

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

March 28, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at 8:02 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. Lewis V. Papera, Pastor of Corpus Christi R.C. Church

PRESENTATIONS:

New Jersey General Assembly Citations were presented to Anthony and (posthumously) Betty Gulino (long time library volunteers) and Harry Maisch (42-year member of the Fire Department) by Assemblyman Robert M. Gordon from he and Assemblywoman Joan Voss. He also presented Proclamations from the Senate signed by the Speaker, Senator Codey and Senator Coniglio. He also had a Proclamation to Harry Maisch IV for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout which he presented to his grandfather.

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Jones invited Councilman Meli to assist him in presenting a plaque to United Parcel Service in gratitude for their assistance in transporting the fire trucks from Fort Lee and Rockleigh to the Gulf Coast. With their help and Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, the trucks were delivered. The plaque read as follows: "With sincere gratitude to the United Parcel Service for your community spirit both in northern New Jersey and southern Mississippi for delivery of two fire trucks from Rockleigh and Fort Lee for the Hasbrouck Heights/Pascagoula

PROCLAMATIONS (cont'd):

Firemen's Relief Fund. /s/ Mayor and Council of Hasbrouck Heights." Mayor Jones also commended Acting Supt. Bill Spindler for his ingenuity in loading the trucks on the trailer.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Proclamations were read by Councilman Meli and presented to the Pascagoula Firemen's Relief Fund Committee and Firefighter Timothy Moots. He noted that over \$30,000 was collected and presented to the Pascagoula Fire Department. They read as follows:

"WHEREAS, the men and women who are members of the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department volunteer their time and talent to a most worthy cause and are most deserving of our praise and gratitude; and

WHEREAS, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina has become a cause for the members of this department to put themselves second when called upon to help a fellow department who is in need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Pascagoula Firemen's Relief Fund Committee was established consisting of Fire Chief Joseph Taylor, 2nd Assistant Chief Michael Ratkowski, Thomas Rubino, Christopher Halloran, Michael Christiansen and Patrick Hayes and Timothy Moots; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated firemen raised thousands of dollars and collected a vast assortment of supplies and equipment which were delivered to the victims of Southern Mississippi fire departments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that we do hereby extend most sincere gratitude to the Pascagoula Firemen's Relief Fund Committee for their diligence and commitment in helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina."

Dated: March 28, 2006

/s/ Mayor Jones and Councilmembers

The following was read and presented to Timothy Moots:

"WHEREAS, the men and women who are members of the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department volunteer their time and talent to a most worthy cause and are most deserving of our praise and gratitude; and

PROCLAMATIONS (cont'd):

WHEREAS, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina has become a cause for the members of this department to put themselves second when called upon to help a fellow department who is in need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, the neighboring Fire Departments of Rockleigh and Fort Lee followed the example of Hasbrouck Heights by generously donating vehicles and equipment no longer needed to help their brotherhood in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Moots, a member of Hook and Ladder Company No. One went beyond his call of duty to secure the delivery of this equipment along with turnout gear and miscellaneous fire equipment to be sent to the victims of Southern Mississippi fire departments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that we do hereby extend most sincere gratitude to Timothy Moots for ensuring that the organization of the donation of trucks and equipment was conducted promptly and efficiently.”

Dated: March 28, 2006

/s/ Mayor Jones and Councilmembers

COMMUNICATIONS: 1) Thank you letter to Mayor Jones from U.S. Senator Trent Lott

2) Letter from William G. Dressel, Jr., Exec. Dir., NJ State League of Municipalities, announcing that Governor Corzine signed into law A-2813/S-1470 replenishing the Transportation Trust Fund and increasing Local Aid funding from \$150 million per year to \$175 million

3) Invitation from the Mayor's Committee on Community Celebrations to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8, 2006 at 10 a.m. with a rain date of April 15, 2006.

4) A letter from Freeholder Elizabeth Randall with regard to a Resolution to continue the operation of the Continental Arena.

Mayor Jones requested the letter from Trent Lott be read into the record. (Copy attached). He requested a copy be placed in The Observer.

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

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/28/06 - page 4

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

None

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$473,356.65 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 DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND PARKS: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported the statistics for February included 7 births, 5 female, 2 male; 77 burial permits issued, 75 out of town, 2 Hasbrouck Heights; total fees collected \$7,911 including an additional \$929 issued in Dog licenses. He gave an update on the Avian Flu, that it is not an immediate threat, but the Center for Disease Control is concerned as it is an airborne flu and could be very dangerous and vaccine is being produced. The 4th Annual Health Fair Expo is October 13. Under Parks, Commissioner DiPisa reported that the DPW has reconditioned the Soccer field at Woodland Park and the field will be closed to allow for germination of the seed. They also cleared various DOT properties, logging 88 man-hours for the first quarter of this year. A meeting was held of the Committee for handicapped accessibility to the pavilion in the park and bathrooms. Commissioner DiPisa reported Woodland Park and Miers Park were cleaned up by the DPW and Acting Supt. Spindler was commended. He announced a Senior Housing Open Forum Fact Finding Meeting will be held on April 17.

POLICE AND RECREATION: Under Recreation, Commissioner Kistner reported the new date for the Battle of the Bands is April 15. Girls softball teams have been picked. Corporate sponsors for an increased number of summer concerts is underway. A Movie in the Park will also be held during the summer. Mr. Stillman is working with the high school students to hold Movie Nights in the Recreation Center. Under Police, he reported a letter was received from North Hudson Regional Fire Rescue to Chief Colaneri with thanks regarding the laying to rest of Captain Kevin O'Driscoll, a decorated 23 veteran. He read a flyer announcing the Third Annual Citizens Police Academy.

FINANCE AND FIRE: Under Fire, Commissioner Meli reported the fire and ambulance squad continue to go out four to five times a day. The Crash Truck has been received. He also commended Mr. Spindler for his help with the Fire Department. Under

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/28/06 - page 5

FINANCE AND FIRE (cont'd):

Finance, Commissioner Meli read the following Finance Report: The current fund cash balance as of February 28, 2006 was \$3,471,635.56; on January 31, 2006 was

\$3,295,429.04 which represents an increase of \$176,206.52. The entire balance was invested and is earning 4.11%. Cash receipts for February totaled \$3,776,938.95 of which \$3,620,067.79 was for current taxes, \$37,871.52 for Delinquent Taxes, and \$118,999.64 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for February totaled \$3,600,732.43 of which \$1,744,597.41 was local school taxes, \$733,743.82 was county taxes, \$584,778.91 was salaries, and \$537,612.29 was for other expenses. He continued that public hearing for the 2006 budget will be April 25, 2006., The extraordinary aid application in the amount of \$650,000 will be submitted by the March 30, 2006 deadline. He clarified an article that appeared in The Record "Taxes Could Rise 12%" by reading the following:

"I am sure many of you saw the article in today's Record with the headline reading "Taxes Could Rise 12%. What was not made clear in the headline, which was made clear the night of introduction, is that we continue to meet in an effort to make adjustment to this budget that will reduce the tax burden. This budget as introduced does not include the \$150,000 in Extraordinary Aid we received last year, we are not allowed to anticipate this amount although we are very hopeful that we will receive it again. If received this would reduce the tax rate by almost 1 tax point.

"Meeting the imposed Municipal Budget CAP is a problem faced by many towns and we will reduce our appropriations the \$144,000 required to bring the budget within the CAP. The article mentions an increase in debt service of 30%. This seems to indicate that the amount of debt incurred by the Borough increased by 30% which is not the case. The Borough's debt at 12/31/04 was \$12,042,350 and at 12/31/05 was \$11,702,350, a decrease of \$340,000. The 30% increase is in the amount included in the 2006 Budget to pay off existing debt. Please be clear, this is an effort to reduce short term debt while interest rates are moving up. This will help control future cost for interest expense. We are currently looking into options that would help offset this increased appropriation.

"The Local Tax Rate as introduced is \$.629 per \$100 assessed value, when compared to a 2005 rate adjusted for the revaluation of \$.568, this represents an increase of 6.1 points, or 1.7%. The finance committee continues to meet in an effort to make further budget cuts as well as increase revenues. The budget which will be adopted later in the year will reflect budget cuts, new revenues and any extraordinary aid we may receive. All of these items will be incorporated into the 2006 Local Tax Rate calculation resulting in a rate below the \$.629 rate as introduced."

SANITATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Introna reported the DPW will be putting up some new banners for the spring season, including those in front of Borough Hall. The Senior Center and Community Room
Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/28/06 - page 6

SANITATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES (cont'd):

floors will be stripped and waxed, arranged to be done without conflict with any meetings or activities by the DPW. Under Sanitation, Commissioner Introna reported

the Street Sweeping Program removed all the winter's deicing materials and continues to sweep at night.

TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Councilwoman Skiba reported that on March 13 the Coalition for Public Health and Safety hosted an air quality study presentation in Borough Hall by the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection and Environ Corp. In attendance was Bob Seberio from NJ Meadowlands Commission who is conducting an environmental study in the Meadowlands. They offered 10 24-hour monitoring devices for residences who reside surrounding the airport and will incorporate the results in their study. Three volunteers have been chosen from Hasbrouck Heights, three from Little Ferry and two from South Hackensack and Moonachie. On April 6, she reported the FAA is presenting Airspace Redesign at the Holiday Inn in Hasbrouck Heights and will show four plans for public comment. Under Social Services, she reported the Food Pantry continues to be open every Monday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. offering needy residents and their families the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of items. She thanked those for the monies received from the 2005 CROP Walk, and also for donations of groceries received from Girl Scout Troop 1468, Madeline deVelasco, First Reformed Church, Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday and Girl Scout Troop 1108. She also thanked the volunteers who donate their time to keep the Pantry open every Monday.

STREETS AND LAND USE: Under Streets, Commissioner Saccomano reported the DPW is in its third week of cleaning the 157 stormwater catch basins as mandated by the DEP which must be done once per year. The DPW has begun planting new trees in keeping with the Tree Replacement Program. She announced Burton Avenue will be repaved on April 4 and 5. Under Land Use, she reported nine property maintenance complaints were made, seven over issues of posting permits, five warnings for trash out on the curb before pickup, two over zoning issues, seven violations of contractor signs being displayed and three verbal warnings to landscapers blowing debris into streets. No summonses were issued. The Leaf Committee requested Mr. Spindler to procure brown bags for handout on Town Day. The Board of Education proposed their budget the previous evening and will be submitted for vote on the Election on April 18.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

Mayor Jones asked CFO Kronyak to explain the headline in The Record regarding the 12% tax increase. He referred to the statement previously read by Councilman Meli. He said the headline is not factually correct and is wrong.

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/28/06 - page 7

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS: Patrick Licata as Junior Firefighter
Joseph DeSiervo as Junior Firefighter

Timothy Moots as Fire Department Mechanic of Crash/Foam Truck

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

RESIGNATIONS: Nicholas Delcalzo from Fire Department Hook and Ladder Company

On a motion by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilman Kistner, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resignation was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: 58. Supporting the Community Development Block Grant Program

59. Opposing Requirement for Cable Boxes by Cablevision

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

RESOLUTIONS: 60. Construction Fees - Payment of Fees to State

61. Renewal of Bond Anticipation Note #2-2005

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2128:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: “**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT SCHEDULE 1 ENTITLED “SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT USE REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO DELETE THE REFERENCE TO SIDEWALK CAFES AS CONDITIONAL USES IN THE B-1 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AND SO AS TO INSERT THE SAME AS A PERMITTED ACCESSORY USE TO CERTAIN PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES IN THE B-1 ZONE, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE SUPPLEMENT TO**

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/28/06 - page 8

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION (cont'd)

ORDINANCE NO. 2128 (cont'd):

SECTION 275-21 ENTITLED "REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTAIN ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES" HITHERTO ENACTED BY ORDINANCE 2052 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 10, 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 April 11, 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. 2126. There being no one wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2126:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE TO STABILIZE AND REGULATE RENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO ESTABLISH A RENT BOARD, WHICH ORDINANCE IS TO COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE 2006 RENT LEVELLING ORDINANCE"** be now passed on second and final reading and the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to publish said Ordinance, same to be published in The Observer, a newspaper circulating and published in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, with Councilman Kistner abstaining, the foregoing Ordinances on Public Hearing was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Robert Maher, 221 Myers Avenue, a resident of over 30 years off and on, was concerned with the condition of the ramps, with litter the worse he has seen. He asked what could be done to maintain that property. He would also volunteer his services. The major advised him that Mr. Spindler had contacted the Sheriff's Inmate Program who will be coming next week, and that the DPW logged 88 hours of cleanup on State property.

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/28/06 - page 9

RECESS:

The meeting was recessed until 9:17 for presentation of the following program:

INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE N.J. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION STUDIES WITH REGARD TO ROUTE 17

Julie Semen, NJ DOT, Division of Project Planning and Development began by saying that they were conducting an integrated land use transportation study along Route 17 and wanted to speak with representatives from Hasbrouck Heights to find out their issues of the study from Paterson Plank Road, the Williams Avenue area, up to the Garden State Parkway in Paramus. She introduced Ian Lockwood and Joel Mann from the firm of Gladding Jackson.

Mayor Jones noted the major problem on Route 17 and were asking for input how to alleviate the problem. They are interested in the overflow, at the bottleneck at Route 46 by Williams Avenue where it goes back to two lanes and continues to Paramus which causes traffic difficulties where drivers are using alternate town roads to avoid this congestion.

Mr. Lockwood said they were conducting interviews and asking for input and interest in the corridor, and gathering information. From all the information gathered, they would be combining and coming up with a cohesive set of recommendations on 17, off 17, and land use . The input would be placed onto a drawing. Mr. Mann added that no plan was being presented, this was strictly a gathering of information.

When Chief Colaneri inquired of a meeting held years ago, he was told this was a continuation of that by Ms. Semen.

Mayor Jones began by summarizing the needs of Hasbrouck Heights, recommended that they make Route 17 three lanes all the way to Paramus. With Xanadu, coming traffic will increase. The bridges at Route 46 are falling down, he has already sent a letter to the DOT. If any part of Route 17 is changed, there is a major sewer line on Route 17 southbound and to make repairs the lanes of the highway must be closed. He recommended moving the sewer line into the berm of the road. He recommended that the light at White Castle be eliminated, as well as the one at Route 17/Williams Avenue as there have been several fatalities and the turning lane becomes jammed. He suggested connecting Route 80 and Route 17, eliminating the use of Polify Road/Terrace Avenue; and getting from Route 46 westbound to Route 17 northbound without using Terrace Avenue. Ambulances used these routes to get to Hackensack University Medical Center. There had been a fatality at this intersection this evening.

Councilman Meli recommended eliminating all traffic lights on Route 17.

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/28/06 - page 10

ROUTE 17 (cont'd):

Chief Colaneri said the off jughandle at Franklin Avenue continues to back up causing problems. He thought the problems stem from Route 17 going from three to two lanes,

three major highways meet on the northern border and you must use local streets to connect.

Councilwoman Skiba said the volume on Field Avenue increases at this time also, that it is used as a U-turn in some instances. She sees companies from Teterboro using this as a U-turn to go across Franklin Avenue or northbound Route 17.

Councilman DiPisa questioned that after giving all this information, who would make the final decision. Ms. Semen said the department will take all the information received from all the towns, sort it out and prioritize issues.

Mayor Jones again said with Xanadu coming, consideration of bringing the three highways to empty onto each other without affecting the local streets.

Councilman Meli and Mayor Jones said there are a lot of accidents at the traffic lights.

Councilman Kistner noted that DOT roads need better cleaning and asked that this be brought to their attention.

Mayor Jones said at the county level when the Boulevard and Williams Avenue intersection was widened, a turning lane was required which he sees as a hazard, that the State not consider this.

Chief Colaneri will send statistics on accidents.

Councilwoman Saccomano said there is backing up from Williams Avenue to the new construction at the Route 4 intersection due to only two lanes.

Councilman Introna recommended a light rail system with park and ride spots.

Mayor Jones said this was brought up at the BCEDC meeting he attended, a major train station possibly at Williams/Teterboro was mentioned, it was recommended to have a track going in each direction and have a workable schedule.

Lockwood requested clarification of the signals, and asked for more input. He was advised that the signals are visible, but speed and everyone is in a big hurry, going on the yellow can be a problem. It was also noted there is pedestrian traffic at signal lights.

If statistics were looked at, it would show less accidents in those towns with no traffic lights.

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/28/06 - page 11

ROUTE 17 (cont'd):

Lockwood addressed changing the speed on a road would require doing a speed survey and look at the percentile speed and post it accordingly. It was felt changing the speed makes no difference and most likely would not be observed. Another way was to

change the design of the road to create an expectation of slower speeds. He went through a scenario of different reasons, signals, myriad of driveways, ramps. A comprehensive plan to all issues was what they would like at.

It was again asked if there would be something received from this study. The mayor summarized by saying if something could be done with the width to Paramus, have the three major highways meet without using local streets, move the sewer system to the berm or shoulder, lights, ramps at Williams Avenue, and bridges at Route 46 which are falling down.

An intersection in East Rutherford which had the traffic pattern changed was noted as an example.

Lockwood said they will look at the different sections mentioned, with safety being the priority. An example was asked for and he noted Route 206 in Princeton with residential streets relieving the traffic.

The width and the stop lights are the problem in Hasbrouck Heights.

It was asked if they were taking into account all the potential development in the area, namely, Xanadu, East Rutherford building two high rises, Rutherford 3,500 units in Meadowlands, 700 in Wood-Ridge, 900 in Carlstadt, a tremendous amount of additional population. Yes, they had and will take it into account.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 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 March 28, 2006.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk