

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

October 24, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 8:05 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 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

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

INVOCATION: Deacon Vincent DeFedele of Corpus Christi R.C. Church

PROCLAMATION: Pastoral Care Week, October 15-22, 2006

Mayor Jones presented the following Proclamation to Marialena Iribarne, a resident of Hasbrouck Heights, who represented the Pastoral Care Department of Hackensack University Medical Center.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights is pleased to join the Pastoral Care Department of Hackensack University Medical Center as it celebrates Pastoral Care Week, October 15-22, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Pastoral Care Department of Hackensack University Medical Center is staffed by professionals with caring hearts and giving spirits who are united in their ministry to bring God's peace to all men and women -- patients, families, care givers and staff; and

WHEREAS, Pastoral Care Week speaks to the deep spiritual concerns of every person -- the deeper meaning in the face of finitude, reconciliation to bodily

PROCLAMATION (cont'd):

limitations, exploration of more meaningful relationships with others and connection to aspects of and in the universe beyond ourselves; and

WHEREAS, by valuing each individual, pastoral care givers seek to know, to relish, to hope with, to rejoice with, to suffer with, to believe in and to love each person with whom they work; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's event, "Healing Humor" celebrates the healing potential of humor and honors the sober work of those who help us find levity in our serious lives; and

WHEREAS, we commend the members of the Pastoral Care Department of Hackensack University Medical Center for extending themselves in the service of others, according to the teachings of their faith.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Ronald R. Jones and Members of the Council of Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim October 15-22, 2006 as "Pastoral Care Week" in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

/s/Mayor Ronald R. Jones and Members of the Council

PRESENTATION: Presentation of De-fibrillators to H.H. Little League, High School

Councilman Kistner reported that a pasta dinner had been held to purchase a hearing aid for a young resident, Joey Peters, and had been so successful that funds exceeded what was needed and it was decided to purchase defibrillators for the above organizations. Those who volunteered at the Pasta Dinner were Chief Colaneri, Sgt. Rinke, Ptl. Albanese, Det. Baker, Det. Colaneri, Ptl. Lange, Ptl. Kroncke, Brenda Colaneri, Denise Lesho, Colleen Rinke, Marlene Verrastro, Adele Albanese, Joanne Inglesby and Ron Kistner.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Letter from R. Recchione thanking DPW Supt. and his crew for their quick response regarding several matters.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (May 9, 2006 Work Session, September 12, 2006 Regular Meeting, September 26, 2006 Regular Meeting and Closed Session, October 10, 2006 Regular Meeting, Work Session and Closed Session)

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

None

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$2,137,102.49 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.

Thomas E. Meli
Commissioner of Finance

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman Meli, with Councilwoman Skiba abstaining from a payment she is named, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND PARKS: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa digressed from the usual report and thanked the Board for the well attended Health Fair, namely, Secretary Lori French, President Pat Link, Vice President Marge Jengo, Jack Coneys, Patrick McCarthy, Colleen Jarvis, Connie Doheny, Dr. Mark DelCalzo, Gary Van Hook and Eugene Adamkiewicz. Under Parks, he gave an update on the barrier free improvements to Woodland Park, noting that bids were received from 10 contractors ranging from \$188,000 to \$349,500, which were reviewed and the two lowest referred to the architect, Arcari & Iovino., who sent a letter indicating that both bids met all requirements. Mr. Kronyak will prepare a report for the next work session. He reported the DPW assisted in 50 events held at Woodland Park this spring and fall, including the Recreation Department summer camp, movies and concert night, and Halloween in the Park.

POLICE AND RECREATION: Under Recreation, Commissioner Kistner reported a very successful Haunted Hay Ride on October 19, and thanked all who volunteered their time and talent, especially Recreation Director Rob Brady. Adult and children's programs are in full swing. Over 70 boys are signed up for Recreation basketball. He encouraged residents to attend the high school and junior football games. Under Police, he reported the zero tolerance for Mischief Night and Halloween.

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FINANCE AND FIRE: Under Finance, Commissioner Meli read the following Finance Report: the current fund cash balance as of September 30, 2006 was \$1,578,019.99; on August 31, 2006 was \$3,693,099.36, which represents an decrease of \$2,115,079.37. The entire balance was invested and is earning 5.25%. Cash receipts for September totaled \$950,970.91 of which \$154,157.23 was for current taxes, \$2,954.80 was for Prepaid Taxes, and \$661,396.80 was grants and aid, and \$132,462.08 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for September totaled \$3,066,050.28 of which \$1,563,704.25 was local school taxes, \$552,751.41 was salaries, \$41,865.92 was for refunds due to tax appeals and \$907,728.70 was for other expenses. Under Fire, he reported a low volume of fires reported in the past few months, thankfully, and the ambulance continues to answer many calls. The Walk of Honor bricks are on order. Individual brick paver orders are ongoing. He thanked all for their support with regard to the passing of his mother. He reported on the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.

SANITATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Sanitation, Commissioner Introna reported that the DPW along with the Borough Engineer supervised the Route 17 sanitary sewer repair project completed on October 5. During routine maintenance cleaning, the DPW discovered that the sewer main was collapsed and video taped the damage only to find that a utility pole had broken the line. All costs involved were billed to PSE&G. Under Public Facilities, he reported the DPW put Halloween decorations at Borough Hall and the Public Safety Building, and holiday banners on the lampposts in front of Borough Hall. Heating maintenance in preparation for the winter season was performed on both buildings. He reminded everyone of leaf season, use of the new equipment, and that bagging is an assist.

TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Under Transportation, Councilwoman Skiba reported the Coalition for Public Health and Safety had at their recent meeting a representative from Congressman's Rothman's office who gave a brief overview of the Teterboro Airport curfew. Under Social Services, Councilwoman Skiba reported an overwhelming response to the plea for restocking the Food Pantry with Troop 524 using the Food Pantry as their Community Service project and collecting groceries which they delivered and stocked the shelves themselves. Troop 1097 donated various items and toured the Food Pantry as their project. Thanks were expressed to Dorothy Petroulis and Marion Rolando of the Methodist Church who delivered at least 20 bags of items collected from church members, bags of groceries were received from Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday and from Joan Turner, Erika Aubrey, Michael Conti and Mrs. DeSantis.

STREETS AND LAND USE: Under Streets, Councilwoman Saccomano reported the leaf collection season has started and noted collection procedures -- leaves rakes into the street until Dec. 1, not placed within 10 feet of the storm drains, they can also be placed in paper sacks, grass can be mixed with leaves, and that branches must be kept separate and tied in bundles. She also reported Oak Grove Avenue is currently under

STREETS AND LAND USE (cont'd):

reconstruction from a grant which includes handicapped accessibility to all corners and retro fitting of stormwater catch basins. The light on the Boulevard and Franklin Avenue has been repaired, which included a refund from PSE&G. Under Property Maintenance, she reported 11 complaints which were investigated and resolved, two work stop orders given to contractors for no permits, two for contractors for doing work on Sunday, three warnings for clean up of yards, four warnings for not cutting their lawns, three written violation notices sent and two inspections of fences. She read a special report from the Building Department regarding homeowners taking permits in their name and hiring unlicensed contractors to do the construction work. She advised residents they were forfeiting the protection afforded under the law, and the violation of criminal laws of the State. The homeowner is liable for any fines that may be imposed for falsification of information on the building permit. There were 71 building permits in September totaling \$6,182.

REPORT OF MAYOR: Progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSENT AGENDA:** 159. Raffle License for Hasbrouck Heights High School PTSA
- 160. Raffle Licenses for Kiwanis Club of Hasbrouck Heights-Teterboro
- 160. Raffle License for Concerned Parents Association of Corpus Christi
- 160. Raffle License for Junior Woman’s Club of Hasbrouck Heights

On a motion by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, with Councilwoman Saccomano abstaining from No. 160 as she is a member of the Kiwanis Club, the foregoing Consent Agenda Resolutions were approved (Copies attached).

- RESOLUTIONS:** 163. Endorsing CD Application #1 - Senior Citizens Bus
- 164. Construction - Payment of Fees to State

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION: None
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ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING: None

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Jones opened the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to speak.

Janet Kretzdorn, 393 Church Street, requested revisiting the bus stop at Miers Avenue from a public safety point of view, noting the bus stops at Williams Avenue that are in driveways or by grassy terrain, with the ground not level. She had injured her ankle recently. She also stated the light is out under the Route 46 overpass and the trees have low branches, causing safety issues. She asked how does one formally make a safety complaint with Hasbrouck Heights and asking for a public inquiry. She was advised the NJ Department of Transportation. The borough attorney said she had made a public record at this time. She was advised the police chief would investigate.

Steven Altobelli, 67 Hamilton Avenue, questioned when the board expects to move forward with the Field project. He was told the engineer is preparing some per unit costs, with six or seven components involved, that the third phase of the playground, \$76,000, is being applied to the B. C. Open Space Grant program, and some issues regarding the light near the concession stand. Budget figures would be prepared based on these costs.

Councilwoman Saccomano asked for status of the agreement with the Board of Education. She was told a meeting was scheduled for November 9 or 10. When she asked if there was any opposition by the BOE, it was felt no.

Linda Bright, 136 Columbus Avenue, questioned the Athletic Field, if the Board of Education could apply for Green Acres funding for next year. Councilman Kistner said this information she referred to was incorrect, the Green Acre funds were not available this or next year. When she questioned additional funding, Councilman Meli referred to a 501C3 program called Friends of Hasbrouck Heights Recreation which would be extra funding.

John Fitzin, 234 Columbus Avenue, asked Councilwoman Saccomano if leaves could be placed in barrels, and was told yes.

Rose Heck, 501 Collins Avenue, referring to the Woman's Club event "Identify Theft Program" scheduled for November 13, thanked Chief Colaneri for his help.

Bob Searle, 51 Henry Street, questioned Councilwoman Saccomano on wheelchair accessibility on Oak Grove Avenue, if there were any sidewalk plans, and was told no. He was also told by Mayor Jones that the State mandated accessibility on all corners. He also questioned fraudulently applying for permits, what was the penalty to the citizens. He was told fines and possibly criminal fines. He requested a copy of these penalties.

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MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

Brenda Colaneri, 251 Madison Avenue, as a member of the Field committee, said this project is long overdue, it was thoroughly looked into, and stressed especially the handicapped accessibility.

Councilwoman Saccomano said on October 11, the B.C. Freeholders honored five Hasbrouck Heights residents, John Fitzin, Peter Gallo, Jr., Suzanne Kepsel, Dr. Gerald Sternbach and Martin Saccomano.

Chris Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, questioned Commerce Bank contractors working on Sunday. He had requested a copy of the plans for the Athletic Field, but received a wish list. He was against the project, that taxpayers money shouldn't be used that way, unless they were given a choice on it. He questioned why practice was on the playing field.

Chief Michael Colaneri, 251 Madison Avenue, as coach of Junior Football, said the field was being used as the practice field is unusable.

Frank Gasparino, 4 Oak Grove Avenue, said the project came about eight months ago, wondered why two weeks before an Election it is questioned in this way.

Linda Bright, 136 Columbus Avenue, former president of the Junior Football League had the best interest of the children at heart. She was also former PTSA President, was not wishing any ill concern, only wanted more information.

Councilman Introna said sports and athletics have developed to, there are only five games played a year in football. This field needs to be a multi-use field, soccer programs, girls softball, baseball. Because of all the use, a grass field suffers, mistakes have been made. The field behind the school was not planned well, a dangerous situation when playing softball. Don't short sell the project. Councilman Kistner enumerated all the sports programs the field will have use for. Councilman Introna did not believe the longevity of the new turf, as the former Astro Turf, some of the fields have about a five year wear. He was told the warranty is 12 years. He suggested putting money aside for replacement of the field.

Bob Searle, 51 Henry Street, was concerned with the project. He referred to the condition of the field. He suggested concerns should be voiced early on. He questioned who was in charge of the property after completion. Mayor Jones agreed, people should attend council meetings to be more informed, that this was discussed at previous meetings, it was placed in the town paper and thoroughly investigated by many people. Councilman Kistner said this is the beginning, the actual plan will be presented, all with be addressed in writing, and it will stay Board of Education property. The use of the facility will be the joint venture.

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MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

John Fitzin, 234 Columbus Avenue, as a resident since 1961, his wife 1950, said this project has been needed for a long time, his son called it the worst track in the United States. He said to get it done right.

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

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 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 October 24, 2006.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk