

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

November 27, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 8:06 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 2, 2007 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 2, 2007.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ronald R. Jones, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilman Leonard Introna, Councilwoman Carol J. Skiba, Councilwoman Maryetta Saccomano, Councilman Anthony DiNanno, Councilman Stephen Altobelli

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. Thomas Wisniewski, Parochial Vicar of Corpus Christi R.C. Church

Mayor Jones congratulated the winners of the current election and extended an invitation for them to attend all council, work session and closed meetings.

- COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 1) Certified Letter from Jerry A. Casser Regarding Petition of Classic Coach for Approval of Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Atlantic City Service from Hudson Transit Lines, Inc. before the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
 - 2) Letter from Unison Site Management, LLC, with Request for Comprehensive List of Existing Cell Sites in Hasbrouck Heights
 - 3) Letter from Celeste M. Fasone, Director NJ Board of Public Utilities Regarding Verizon Petition for Providing Cable Television Service

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

- 4) Letter from Jean and Walter Sommers regarding an existing flooding issue

Items #3 and #4 were read into the record (copies attached).

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

PETITIONS: None

BILLS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$155,674.16 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.

Leonard Introna
Commissioner of Finance

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, with Councilwoman Skiba recusing herself on the payment to E. J. Trawinski in the amount of \$475.00 and voting Aye on the balance of payments, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND PARKS: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported the Board of Health conducted the flu and pneumonia vaccine inoculation program, with 130 flu and six pneumonia shots given out. He enumerated some winter healthful hints which included layered clothing, wearing a hat, drinking juices, flossing teeth, taking natural vitamins in the simplest method and eating healthy foods and to avoid stress. Under Parks, he reported Woodland Park comfort station is closed and winterized. Under Community Awareness Access for All Committee, he announced that the "File of Life" program will be instituted in January, initially from a donation from Commerce Bank. As liaison to the Environmental/Transportation Commission, he read the Middle School winners of the Environmental Essay Contest: Sixth Grade: Patrick Reiner first place, Ryan Pomarico second place, Casey Ellen Sardo and Jaime Sardo, third place. Seventh Grade: Taylor Erekat, first place, Steven Continanza, second place, Nicolette Goodman, third place. Eighth Grade: Jennifer White, first place, Alexa Cintrone second place, Lucy Lohrmann third place. Corpus Christi winners will be announced in December.

FINANCE AND SANITATION: Under Finance, Councilman Introna read the following Finance Report: the current fund cash balance as of October 31, 2007 was \$1,687,839.00; on September 30, 2007 was \$1,319,718.23, which represents an increase of \$368,120.77. The entire balance was invested and is earning 5.25%. Cash receipts for October totaled \$3,361,590.59 of which \$2,850,288.50 was for current taxes, \$9,906.30 was for pre-paid 2008 taxes \$370,738.00 was for state aid and \$130,657.79 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for October totaled \$2,993,393.64 of which \$1,663,770.25 was local school taxes, \$577,807.46 was salaries, \$212,461.08 was Debt Service and \$539,354.35 was for other expenses. Under Sanitation, he reported the DPW received a notice of award from the Bergen County Administration and Finance Division of Purchasing regarding the rock salt Bid #07-89. Compared to last year's contract, the price of rock salt is \$51.61 per ton, an increase of \$8.48 per ton.

FIRE AND LAND USE: Under Land Use, Commissioner Skiba reported \$14,695 was collected in permit fees. Under Property Maintenance, nine complaints have been resolved, seven summonses will be heard in Municipal Court, one complaint of an unusual number of stray cats. Under Fire, she reported for the month of October a total of 195 calls, including 113 EMS calls. She continued that the department held Elections on November 12 and the following officers elected: Chief, Angelo Roccamo, 1st Asst Chief, Michael Ratkowski, 2nd Asst Chief Kevin Todd, Secretary, Thomas Rubino and Treasurer, Patrick Hayes. Engine Company One: Captain, Bernard Valente, Lieutenant, Timothy Moots, Secretary, Justin Watrel, Treasurer, Christian Semencz. Engine Company Two: Captain Robert Knobloch, Lieutenant Michael Thomasey, Secretary, Patrick Hayes and Treasurer, David Gumbrecht. Hook and Ladder Company One: Captain, Brian Morrow, Lieutenant Michael Christiansen, Secretary Michael LeSane and Treasurer Laurence Donohue. Ambulance: Captain, Elizabeth Waring, Lieutenant Michael LeSane. Rescue Company: Captain, Christopher Halloran, Lieutenant, Michael Greco, and Secretary, Robert Knobloch. She asked for a motion certifying the results of the election. The motion was seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried. Regarding the air quality study of Teterboro Airport, the NJ DEP have request additional data from Environ.

POLICE AND STREETS: Under Police, Commissioner Saccomano reported the department received the Award of Excellence from AAA. A request for safe driving during the holidays was made, as well as DWI being in full force. She read thank you letters from the Band Parents Association, Junior Woman's Club, Borough of Little Ferry, Township of Saddle Brook, a resident. She congratulated Chief Colaneri upon his graduation from the Chiefs of Police West Point Command and Leadership Program at the top of his class and receiving the Chief Harry Wild Achievement Award for academic excellence. Under Streets, she reported due to the lateness of leaves falling off the trees, the DPW extended the Leaf Removal Program until further notice.

Mayor Jones also extended his congratulations to Chief Colaneri and the Police Department.

TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION: Under Transportation, Commissioner DiNanno reported that the Safe Routes to Schools grant application was made. The punch list for Madison Avenue is underway. Under the 2007 Road Improvement Program, the streets slated to be paved are Baldwin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Walter and Myers Avenues. Regarding the Route 17 lights, he asked Chief Colaneri for an update, who noted the Malcolm Avenue railroad crossing lights were now in conjunction with a device on passing trains which preempts the traffic lights, which was state mandated. However, it has caused excessive delays in crossing Route 17 and he was in conference with the NJDOT and NJ Transit for some viable solutions. There was also great concern for the overflow coming onto Borough streets. Under Recreation, Commissioner DiNanno reported the Recreation Center is now open on Friday and Saturday evenings, Youth Basketball will begin in December, over 60 boys have registered for Wrestling, a new program entitled "wrestlastics" for first grade boys has begun. He congratulated the Junior Football Lightweights team for winning the Super Bowl and to the undefeated High School Football Team. Under Depken Field, he reported the guardrails should be delivered soon, the fencing is complete as far as can be done by the borough, plaque is in place and Landtek has been sent a punch list. The playground and recreation area will be completed in the spring. He requested Mr. Kronyak to give a budget update on this project.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Under Public Facilities, Councilman Altobelli reported winter maintenance was done to all the heating systems in Borough Hall and the Public Safety Building. The DPW mechanics repaired some Fire Department vehicles including one of the ambulances and a ladder truck on loan from the B.C. Police and Fire Academy before it could be returned. Under Social Services, he reported the community responded magnificently to the Thanksgiving holiday, with 20 turkeys and one ham distributed, food drives held at local schools, churches, scout troops and individual neighborhoods, monetary and gift card donations from town organizations, with 40 additional individual donations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments: Melissa Greco to Fire Department Ambulance Auxiliary
 Michael Niekrewicz as Permanent Crossing Guard
 Paul Malin as Permanent Crossing Guard
 Peter Parrish as Substitute Crossing Guard

On a motion by Councilwoman Skiba, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Appointments were approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 171. Raffle License for Concerned Parents Association of Corpus Christi School
- 172. Raffle License for Hasbrouck Heights H.S. Music Parents Assoc.

CONSENT AGENDA (cont'd):

173. In Support of Keeping the USS Ling in Bergen County

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

RESOLUTIONS:

174. Authorizing Cancellation of 2007 Taxes Due to Veterans Deduction
175. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien 2000-08 for Block 119.01, Lot 7
176. Authorizing Transfer of Taxes to Tax Title Lien
177. Authorizing Agreement with Touro University College of Medicine for a Payment in Lieu of Taxes

There were some questions on No. 177, which were directed to Mr. Kronyak.

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2163:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 8 ENTITLED “LICENSE FEES” OF CHAPTER 124 ENTITLED “DOGS” AND SECTION 13 ENTITLED “FEES UNDER CHAPTER 124, DOGS” OF CHAPTER 133 ENTITLED “FEES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS TO AMEND THE SUM TO BE PAID ANNUALLY AS A LICENSE FEE FOR THE LICENSING OF DOGS IN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN”** 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 11, 2007.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Introduction was approved.

Mayor Jones questioned why the following ordinance was introduced without a committee report, who answered based on the information received from previous **ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION (cont'd):**

meetings, he requested introduction of this ordinance. After a lengthy discussion a roll call was conducted and the consensus was to introduce the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2166:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER, TO BE TITLED “ANTI-NEPOTISM GUIDELINES,” WHICH OUTLINES PROHIBITIONS AGAINST THE HIRING BY THE BOROUGH OF FAMILY RELATIONS FOR PERMANENT FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME PAID POSITIONS”**

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 11, 2007.

On a motion by Councilman Altobelli, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, with Councilman DiPisa voting Nay, the foregoing Ordinance on Introduction was approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2164 and No. 2165. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2164:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2007" 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 Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Public Hearing was approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 2165:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW**

JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2007" be now passed on second and final reading and the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to publish said Ordinance,

ORDINANCE NO. 2165 (cont'd):

same to be published in The Observer, a newspaper circulating and published in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Public Hearing was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Jones invited anyone from the public wishing to speak to please come forward.

Matthew Reis, 119 Washington Place, was working toward his Eagle Scout Award and asked permission to hold a Blood Drive outside the Senior Center on December 16. Permission was granted.

Councilwoman Saccomano requested that the resolution on elected officials health benefits be placed on the December 11, 2007 agenda to be voted on.

Councilwoman Skiba asked Councilman DiPisa to provide the information to the council on elected officials health benefits in the next packet.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 179. Litigation

On a motion by Councilman Altobelli, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution to Close was accepted.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 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 27, 2007.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk