

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 8/28/2007
BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

August 28, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, August 28, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS: 1. Announcement of 9-11 Memorial Ceremony.

Councilwoman Skiba read this announcement in full (Copy Attached).

2. Letter from B.C. Exec. Dennis McNerney regarding Nation POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 21, 2007 at 12 Noon.

3. Announcement of County of Bergen's 9-11 Memorial Ceremony.

4. Letter from HH Garden Club Committee

Councilwoman Saccomano and Councilman DiPisa requested Item #4 be read into the record (Copy attached).

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (August 8, 2006 Work Session and Executive Session, September 12, 2006 Work Session, August 14, 2007 Regular Meeting)

On a motion by Councilwoman Skiba, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, with Councilman Altobelli abstaining from the 2006 Minutes, the foregoing Minutes were

None

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$464,676.37 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 Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND PARKS: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported on statistics: Total fees collected, \$8,603.75 consisting of \$526 in dog licenses. There were five male births and eight female births in July, two food licenses, six marriage licenses issued, one civil union license and 118 inspections by the Health Inspector Robert Jernick. He invited the public to attend the Board of Health meeting scheduled for September 12, and the Health Fair on Saturday, October 20. He advised residents to secure covers on pools for the winter to avoid any catastrophes. He also noted that Mr. Jernick was being relocated and he wished him well. Under Parks, he reported the Woodland Park facilities were completed, the parking spaces were relined for handicap accessibility and that several wooden fence posts were ordered for repairs to the fence, which will be done by the DPW. He commended the Garden Club members present, Elizabeth Moser and Ann Lustberg and all for the beautiful flower tubs along the Boulevard.

As liaison to the Environmental/Transportation Commission, he read the following reports which were submitted by Commission Chair Rose Heck.

Report on Expansion of Recycling Program

"The Expansion of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights Recycling Program is moving along in a very positive way. I have kept in touch with DPW Supt. Bill Spindler and he is moving on several levels of Recycle, and Reducing tonnage weight of garbage. As we reported in May new Waste Tonnage Costs went into effect June 1, 2007. I will be meeting again with The DPW Supt. since learning of certain multi-apartment buildings not in compliance.

Starting Sept. 10th the recycling of Shredded Paper will be added to our program. A special Recycling Bin will be located at the Entrance of the Library. Residents may bring them to that location or down to the DPW Recycling Center located at 1 Plant Road. We thank Supt. of School Joseph Luongo and Bill Spindler for agreeing and taking the necessary steps to participate in the BCUA educational program that will take place in the School System. I spoke with Lori Russo and spoke with her about the plans already in place. On Oct. 3rd and 4th The Middle School program will be "What's in My Trash?" There will be three programs each day. At Lincoln School Oct. 16th Mrs. Russo will be visiting the Kindergarten classes and possibly Pre-K with the program "Roxy the Recycling Raccoon." At Euclid School Nov. 5th and 7th Mrs. Russo will visit Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1. Pre-K and first grade will receive "Roxy the Recycling Raccoon" and the Kindergarten program will be "Michael Learns to Recycle." I will be contacting Corpus Christi School since Mrs. Russo said the BCUA would make the program available there as well. The Environmental Commission will also sponsor an Essay Contest which will include the Sixth thru Eighth Graders in October. By Town Day, The Commission will have in conjunction with the DPW a table where educational materials will be given explaining the more expansive recycling program in conjunction with the town's DPW Supt. to encourage recycling, that will in turn save us tax dollars. There will also be promotional items such as rulers, pencils, refrigerator magnets and recycling stickers available for town residents while supplies last. The schools have been equipped with receptacles to better recycle all acceptable recyclable materials. Residents may also bring computer equipment to the Recycling Center at 1 Plant Road. Operating Hours are 7 am to 11 am. Monday to Friday and Saturdays 7 am to noon."

Report Relating to Teterboro and Route 17

"The following is an update from Nick Agnoli from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission in answer to my inquiry as to a status report.

NJ Meadowlands Commission e-mail

"We are still on schedule to begin construction this Fall on the improvements to the Rutherford Tide Gates and the installation of the E. Rutherford Tide Gates. This will do much to reduce flooding on Route 17. Additionally, NJDOT improvements to Route 17 itself (Highland Cross area) will begin this Spring (08). Regarding West Riser, Teterboro is slated to begin work soon. Teterboro Airport funded a new pump system (five high capacity pumps) which is now online and functioning, and the NJMC is looking at options with FEMA and Bergen County for restoring the West Riser Tide Gates (failed)

in Moonachie. West Riser parallels Green Street and Industrial Avenue." All is being looked at as part of an overall anti-flooding plan.

Congressman Rothman

I attended the Meeting in Hasbrouck Heights held by Congressman Rothman on Aug. 27th. I raised the need to address the environmental and flooding problems in the region and the need for him to advocate for a change in HUD rules for grants to include monies for infrastructure and flood prevention in the area. I noted I had been in touch with the offices of Senators Lautenberg and Menendez on some of these same issues and am awaiting a date to meet with them. I advised Congressman Rothman that I would send the detailed information to his office and would await word from him as to any action he might be willing to take. As you will recall The Southwest Community Development Grants Committee Executive Director Joe Rutch told me he was advised that our Congressional Delegation must make these requests to change the rules. The Congressman and I worked together over the years on the situation at Teterboro. We held many meetings and made inroads over the years on funding of studies and restrictions through TANAAC rules on Stages I, II and III aircraft as well as the 100,000 pound weight restrictions and more. I commended him on his recent successes in helping the nationally in those areas. I continued to advise of the dangers of approaches, etc., pointing out that the FAA apparently ignores the safety of the people in this area by not responding to our requests for changes over highly populated areas such as the hospital. As noted at the meeting it is my opinion and I have made the request over the years, that the FAA be divided into two separate entities; One to promote the business of airports, etc. and the other to fight for the safety of passengers and people who live in the areas surrounding airports. They cannot serve two masters and properly protect us on quality of life and safety issues. As for Route 17, Congressman Rothman says he was able to get \$9 Million in the budget to be given the State for Route 17 overpass work and road widening.

Teterboro Airport

As you know I also made a number of requests of the Port Authority through the Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee known as TANAAC that the air quality report be given to us as soon as possible and letters pertaining to the flooding dangers in and around the airport and Route 17 be addressed along with a strong request to have the FAA attend our meeting to address the concerns of the towns surrounding the airport, which they have to date ignored. Copy of the letter to DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson and Dept. of Transportation Commissioner Kris Kolluri are attached. I am still awaiting answers to the letter I gave DOT Commissioner Kolluri. I will hopefully have an answer by the September meeting. I have met and talked with the newly appointed Port Authority Airport Manager Richard Heslin and the newly appointed Noise Abatement Manager Dennis O'Connor."

FINANCE AND SANITATION: Under Sanitation, Commissioner Introna reported the Terrace Avenue Pump Station restoration was completed, this pump handling wastewater for several houses along Terrace Avenue that must be pumped as the system cannot be drained by gravity. Under Finance, he read the following Finance

Report: the current fund cash balance as of July 31, 2007 was \$2,084,807.61; on June 30, 2007 was \$282,955.15, which represents an increase of \$1,801,852.46. The entire balance was invested and is earning 5.25%. Cash receipts for July totaled \$4,887,732.95 of which \$4,626,552.38 was for current taxes, \$59,926.78 was for delinquent taxes, and \$201,253.79 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for July totaled \$3,083,903.17 of which \$1,663,770.75 was local school taxes, \$556,550.95 was salaries and \$863,581.47 was for other expenses.

He continued that after numerous meetings of the Finance Committee, the amendment resolution to the budget was on tonight's agenda. He asked CFO/Admin. Michael Kronyak to explain further who noted that the amending resolution would be introduced tonight, and a special meeting will be held on September 4, 2007 to adopt the budget. Extraordinary aid of \$150,000 was received and with additional cuts resulted in a 3 ½ point reduction from the introduced budget, on the average house assessed at \$436,800 would result in a \$175 increase in taxes, or a 4 point increase.

FIRE AND LAND USE: Under Fire, Commissioner Skiba reported that in July there were 165 calls, with 90 of those EMS calls. She also reported on Friday, August 24, a tanker truck carrying 8,500 gallons of gasoline experienced mechanical trouble, and in the process of removing the tanker by a tractor, the landing gear collapsed tipping the tanker on its side, causing Route 17 northbound to be closed for eight hours and Route 17 southbound for two hours while the fuel was offloaded and subsequently towed. The Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department was there from 2 to 10 p.m. She thanked the Department of Transportation, Bergen County Hazmat and Office of Emergency Management, the Bergen County Police Department, our Zone 2 Coordinator Mark Tomko, Hasbrouck Heights Police Department, our Fire Department as well as those of Wood-Ridge, Carlstadt, Hackensack, East Rutherford, Garfield, Lodi, and both Moonachie's Fire Department EMT Squad, and a special thank you to the Little Ferry Fire Department to stand by to cover the Borough in case of an emergency. She congratulated Firefighters Joseph Armeli and Ryan Raney who have passed both performance evaluation written tests required under Firefighter Level #1. She thanked Melissa Greco, a new EMT for responding to calls. She will be meeting with representatives from the Port of Authority to discuss a contribution toward the purchase of a new ambulance. The Department of Transportation and Fire and Police Chiefs will be holding a meeting regarding preemption devices on every traffic signal along Route 17 to facilitate emergency service response. She will also be meeting with representatives from Port Authority to discuss the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection Air Quality environmental study. Under Land Use, she reported that in July the total amount of building permits were \$10,201. Under Property Maintenance, she reported 12 complaints made by residents regarding neighbors properties, 10 resolved and two turned over to the building inspector. Three complaints to landscapers installing pavers walkways with no permits, 10 warning slips for overgrown lawns, and six summons for property maintenance issues, summonses to two financial agencies for not maintaining foreclosed properties which will be heard in Municipal Court on September 26, and two stop orders to contractors for working past the allotted

hours. She reminded contractors of hours of construction from 7:30 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, no Sundays or holidays. She reminded homeowners of hours of construction from 7:30 a.m. to sunset Monday through Friday, Saturday 8 a.m. to sunset, and Sunday 10 a.m. to sunset. She contacted Borough Planner Joseph Burgis for an update on COAH regulations. She requested to put the airspace redesign on the next work session.

POLICE AND STREETS: Under Police, Commissioner Saccomano reported the equipment for the new patrol car was received and the car now in service. Chief Colaneri attended the meeting for construction of Route 17/Essex Street bridge with the bridge down in January 2008 with completion scheduled for the end of 2008. The highway will remain open using the on/off ramps. With the opening of schools, she cautioned safe driving around school zones. Substitute crossing guards were needed. Under Streets, she reported that catch basins were cleaned and repaired by the DPW throughout town. An inquiry as to who would maintain those on county roads was pending. She reminded residents that trash should be placed on the curb after 7 p.m. the day prior to pickup. Under Leaf Committee, she reported brown bags and twine will be distributed on Town Day, September 29.

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 NJ DOT Grant for Safe Walks to Schools program which encompassed the Boulevard was applied for and a reply pending. The Welcome Sign at the Circle will be replaced in the near future and a flag pole placed on the Circle also. Under Recreation, he reported Summer Camp ended August 3, and enjoyed by those participating. The counselors, the campers and parents were thanked for their time and support. He thanked Recreation Director Robert Brady, Michael Kronyak and DPW Supt. Spindler for the completion of the Woodland Park comfort station. He questioned the cleaning of this facility. The Recreation Center will be conducting registration for the fall. Town Day is scheduled for September 29 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a rain date of October 6. Halloween in the Park tickets will be sold, which is tentatively scheduled for October 18, with a rain date of October 23, subject to the availability of the B.C. hay wagons. Under Depken Field, he gave an update that the paving of the areas surrounding the field was completed today, the next step is rolling of the turf which will begin as soon as it arrives, with completion of the turf scheduled for September 15. Everything else surrounding the field will be done as available. At the last Task Force Meeting, ADA compliant bleacher renovations, the perimeter fencing and interior fence plan, different types of portable bleachers on the east side of the field, ADA bathroom construction on Oldfield Avenue were discussed. A vote taken on the Skate Park resulted with six no votes and three yes votes. Under Oldfield Avenue Homes, he reported that utilities were present, and a summons for non-maintenance issued to the owner of the property.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Under Public Facilities, Councilman Altobelli reported the HVAC System in Borough Hall and the Public Safety Building were analyzed which showed some AC units needed adjusting. He also reported the DPW installed a buzzer at the Court Violations window. Under Social Services, he reported the Hasbrouck Heights Food Bank received donations of food items from Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday, First United Methodist Church, Mrs. DeSantis, Diane Robinson, Louise Davenport, Connie Margagliano, Councilwoman Maryetta Saccomano, Rick DiPiazza, Martha Pertuz, Petrino Family, Joan Turner, Dorothy Petroulis and Gertrude Eck which were most appreciated. He continued that a letter is being sent to all the churches in Hasbrouck Heights with a list of items specifically needed which we are asking that they place in their newsletters. As Library liaison, he reported that on September 9 a dedication ceremony will be held for several items received by the Library.

APPOINTMENTS: Edward Powers as Substitute Crossing Guard

Michael A. Coloiani to Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department Hook & Ladder Company

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

RESIGNATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: 123. Raffle License for Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc.

124. Raffle License for H.H. Band Parents Assn.

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

RESOLUTIONS: 125. Authorizing Change Order #1 With Regard to the Improvement of Vacated Portion of Ravine Avenue Right-Of-Way

126. Authorizing Change Order #2 with Regard to Improvement of Depken Field

126. Proclaiming September 17, 2007 as Constitution Day

126. Amending 2007 Budget

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126. Authorizing Award of Bid for 2007 Road Improvement Program
126. Authorizing Award of Bid for Madison Avenue Roadway Improvements
126. In Support of Remedial Legislation to Authorize a Library Levy Cap Exception
126. Authorizing Application #1 to the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund
126. Authorizing Application #2 to the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund
126. Authorizing Application #3 to the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund

For Resolution No. 128, on a motion by Councilman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman Introna, and unanimously carried, this resolution was approved (Copy attached).

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

A letter was received from McDonald's for a concert. This was held until the work session.

Councilwoman Saccomano requested a copy of the Engineer's Report with recommendations on the flooding at Franklin and Woodside Avenues be sent to the homeowner, Mr. and Mrs. Sommers.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman Introna, and unanimously carried to send a copy of the report, was approved.

Councilman DiPisa requested that the proposed changes to the Swim Club Parking Lot be on the next work session.

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING: None

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Council President Introna invited anyone from the public to speak. There being no one wishing to speak, the public portion was closed.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made to adjourn by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, and unanimously carried.

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 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 August 28, 2007.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk