Michael Eggert, 114 Central Avenue, frowned upon the selling of any town property and that building a part would be an asset.

Chris Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, referring to a \$60,000 figure, felt this ordinance shouldn't be accepted, is opposed to the cul de sac, the park would be a hang out and the street should stay open.

Councilman Meli repeated the history of this project and the ordinances involved.

Councilwoman Skiba said she voted no as there was no resolution as to the piece of property, and when this was readdressed, she was under the impression that a complete package and project was to be looked at, not defer debating selling a parcel for later on.

John Fitzin, 234 Columbus Avenue, was against the park, but we lack parking for the events at the Senior Club. If parking is to be taken away, where will all these cars be placed. He asked that when the town received the grant money for the Senior Center,
Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 1/24/06 - page 7

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

were there any stipulations as to how many parking spaces there should be. Councilman DiPisa answered that some senior centers provide lunch, and parking stipulations are required. Our Senior Center parking requirements were not a demand by the county.

Sonya Buckman, 239 Central Avenue, questioned if this resolution can go through with the stipulation of the sale of the property, less the amount of the money requested. She was advised that the sale of the property would require a separate ordinance.

Dorothy Petroulis, 215 Central Avenue, said the resolution should go through without considering the sale of the property at this time. She would count the number of cars when there was a senior meeting which came to 28 to 30. If, in the future, more space is needed, the park can be moved to the empty lot to accommodate more parking.

Donna Wipper, 231 Madison Avenue, agreed that a resolution to sell the property you need to resolve that first. As to parking, she was in favor of the park, that the town should work together, that the taxes are going up, that the property should be sold. Seniors park in front of her house, but she does not mind. Look at the whole picture and benefit as many people in town as possible.

Jorge Risquet, 257 Walter Avenue, recommended this resolution go through, but the parcel of land will never be replaced, possibly save it for a future rec center, if there is money needed for this project, sell the BOE building.

John Baratta, 269 Walter Avenue, agreed with Jorge to a point, but recommended using the park area for parking if needed, and look for property when the market is more economical.

Patricia Godfrey, 223 Boulevard, thought there was shortsightedness when talking about parking and cars, in 20-30 years the oil will be all gone.

John Fargo, 59 Franklin Avenue, was alarmed that property could be sold, it is not a good idea. He felt strongly in favor of more parking, build a smaller parking lot and keep your options open.

John Fitzin, 234 Columbus Avenue, that we only have 30 or 35 cars, reported 119 people at the last meeting, the parking was grid lock, there is not enough parking. Automobiles will be around for a long time.

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

Councilman DiPisa gave one statistic that with events such as the Health Fair, increasing in numbers from 158 to 288 attendees, the parking is inadequate.

Councilman Kistner commended the different points of view, referring to the large Senior Meeting, there were 38 cars, and the lack of striping caused blockage of aisles. He noted the roller hockey/basketball park is for older children. The plans for the pocket park were for young children.

Mayor Jones said numerous meetings were held, with the original plans for \$600,000, with the possibility of selling the lot to offset the costs, reducing the project to \$400,000 to save the taxpayers. The public comments have come into the discussions. Looking at another piece of property at another location for parking had also been discussed. He felt there was a need to start a parking lot. He commended Councilman Meli on his plan.

Councilman Introna said there was a need to look at this in different ways, a committee should be formed to see what the needs are now, with tolerance, making the parking lot behind the building a temporarily handicapped lot when needed. Maybe a parking authority should be considered. He was concerned with finances.

Mayor Jones thought that was the job of the Council, not a committee. He asked that Councilman Introna be put at the head of a committee for a parking authority with a report back at the next work session. He also recommended himself and Councilman Meli be part of that committee with the first meeting on Tuesday, January 31 at 7 p.m. in the Caucus Room.

Mayor Jones then continued with regard to the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2118:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$400,000.00 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT, A POCKET PARK, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS UPON LOTS 20.01, 20.02 AND 22 IN BLOCK 47 BEING PREMISES ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION FORMED BY CENTRAL AVENUE AND THE BOULEVARD TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS OF A PORTION OF CENTRAL AVENUE IN RELATION THERETO, TO APPLY TO THE COST THEREOF A GRANT FROM THE BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND IN THE SUM OF \$54,000.00 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCING OF A FURTHER PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF \$326,000.00 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL BOND LAW"**.

A motion was made by Councilman Kistner to accept Ordinance No. 2118 Bond Ordinance appropriating \$400,000 for construction and improvement of the intersection of Central

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 1/24/06 - page 9

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

Avenue and the Boulevard with the understanding that the remaining 50 x 100 lot be looked at a future date, seconded by Councilman Meli.

Mayor Jones requested a Roll Call. When asked, Councilwoman Saccomano asked to qualify her answer that she was in favor of the parking lot, the park, and questioned the cul de sac and in talking with emergency services personnel, who felt it was not a safe situation, she was not in favor of a cul de sac. She suggested some pedestrian safety measures, such as a cross walk or flashing yellow light.

The Borough Attorney said this was not the time for qualifying a vote, it needed to be yes or no.

Mayor Jones gave his thoughts on safety issues, first calling on the Police Chief for some input, and himself having some background in this field, referred to mutual aid and other options if there was a need.

Councilman Meli when first a councilman, referred to discussion at that time in the Fire Department, that a breakaway gate was and is proposed, at which time the Fire Chief was in favor as well as the present Fire Chief.

The roll call was again requested, with Councilwoman Saccomano voting No, Councilwoman Skiba voting No, Councilman Introna voted No, Councilman Meli voting Yes, Councilman Kistner voting Yes, Councilman Kistner voting Yes, with Mayor Jones voting Yes to break the tie.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Jones opened the meeting to the public.

Chris Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, with regard to the newly appointed Judge, he was under the understanding that he could not hear certain things in regard to Borough ordinances such as Board of Health complaints, Property Maintenance complaints. The borough attorney's understanding was that he was in the same position as Judge Chandless was for 35 years, that he cannot rule on a challenge to a municipal ordinance. Semencz asked if the previous judge was in that same position, and the borough attorney thought not, that only a few challenges, two ordinances, which are more frequently sent straight to superior court anyway. Semencz questioned why the previous judge stepped down. He was welcome to question her himself, as this was a personnel issue.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

John Baratta, 259 Walter Avenue, regarding the cable competition resolution asking the governing body to use caution as he had heard of mail fraud. He was advised that the resolution on tonight's agenda dealt with competition among cable providers.

Cindy Schwalb, 167 Field Avenue, referring to a previous discussion she had with Mayor Jones when he was campaigning in her neighborhood, had asked for a cul de sac on her street or speed bumps. Councilwoman Skiba interceded that when a traffic counter was requested two years ago, they were never provided with the results. The Chief of Police said the council is provided with results, a resident can speak with Lt. Archer or ask the council person. When asked if Mrs. Schwalb wanted a traffic counter, she said if it would help with her need. She questioned the one way on Oak Grove to Passaic and was advised that was established when Curtiss Wright was in operation. She questioned how soon could she see the results of a traffic counter.

Councilwoman Skiba with respect to the Route 17 railroad crossing, noticed that traffic will cross over Route 17 when it is heavy, and pass through Field Avenue to go south on Route 17. Chief Colaneri said that the main corridors have such an increase in traffic that connecting streets have become cut through streets throughout town. Mayor Jones gave his experience with the value of traffic counters giving factual information.

Councilwoman Skiba questioned if the NJ DOT makes the decisions regarding Route 17 and the railroad, and was told yes.

Cindy Schwalb, 167 Field Avenue, thought part of the problem is due to it being a long, straight street.

Councilman Introna had at the last meeting proposed a traffic study at the Central Avenue area and it was explained that a traffic study is different from a traffic counter. He suggested some options, such as one way signs.

Chief Colaneri said any resident can call headquarters at any time if they have a questions or require information.

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

The Acting Borough Clerk made note that he had not read the summary of Ordinance No. 2118 and final adoption notice. A motion was made to direct the Borough Clerk to advertise the adopted ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Kistner to advise the clerk to publish the adopted notice, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano and unanimously carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

ADDENDUM: However, upon further investigation the next morning, it was determined that for a bonding ordinance an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the full membership of the governing body is required. Hence, Ordinance No. 2118 was defeated.

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 24, 2006.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk