

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

June 27, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at 8:12 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: The Invocation was given by Rev. John Hall of Paterson, New Jersey, who was in the audience for his granddaughter, Tameika Chestnut.

PROCLAMATIONS: Tameika Chestnut, The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties

Tameika Chestnut received a proclamation for her heroic contributions when a fire occurred at 238 Central Avenue. Mayor Jones, assisted by Fire Commissioner Meli, Deputy Fire Commissioner Kistner and Fire Chief Joseph Taylor presented the following to Ms. Chestnut:

“WHEREAS, on the night of January 31, 2006 a fire was reported to the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department at 238 Central Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights; and

WHEREAS, 238 Central Avenue has been a residence for persons with developmental disabilities for over 20 years, under the direction of The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties, Inc.; and

PROCLAMATIONS (cont'd):

WHEREAS, Tameika Chestnut, an employee of that organization, was on duty that night as the Awake Overnight Counselor whose responsibility was to be available to the residents and remain awake overnight to assist them as necessary; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Arc's staff, Tameika received extensive training on the care and safety of the residents, and in particular in evacuation and fire drills; and

WHEREAS, when the fire alarm sounded, Tameika woke the residents and used her training skills by instantly getting them up and out in less than two minutes, courageously saving their lives;

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 praise Tameika Chestnut for her courage, her skills, and most importantly for her caring of the safety of these individuals and extend sincere gratitude to her on helping to alleviate what could have been a much more disastrous situation."

Dated: June 27, 2006

/s/ Mayor and Council

PROCLAMATIONS: Neighbors of Residents of 238 Central Avenue

The following Proclamation was presented to Sheri Ortiz, Sonya Buckman and Ed Hart (who was not able to be present) for their assistance to the residents of 238 Central Avenue:

"WHEREAS, on the night of January 31, 2006 a fire was reported to the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department at 238 Central Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights; and

WHEREAS, 238 Central Avenue has been a residence for persons with developmental disabilities for over 20 years, under the direction of The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the neighbors of this residence have been supportive and caring over the years, and in keeping with this sentiment, came forward at this devastating time to help in any way they could; and

WHEREAS, on the night of the fire, Ed Hart graciously invited everyone to come into his home for warmth and comfort; and

PROCLAMATIONS (cont'd):

WHEREAS, Shari Ortiz, assisted by Sonya Buckman, and their children, neighbors who exemplify what community spirit is, circulated letters to the neighbors, and to the Hasbrouck Heights Library and The Observer newspaper, which requested donations of clothing and sundries to replace those items lost in the fire; and

WHEREAS, Shari Ortiz opened her home to collect these donations, which became an enormous task due to the generosity of the citizens of Hasbrouck Heights, which she delivered to The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties, Inc. for these displaced neighbors;

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 publicly commend and express sincere gratitude to Ed Hart, Shari Ortiz, Sonya Buckman and their children for their caring and for their humanitarian spirit.”

Dated: June 27, 2006

/s/ Mayor and Council

COMMUNICATIONS:

Thank You Letter from Scholarship Recipient Diana Piccininni
Thank You Letter from Scholarship Recipient Christina Viali
Letter from Congressman Steven Rothman supporting the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (May 16, 2006 Special Meeting)

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

None

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$116,240.64 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
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BILLS (cont'd):

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman Introna, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND PARKS: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported 15 births, 7 male, 8 female; 75 burial permits, 578 transcripts, dog licenses, \$717.00, deaths recorded 78, with only four from Hasbrouck Heights with total fees collected \$8,717.00. At the Board of Health Meeting on June 14, he reported the new health inspector gave a brief report on some new regulations. July and August meetings are cancelled. Under Parks, Commissioner DiPisa reported the DPW sent correspondence to the NJ DOT and B.C. Executive regarding maintenance of State Highway property which needs litter removal and maintenance. Thus far, in the second quarter of 2006, the DPW logged 77 man-hours for clean up of State properties, totaling 165 hours to date. The architect and engineer are finalizing plans for improvements to Woodland Park. The next meeting for the Community Awareness Access to All Committee is scheduled for September 5. He reported the current Board of Health Registrar, Marilyn deRussy, is planning her retirement in July.

POLICE AND RECREATION: Under Police, Commissioner Kistner commended the Police Department on the Bike Marathon with 32 teams participating. He congratulated the department members who participated in the Torch Run on June 3. He reported on the new law whereby children under 17 must wear bicycle helmets. Under Recreation, he reported 280 children signed up for Summer Camp which opened July 26. Heights Camp Night is July 15. July 13 is the date for the Senior Picnic and the first concert is that evening at 6:30 p.m. with additional concerts scheduled for August 10 and 24. The Rec Center will reopen July 7. The fee is increased to \$30 a year, with paid chaperones provided.

FINANCE AND FIRE: Under Finance, Commissioner Meli did not have a formal report. He did mention estimated tax bills are being mailed to residents and advised residents to not multiply the number by four. Under Fire, Commissioner Meli commended the Department for their part in the fire on Central Avenue in the Arc house, noting that there have been four house fires this year. The Ambulance is going out very often, and he asked for volunteers. He requested residents to call the ambulance in emergency situations only. He had witnessed the scene of an accident of a young boy on a bicycle, and implored residents to drive speed limits and children should wear helmets. He reported a Walk of Honor at the Firemen's Memorial with brick pavers. All proceeds after costs will go to the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department.

SANITATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Sanitation, Commissioner Introna reported the DPW responded to a sewer main blocked on Route 17 South which took

SANITATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES (cont'd):

six hours to complete and restore service. As a result of this emergency the Department of Transportation was contacted for permission to close north and southbound traffic lanes to perform sanitary sewer maintenance several weekends in August and the DPW is awaiting a response. Under Public Facilities, he reported Borough Hall and Public Safety Building airflow systems were services with an air conditioner compressor replaced in Borough Hall which was done under warranty.

TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Under Social Services, Councilwoman Skiba reported groceries received from Ann Grace and Girl Scout Troop 1108, the Bonacorte Family, the McCarthy Family, First Reformed Church and Corpus Christi Church. Six new volunteers have signed up from the First Reformed Church which brings the number of volunteers up to 21. Helen O'Shea who is resigning was thanked. Aimee and Dorothy McCarthy and Meridith Yorkin are helping out during the summer. Under Transportation, she reported she had visited one of the trailers at Teterboro Airport and had a presentation by the gentlemen who invented the UV equipment used to gather data from the airport.

STREETS AND LAND USE: Under Land Use, Commissioner Saccomano reported 11 property maintenance issues, which were resolved with no summonses issued, two verbal warnings over construction permits not displayed, one summons mailed for overgrown shrubbery, two businesses for displaying merchandise outside stores without permit, nine warnings for overgrown lawns, four to contractors for signs on lawns, and one violation for property maintenance was given to the Borough Attorney. For the first half of 2006 there were 476 permits issued. Under Streets, she reported on June 8 during a heavy rainstorm during stormwater construction in the area of the west end drainage ditch, Madison Avenue caved in and needed repair, which she reported was completed.

REPORT OF MAYOR: Progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS: Rose Heck as Community Development Representative
Michael Kronyak as Community Development Alternate Representative
Deborah H. Greco to Ambulance Squad
Michael Finn to Fire Department Engine Company 2

Councilwoman Saccomano questioned what was Community Development, and was told it is a pool of 12 towns who apply for grant monies through a County program and this is where grants come from such as the ones received for Woodland Park and the senior bus. Grant writers have been investigated in the past, but found to be expensive.

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APPOINTMENTS (cont'd):

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

RESIGNATIONS: Robert Salerno from Fire Department Hook and Ladder Company

On a motion by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resignation was accepted with regret.

CONSENT AGENDA: 105. Governing Body's Appointments to Community Development Regional Committee

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda Resolutions were approved.

RESOLUTIONS: 106. Authorizing Grant Agreement with the County of Bergen for Open Space Trust Funds

107. Renewal of 2006-2007 Liquor License Holders

107. Authorizing Retirement of Liquor License No. 0225-36-016-001 for Prime Hospitality Corp.

107. Authorizing New Liquor License for BRE/Prime Properties, LLC t/a Hasbrouck Heights Hilton

107. Confirming Property Sale

Councilwoman Skiba asked that this be put into the record verbatim, "That I would greatly appreciate it if I could get resolutions that are put on the evening's agenda sometime before 7:30 p.m. when I arrive here. I would either like them faxed to my office or e-mailed to me so that I have an opportunity should I desire to consult with alternate municipal attorneys. Thank you."

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING: None

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

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

Mario Sasso, 205 Lawrence Avenue, came referring to Nov. 2, 2005 when a sign for a bus stop was placed on the side of his house, which has taken away his privacy and implored that it be removed. He referred to numerous police calls and problems with damage to his property. The Mayor referred to two changes made to the location of the bus stop already. The recommendation of a bus shelter was negatively received.

Ann McGill, 139 Field Avenue, asked if the bus stop could be put in front of the jewelry store.

Janet Kretzdorn, 393 Church Street, questioned how are the decisions of bus stops made, and who was the intermediary between NJ Transit and the municipality and was told the Police Department. She noted courtesy bus stops on Charlton and Myers Avenue were stopped and requested reconsideration of these two stops for safety and accessible reasons. She was advised that this has been turned over to the Police Department, that there were some concerns with safety.

Shari Ortiz, 234 Central Avenue, questioned if the traffic study analysis of Central Avenue was completed. She was told that Chief Colaneri was on vacation.

Councilwoman Saccomano questioned Acting DPW Supt. Spindler if he had researched the leaf truck that he had looked at with Councilman Introna, who said he was looking into it.

Chris Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, referring to his past inquiry of drainage at Henry St. and the Boulevard, and what was the status. Spindler had met with the construction engineer who advised him that a detention reservoir that holds thousands of gallons of water was placed on the property. It was explained that this was an overflow. Semencz was looking for an answer from the Borough engineer. He also questioned the property to be developed, and what protection surrounding residences had.

Dorothy Petroulis, Central Avenue, thanked Spindler who had arranged for the opening of the fence near her home to allow better visibility when backing out of her driveway.

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 9:52 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 June 27, 2006.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk