

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

November 28, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at 8:01 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: Rev. James P. Whelan, Parochial Vicar, Corpus Christi R.C. Church, who noted the passing of former Fire Chief Arthur Knobloch.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Charlie and Karen Niestemski commending DPW on their response to a fallen tree.
2. Letter from Kris Kolluri, Esq., Commissioner NJ Dept. of Transportation announcing award of \$75,000 from 2007 Municipal Aid Program for Madison Avenue.
3. Letter from Senator Joseph Coniglio announcing award \$75,000 from the NJ Dept. of Transportation 2007 Transportation Trust Fund.
4. Letter from Assemblyman Robert Gordon announcing award of \$75,000 from the NJ Dept. of Transportation 2007 Transportation Trust Fund.
5. Resignation letter from Michele Meli from the Committee of Community Celebrations.

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

- 6. Resignation letter from Susan Livelli from the Committee of Community Celebrations.
- 7. Resignation letter from Eve DiDomenico from the Committee of Community Celebrations.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Communications were accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

None

RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$130,165.92 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 Councilman Introna, seconded by Councilman Meli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND PARKS: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported a new e-mail address - hhhealth@bergen.org for the Board of Health. He reported on the successful Health Fair held in October. Statistics were 7 births, 5 male, 2 female; 78 burial permits, 75 from out of town; six marriage licenses issued and 606 certified transcripts, with total fees collected \$6,851.00. Flu shots were distributed the previous day. Under Parks, he reported the amended ordinance for Woodland Park improvements would be introduced this evening. He commended the Community Awareness Access for All for their input. He commended the Chamber of Commerce on the Holiday Parade.

POLICE AND RECREATION: Under Recreation, Commissioner Kistner reported the Recreation Center hosted over 100 children in November. He congratulated the Junior Football Raiders in winning the 2006 Super Bowl. Basketball sign ups were held with over 277 boys registered for the town league. Under Police, he reported the AAA Award of Excellence was receive. The 5th Grade DARE Parents Night was very successful. A fingerprinting scanning system has been

POLICE AND RECREATION (cont'd):

ordered cutting the time from 4-6 weeks to under 1 hour. This was paid for with confiscated funds received from drug arrests.

FINANCE AND FIRE: Under Finance, Commissioner Meli read the following Finance Report: the current fund cash balance as of October 31, 2006 was \$3,475,890.71; on September 30, 2006 was \$1,578,019.99, which represents an Increase of \$1,897,870,72. The entire balance was invested and is earning 5.25%. Cash receipts for October totaled \$4,912,234.48 of which \$4,611,829.90 was for current taxes, \$23,115.90 was for Prepaid Taxes, and \$155,991.16 was grants and aid, and \$121,297.52 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for October totaled \$3,007,201.79 of which \$1,563,704.25 was local school taxes, \$566,212.39 was salaries, and \$877,285.15 was for other expenses. Under Fire, he noted with sadness the passing of Chief Arthur Knobloch and the tribute paid to him by this Fire Department and mutual departments. He announced the election results of Fire Department officers: Fire Chief, Angelo Roccamo; First Assistant Chief, Michael Ratkowski; Second Assistant Chief, Kevin Todd; Secretary, Thomas Rubino, Treasurer, Patrick Hayes. Engine Co. One: Captain, Edmund Carter III; Lieutenant, Bernardo Valente; Secretary, Justin Watrel; Treasurer, Christian Semencz. Engine Co. Two: Captain, Patrick Hayes; Lieutenant, Robert Jones; Secretary Michael Thomasey, Treasurer, David Gumbrecht. Hook and Ladder Co. One: Captain, Brain Morrow; Lieutenant, Michael Christensen; Secretary, Michael LeSane; Treasurer, Laurence Donohue. Ambulance: Captain, Ronald Botelho; Lieutenant, Elizabeth Waring; Secretary, Patricia Thomasey. Rescue Company: Captain, Michael Thomasey, Lieutenant, Christopher Halloran; Secretary, Robert Knobloch.

A motion was made by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilman Kistner, and unanimously carried to accept the Fire Department Officers.

He recommended that 10 Scott Packs are needed and recommended a proposal be prepared for the leasing of pagers. He also recommended the Council freeze their salaries and these monies be distributed to the Fire Chiefs who he felt were grossly underpaid.

SANITATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Sanitation, Commissioner Introna reported that \$17,000 worth of supplies was received from Hackensack University Medical Center who was cleaning out inventory to prepare for a new cancer center. He publicly thanked John Ferguson, President and CEO, and Mayor Jones for their efforts. He reminded residents that only leaves are to be placed in the street.

TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Under Social Services, Councilwoman Skiba reported turkeys or Shop-Rite gift cards were received from Tom and former Councilwoman Marlene Verrastro, Dorothy Petroulis, Kathy and Nick Cali,

TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES (cont'd):

Connie Margagliano, Joan Turner, Grace Bayerlein, Rita Licameli, Bernadette Nagle and Lincoln School PTA. Bags of groceries, gift cards and toys were received from Corpus Christi Troop 1180, Euclid School, Brownie Troop 612, Daisy Troop 438, Brownie Troop 526, Audrey Ascione, Eileen Gavin, the DeSantis Family, Women of St. John, the Junior Woman's Club, Bill French, Maria Beerman, Amy Sees, Carolann Severini, H.H. Middle School Student Council, Troop and Corpus Christi Rosary Society donated bags and stockings for Christmas distribution. Under Transportation, she reported the Boulevard bus stops were reviewed and mapped out actual and courtesy stops by herself and Chief Colaneri. This would be discussed in detail in December work session. She attended a presentation by Port Authority and Teterboro Airport industry working group and Congressman Rothman at which time it was announced a pledge was devised by airport operators not to operate stage 2 aircraft, a voluntary curfew from 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. and 190 companies and pilots have signed the pledge, except for medical emergencies and organ and tissue transplants, no aircraft over 100 pounds, and a safety first program.

STREETS AND LAND USE: Under Streets, Councilwoman Saccomano reported a severe storm on Oct. 28 and 29 caused damage which required two days of cleanup by the DPW. Two concrete walkways for bus stops at Baldwin and the Boulevard in both directions were installed by the DPW. Under Land Use, she reported the Zoning Board application for Pepperidge Builders for 6, 8 and 10 Terrace Avenue was postponed to December. The Building Department had for October 106 permits totaling \$16,020 in permit fees.

REPORT OF MAYOR: Mayor Jones was honored to attend Chief Knobloch's funeral and thanked the department for the honor shown him. He attended a press conference at HUMC where \$3 million was given by Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Rothman to the hospital for a mobile emergency room and operating room vehicle which would be available to the entire County. He thanked Senator Coniglio and Assemblyman Gordon for the \$75,000 road grant and asked the clerk to send a thank you letter. He continued that the ARC of New Jersey was presenting Hasbrouck Heights with the award of Community of the Year this evening at which he was to attend, but due to this council meeting could not. He commended the Chamber of Commerce for the Holiday Parade and AAA for their award to Hasbrouck Heights Police Department for the fourth year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Jones congratulated Stephen Altobelli and Anthony DiNanno on their election to council.

RESIGNATIONS: Michele Meli from Committee of Community Celebrations
Susan Livelli from Committee of Community Celebrations
Eve DiDomenico from Committee of Community Celebrations

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resignations were accepted with regret.

CONSENT AGENDA: 173. Raffle License for Hasbrouck Heights Junior's Woman's Club

On a motion by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilman Meli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda Resolution was approved (Copy attached).

RESOLUTIONS: 174. Authorizing Amendment with Nextel of New York to Extend Time to Change Frequencies of Borough's Radio System per FCC Regulations

175. Re-appointment of George Reggo as Joint Municipal Tax Assessor

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2143:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 275-16 ENTITLED "YARD REGULATIONS" OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED "ZONING" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO SUPPLEMENT SUBSECTION A ENTITLED "ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS" OF SECTION 275-21 ENTITLED "REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTAIN ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES" OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED "ZONING" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO ALLOW DECKS THAT EXCEED A HEIGHT OF THREE FEET OVER THE NATURAL GRADE UNDER CERTAIN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES"** 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 December 12, 2006.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2144:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT SUBSECTION E ENTITLED “SIGNS” OF SECTION 275-21 ENTITLED “REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTAIN ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES” OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO INCLUDE A NEW PROVISION THEREIN GOVERNING ALL DIRECTIONAL RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE OPEN HOUSE SIGNS AND TO FURTHER SUPPLEMENT OTHER SECTIONS OF SAID CHAPTER IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH”** 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 December 12, 2006.

ORDINANCE NO. 2145:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN BARRIER FREE IMPROVEMENTS TO WOODLAND PARK IN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS INCLUDING NEW RESTROOMS, A BARRIER FREE ACCESS RAMP AND APPURTENANCES THERETO AND TO APPROPRIATE THE TOTAL SUM OF \$170,000.00 CONSISTING OF \$53,200.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND \$116,800.00 PROVIDED BY A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT” BEING ORDINANCE NO. 2133 ADOPTED ON MAY 9, 2006, SO AS TO INCREASE THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION TO \$215,000.00 AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADDITIONAL \$45,000.00 BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND”** 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 December 12, 2006.

ORDINANCE NO. 2146:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GARY DEPKEN ATHLETIC FIELD IN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FIELD AND TRACK, THE RENOVATION OF THE BLEACHERS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO AND TO APPROPRIATE THEREFOR THE TOTAL SUM OF \$1,625,000.00 FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF BOROUGH REAL PROPERTY”** 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 December 12, 2006.

ORDINANCE NO. 2147:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FORMER RIGHT-OF-WAY OF RAVINE AVENUE ADJACENT TO THE GARY DEPKEN ATHLETIC FIELD IN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SKATE PARK IN OR ADJACENT TO THAT FIELD AND THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF CERTAIN GROUND COVER AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN THAT FIELD, INCLUDING APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND APPROPRIATING THE TOTAL SUM OF \$335,000.00 CONSISTING OF \$42,500 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, \$105,000.00 FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, \$10,000.00 FROM CAPITAL SURPLUS, AND \$177,500.00 FROM THE BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE GRANT”** 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 December 12, 2006.

Councilwoman Saccomano requested that Ordinances #2146 and 2147, since amended ordinances and the agreement with the Board of Education were just distributed this evening, be tabled until the next meeting. The Borough Attorney explained that the only change on the ordinances was to correct an error in the name of the Athletic Field. She continued with her request, and Councilwoman Skiba agreed it should be discussed as a body and procedure followed. The Borough Attorney explained that it could still be introduced and discussed at the next meeting and held for adoption at the following meeting. The agreement was not up for approval at this meeting, only the ordinances which are for appropriations. A resolution would be required for the agreement.

Councilman Introna questioned the low water table of the field and produced pictures to that effect. The engineer presented a plan that was designed for a neighboring town. Questions from various councilmembers on soil borings, contingencies, cost estimates, tree removal, skate park hours, fencing, bleachers and monitoring of skate park were asked.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Kistner, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinances on Introduction were approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING: None

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

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

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

Robert Call, 231 Paterson Avenue, recommended a program whereby citizens could plant a tree in front of their own home, with certain specifications and a permit provided, which could be a cost savings.

George Armonaitis, 191 Oldfield Avenue, questioned why a shed structure couldn't replace a garage structure. This was referred to the Zoning Committee.

Gina Hoffman, 22 Walter Avenue, understood cautiousness with the field project, and requested a faster pace for completion for next season.

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 9:25 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 November 28, 2006.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk