

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

April 24, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 8:03 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: A prayer was offered by Councilman DiPisa.

- COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 1) Letter from Kris Kolluri, Commissioner of NJ DOT regarding Local Bikeway Program Grant
 - 2) Letter from Valerie Giancaspro regarding Parking of Commercial Vehicles (*Response from Construction Official/Zoning Officer Nicholas Melfi Jr. has been sent.*)
 - 3) Letter from NJ Dept. of Education regarding defeated additional proposals of annual school election
 - 4) Letter from Joseph T. Bellino, SBA, HH BOE, with defeated proposal for additional spending for municipal governing body determination
 - 5) Response to Mr. Ortiz from Election Law Enforcement Commission regarding the "Fair and Open" process
 - 6) Resignation of Catherine M. Bani as Prosecutor

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

7) Letter from Rose Heck - Need to Enforce Town Ordinance (*to be discussed in closed session*)

Item #5 and Item #6 were read into the record (copies attached).

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (February 5, 2007 Special Meeting)

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, with Councilwoman Skiba voting No, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

PETITIONS: None

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$383,046.49 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.

Leonard Introna
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 a detailed report had been presented by the B.C. Board of Health to the H.H. Board of Health on the recent Lincoln School health problem with samples indicating this was a neuro virus. McDonalds had experienced a flying insect problem which was averted. Regarding the removal of garbage from the HUMC facility in town is being monitored. The next Health Fair is October 20, 2007, and there were 152 dogs who have not been registered as yet. Under Parks, he reported the DPW completed construction of the Firemen's Memorial at the Circle with brick pavers installed. He continued the bathrooms in Woodland Park have been demolished with reconstruction to begin. He read a report prepared by Environmental Commission Chairman Rose Heck which read as follows:

"Rose Heck, Chair; Council Liaison Councilman Justin A. Di Pisa; Members: Gil Hunt, Jack Stavash, James Dressel, Barbara DiBisceglie and Arlene Mastria

HEALTH AND PARKS (cont'd):

April 24, 2007

Memo To: Councilman Justin A. DiPisa
From: Rose Heck, Chair of the Environmental
& Transportation Commission

This is an update of the Environmental and Transportation Commission report that was made earlier this month.

Please note that we have reached out to the Administrator Michael Kronyak and the DPW Supt. Bill Spindler relative to our implementing an outreach program to increase Recycling in Hasbrouck Heights.

Since we know there will be an increase of \$9 per ton for refuse which will bring the cost up to \$70.92 per ton, improving our recycling can be considered not only good for the environment but good for us to help save taxpayer dollars.

The Dept. of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa Jackson today in Trenton discussed the future of Recycling Statewide on this the 20th anniversary of the Statewide Source separation and Mandatory Recycling Act. We were the first state to require recycling.

We in Hasbrouck Heights are already addressing increasing our recycling and education efforts. I have spoken with Mr. Spindler who has been very receptive and is already working on reaching out to his recycling agent to work on adding shredded paper, stationery, and junk mail to our efforts. There are a number of ways we can be more productive.

Our Commission Members, Gil Hunt, Jack Stavash, James Dressel, Barbara DiBisceglie and Arlene Mastria are in the process of setting a meeting date with Mr. Spindler. As you already know everyone has been working above and beyond the call of duty due to the recent storm and the problems it brought to our area. We will have a report for you at the next Council Meeting.

I would like to, on behalf of the members, thank you Councilman DiPisa, The Borough Administrator Michale Kronyak and DPW Supt. Spindler for supporting this effort that will be of benefit to the people and the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights."

FINANCE AND SANITATION: Under Finance, Commissioner Introna read the following Finance Report: the current fund cash balance as of March 31, 2007 was \$717,163.67; on February 28, 2007 was \$3,991,250.52, which represents a decrease of \$3,274,086.85. The entire balance was invested and is earning 5.25%. Cash receipts for March totaled \$350,885.00 of which \$150,886.25 was for current taxes, \$53,301.05 was for delinquent taxes, and \$146,697.70 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for March totaled \$3,624,971.85 of which \$1,563,704.25 was local school taxes, \$574,478.28 was salaries, \$453,993.13 was for debt service and \$1,032,796.19 was for other expenses. Under Sanitation, he reported due to the
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FINANCE AND SANITATION (cont'd):

Nor'easter last week the sanitary wastewater system was filled to capacity for several days and wastewater was discharged on some streets from overflowing manholes, which when abated was cleaned and sanitized. A mudslide at the eastern end of Passaic Avenue, where the cliff drops off damaged the house below, with that area containing a sanitary sewer line nearby. The engineer, construction code official, administrator and DPW superintendent investigated and found the sanitary line not comprised.

FIRE AND LAND USE: Under Fire, Commissioner Skiba reported 183 calls were answered in March, with 121 being EMS calls. There was a total of 872 man hours. In the period between April 14 and 15, 42 calls were made with 420 man hours. A water rescue was made on Industrial Road and the department was called to assist with flooding on Main Street in Lodi. A call was answered for a slight fire on the Boulevard and the mud slide at the bottom of Passaic Avenue and Burr Place. Under Land Use, she reported the Building Department had issued 48 permits from April 1 through 20, totaling \$8,720. Under Property Maintenance, 11 complaints were made with the problems resolved, a complaint of trash and illegal parking, an overextended drain pipe, and numerous complaints of trash on curbs due to the storm before the pick up date. Under Airport Noise, she reported the FAA would be holding a Public Comment Forum on airport redesign on April 25 in Newark.

POLICE AND STREETS: Under Police, Commissioner Saccomano announced the 13th Annual Bicycle Marathon would be held May 26 and 27; the Torch Run June 1st, and asked residents to watch for children, pedestrians and bicyclists during the warm weather. Under Streets, she reported that due to the storm and flooding in several areas, there was major bumper-to-bumper traffic. Route 17 north was closed at Williams Avenue for two days with traffic diverted up Franklin Avenue. The storm water system was fully operational but could not handle the record breaking eight inches of rainfall in 24 hours. The DPW closed streets that were in danger. A total of 17 tons of asphalt was used to repair potholes. PSE&G presented a list of 24 streets that will have trees trimmed including Ottawa, LaSalle, Madison, Central, Washington, Kipp, Jefferson, Hamilton, Walter, Division, Raymond, Henry, Woodside, Passaic, Lawrence, Paterson, Bell, Springfield, Columbus, Cleveland Harrison, Roosevelt, Lincoln and Webb.

TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION: Under Recreation, Commissioner DiNanno reported there will be seven Softball teams, plus a traveling team, 117 children have signed up for Track, Senior Olympic practice will begin in May, and Summer Camp registration is scheduled for May 3 and May 17 from 7-9 p.m. All regular Recreation programs are continuing on schedule and the Recreation Center is well attended. A 5-year agreement for use of a Recreation field in Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 2/24/2007 - page 4

TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION (cont'd):

Teterboro has been made with Port Authority of NY and NJ. Regarding the Athletic Field and Improvements, the bid notice will be advertised on April 27, with receipt 20-25 days forward.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Altobelli reported due to the storm, the DPW garage and yard were flooded and trucks and equipment moved to the parking lot across from the Municipal Building. All essential equipment was available and services completed. Constant monitoring of the Borough's pumping facilities were made. A preliminary Damage Assessment Report was give to OEM Coordinator Police Chief Colaneri. Under Social Services, he reported donations received from the McCarthy and DeSantis families and the Ecumenical Good Friday Service held at Holy Trinity Church. The Free Public Library, under the direction of Mimi Hui, held Amnesty Week April 15 through 21 and accepted donations for the food bank in lieu of fines.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

Mayor Jones echoed his thanks to the DPW, Fire Department and Police Department for an outstanding job regarding the storm. He requested a letter be written to State legislators regarding Route 17 flooding, and that a large problem is sump pumps emptying into the sanitary sewer and not the storm water drains, and back flow preventers should be installed in homes with basement plumbing.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS: None

RESIGNATIONS: Catherine M. Bani as Prosecutor

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing on the 2007 Municipal Budget.

CFO/Administrator Michael Kronyak reported on the 2007 Municipal Budget, with the budget introduced at \$16.8 million. He explained the process, that Extraordinary Aid had been applied for requesting \$650,000.00.

Christian Semenez, 415 Jefferson Avenue, questioned various items on the budget which were explained in detail by Mr. Kronyak.

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PUBLIC HEARING ON 2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET (cont'd):

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing on the 2007 Municipal Budget.

CONSENT AGENDA: 68. Raffle License for YM-YMHA of Bergen County

On a motion by Councilwoman Skiba, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda resolution was approved.
(Copies attached).

RESOLUTIONS: 69. Authorizing Award of 2007 Radio Maintenance Contract

70. Authorizing Refund of Overpaid Taxes for Year 2004

70. Authorizing Agreement with Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for Use of Recreational Field

70. Authorizing Solid Waste Service Agreement with BCUA

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING: None

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Jones invited anyone wishing to speak to please come forward.

Rose Heck, 501 Collins Avenue, recommended reaching out to the League of Municipalities for State and HUD block grants to help with infrastructure and flooding.

Sonya Buckman, 239 Central Avenue, questioned if the contracts for the attorneys had been received.

The clerk requested of the mayor that contracts be referred to the closed portion for discussion.

Christian Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, questioned the change in the plans to the Athletic Field, he had questions, and was concerned with the grade and results of Perc test.

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

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RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 73. Litigation and Personnel

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Introna, 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 9:23 p.m.

MEETING REOPENED:

On a motion by Councilman Introna, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the meeting was reopened for the following business at 10:18 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Introna to make a recommendation to appoint Special Counsel through the Fair and Open Process to represent the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights on the receipt of a Civil Action Summons with Rose M. Heck as Plaintiff vs the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights. Mayor Jones asked for each council member's comments regarding the extra cost to the taxpayers by appointing outside counsel. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, with Councilman DiPisa voting No and Councilwoman Skiba abstaining.

A motion was made by Councilman Introna to use the Fair and Open Process to appoint a Prosecutor and Alternate Prosecutor, with Councilman DiPisa saying that courtesy should be extended to prior resumes submitted, that they should be notified. Councilman Altobelli agreed and recommended it also be advertised in The Observer. This was seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, and unanimously carried, with Councilwoman Skiba stating as long as all criteria is met.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 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 April 24, 2007.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk