

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 7/24/2007  
**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**MINUTES**

**July 24, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at 8:05 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: Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilman Leonard Introna, Councilwoman Carol J. Skiba, Councilwoman Maryetta Saccomano, Councilman Anthony DiNanno, Councilman Stephen Altobelli

Absent: Mayor Ronald R. Jones  
In Mayor Jones' absence, Council President Leonard Introna presided over the meeting.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council President Introna led in the Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION:** A prayer was offered by Councilman DiPisa.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Christopher Cardaci to Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department Ambulance Squad

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

A picture was taken of Christopher Cardaci, along with his Mom, Gail Cardaci, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Michael Ratkowski, Council President Introna, Fire Commissioner Skiba and Deputy Fire Commissioner Altobelli.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** 1) Thank you letter from Marissa Cole, recipient of Mayor's Award

**COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):**

2) Letter from County Executive Dennis McNerney of Open Space Award of \$78,657 for Playground Construction

3) Invitation from Military Family Support Group in Carlstadt of meetings every Tuesday from 7:30 - 9 p.m. for anyone who has someone currently serving in the Armed Forces

Councilwoman Saccomano requested to have Items #2 and the back part of #3 read into the record (Copies attached).

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(December 12, 2006 Work Session, June 8, 2006

Special Joint Meeting with Board of Trustees of Free Public Library, June 20, 2006

Special Meeting with Board of Trustees of Free Public Library, June 12, 2007  
Regular Meeting, July 10, 2007 Regular Meeting)

On a motion by Councilwoman Skiba, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, with Councilman DiPisa abstaining from the July 10 Regular Meeting Minutes as he was absent, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

None

**BILLS:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the claims and accounts amounting to \$595,547.37 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 Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

**REPORTS:**

**HEALTH AND PARKS:** Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported the dog census conducted by the school marshals will be up for discussion at the September 12 Board of Health Meeting. He continued the Baby Keep Well program is now free to all residents of Hasbrouck Heights and held in conjunction with the Lodi Health Department. Interested residents should the Hasbrouck Heights Board of Health. Under Parks, he commended the DPW on continued cleaning of the parks, and reported the handicapped facilities and Comfort Station at Woodland Park has been completed and now in use. He thanked the Community Awareness Access for All Committee for their hard work, being one of only eight such committees in Bergen County. The DPW reconnected the irrigation system to the new building. The Soccer field was spiked and reseeded with the watering of the field programmed so as to not interfere with sports activities.

**FINANCE AND SANITATION:** Under Finance, Commissioner Introna read the following Finance Report: the current fund cash balance as of June 30, 2007 was \$282,955.154; on May 31, 2007 was \$2,883,569.84, which represents an decrease of \$2,600,614.69. The entire balance was invested and is earning 5.25%. Cash receipts for June totaled \$313,097.72 of which \$128,428.60 was for current taxes, \$22,437.41 was for delinquent taxes, and \$162,231.71 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for June totaled \$2,913,712.41 of which \$1,563,704.25 was local school taxes, \$865,636.30 was salaries and \$484,371.86 was for other expenses. Under Sanitation, he reported several repairs were made to DPW trucks, the first a 1984 Mack Roll-off truck was totally refurbished by Steven Daus, one of the diesel mechanics, the second a broken blade replaced on a garbage truck, and lastly repairs to the camera and cables on the video camera truck as a result of the Nor-easter. This cost of repairs will be sent to FEMA.

**FIRE AND LAND USE:** Under Fire, Commissioner Skiba reported that in June there were 156 calls, with 96 EMS calls. There were three motor vehicle extrications. Repairs to equipment were done by DPW. The annual picnic was held this past weekend together with Wood-Ridge Fire Department. Under Property Maintenance, she reported nine complaints by residents, three verbal warnings to landscapers laying pavers without permits, one complaint of a dead tree, one complaint of overgrown weeds in an empty lot, 11 for lack of lawn maintenance. Under Teterboro Airport, she attended Lanny Rider's retirement dinner, one runway incursion involving two jets on June 17, with no injuries. Regarding the Northeast Regional Airspace Redesign, the residents of Rockland County made a large public outcry to their representatives and a public meeting is scheduled Monday, July 30 at St. Lawrence Community Center in Hillburn with the Airspace Redesign team available for questions. She attended a presentation of the Route 17 construction above Essex Street scheduled for August.

**REPORTS (cont'd):**

**POLICE AND STREETS:** Under Police, Commissioner Saccomano reported the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade DARE picnic was held at the Swim Club, Sgt. Rinke attended the Class of 2007 Project Graduation and 30 children attended the Junior Police Academy. She congratulated Sgt. Kevin Corbliss, Patrolmen Dan Kroncke and James Ciccarelli for going above and beyond to save the life of a local resident. Under Streets, she reported due to severe thunderstorms on June 20, flash flooding occurred in low-lying areas and the pump station at Franklin Avenue and Route 17 went into flood stage most likely due to illegally connected sump pumps into the waste water system.

**TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION:** Under Transportation, Commissioner DiNanno reported the repaving of Madison Avenue provided from funds received from a NJ DOT grant will take place in the Fall, an application for a grant was made to the NJ DOT for Division Avenue. The Ravine Avenue construction should be done in about 10 days, with 45-50 parking spaces on the right side. The Swim Club parking lot will be restriped after consultation with the Fire Department. Under Recreation, he reported on various ongoing recreation programs including Summer Camp and that Town Day is scheduled for September 29. Regarding Depken Field, he reported construction is on schedule, and the bleachers will be rebid.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Under Social Services, Councilman Altobelli reported the Food Bank received donations of food items from Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday, Mary DeSantis, Madeline deVelasco, Maryetta Saccomano, Joan Turner, Patti and John Goldfarb, United Methodist Church of Hasbrouck Heights, St. John's Episcopal Church, Nicholas and Zachary Cali, Dan Grossano, Dorothy Petroulis, First Reformed Church and Dorothy Repta which were most appreciated. However, the number of those seeking assistance has increased and the shelves are at an all time low and requested donations. Under Public Facilities, he reported repairs were made to two air-conditioning units in the Public Safety Building. The DPW is currently painting the yellow curbing throughout town and will be painting the parking hash marks on the Boulevard. They painted every dead end barrier wall in town last month, but the Washington Place barrier was entirely covered by graffiti again. The Police were notified and it will be repainted at a later date. As Library liaison, he commended Library Director Mimi Hui and her staff on the very successful Harry Potter Party.

#### **REPORT OF MAYOR:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Representative to Open Space Trust Municipal Program Regional Committee

#### **NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):**

Council President Introna asked the council members if they wished to consider a member of the council to be representative to the Open Trust Municipal Program Regional Committee. Councilwoman Saccomano nominated Councilman Altobelli, seconded by Councilman DiNanno. Councilman DiPisa requested that he be co-appointee as he was Parks commissioner. A motion was made by Councilwoman Skiba to appoint Councilman Altobelli and Councilman DiPisa as co-appointees for the Open Space Trust Municipal Program Regional Committee, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, with Councilwoman Saccomano voting Nay.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** 105. Bingo License for Corpus Christi Church

106. Bingo License for Concerned Parents of Corpus Christi School

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

**RESOLUTIONS:** 107. Authorizing Borough Clerk to Advertise for Bids for the 2007 Road Resurfacing Program

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

108. Authorizing Borough Clerk to Advertise for Bids for the Improvement of Madison Avenue

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

108. Authorizing Signature of NJDOT Local Aid Applications for Fiscal Year 2008

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

108. Authorizing Signature of the Safe Routes to Schools Grant Application

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

111. Authorizing Application for Municipal Alliance Grant  
**RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):**

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

112. Acceptance of 2006 Audit Report

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

112. Authorizing Representative to Participate on the Open Space Trust Municipal Program Regional Committee

On a motion by Councilman Altobelli, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, with Councilwoman Saccomano voting Nay, the foregoing Resolution was approved.

112. Authorizing Rejection of Submitted Bids and Re-bid of Depken Field - Bleacher Renovation Project

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

112. Supporting the *Over the Limit Under Arrest 2007 Crackdown*

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

**ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2160:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 281, TO BE ENTITLED “EMINENT DOMAIN”, WHICH CHAPTER PROVIDES TO RESTRICT THE BOROUGH’S EXERCISE OF THE TAKINGS POWER UNDER EMINENT DOMAIN”** 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 August 14, 2007.

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Introduction was approved.

**ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

Council President Introna invited anyone wishing to speak to please come forward.

Robert Call, 231 Paterson Avenue, was concerned with the flooding which he felt was due to inadequate storm sewers, noting that in the middle of the 200 block of Ottawa Avenue during the recent storm, water was gushing up from the stormwater drains, as well as Paterson and Bell Avenues. Mr. Spindler referred to this area as the "hollows" which is a low lying area of topography that becomes flooded during flash flooding. Mr. Call called it an engineering design failure resulting in stormwater sewage failure and said this has been ongoing for 73 years. Mr. Kronyak and Mr. Spindler would look at the area with Borough Engineer Carl O'Brien. Councilwoman Skiba reported on the flooding of Field Avenue which has evolved over the years, and how difficult it is to fix. This would be discussed further at the next Work Session.

Martin Saccomano, 57 Ottawa Avenue, questioned Councilman DiPisa on the Baby Keep Well Program.

Helayne Weiss, 315 Charlton Avenue, questioned if anyone on the Council was overseeing the project on a daily basis who could keep the residents better informed. She suggested if the council could give informative updates at the council meeting on the previous two weeks. She did not recommend incurring costs by having the engineer at each meeting, but that the council report. She questioned Councilwoman Saccomano on her health benefits.

Sonya Buckman, 239 Central Avenue, referring to an article in the County daily on pensions costs, questioned how much would the town incur in 2008, and was advised the information should be available by next week. She was informed that all employees contribute to their pensions.

Christian Semenez, 415 Jefferson Avenue, on Depken Field, questioned the problem of water in the southwest corner of the field and how this would be addressed. He was advised that they were aware and it would be addressed. He questioned the parking lot on Central Avenue, and was advised the survey work was done and construction would begin soon.

Martin Saccomano, 57 Ottawa Avenue, agreed with Ms. Weiss that more information on the Field project should be provided to residents. He thought Councilwoman Skiba was a member of the Task Force to which she replied she was not. He thought it would be more helpful if Mr. Job were present at the meetings to answer questions.

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

**ADJOURN:**

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There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 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 July 24, 2007.

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Rose Marie Sees, RMC  
Borough Clerk