

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 7/28/2009

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

July 28, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 8:02 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 5, 2009 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 5, 2009.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Rose Heck, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilman Anthony DiNanno, Councilman Stephen Altobelli, Councilman David Gonzalez

Absent: Councilwoman Sonya Buckman,
Councilwoman Pamela J. Link

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Heck led in the Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman DiPisa

“Seeking Peace: Come now, turn aside for a while from your daily employment, escape for a moment from the tumult of your thoughts. Put aside your weighty cares, let your burdensome distractions wait, free yourself for a while for God and rest awhile in him. Enter into the chamber of your soul, shut out everything except God and that which can help you in seeking him, and when you have shut the door, seek him. Now, my soul, say to God, ‘I seek your face; Lord it is your face that I seek.’ Amen.”

Mayor Heck asked for a moment of silence to remember Elsie Paolini, Hasbrouck Heights oldest resident who passed this past week. She was honored two years ago as a wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, former president of the Woman’s Club of Hasbrouck Heights and active member of the First Reformed Church among her many activities and volunteer service to the community.

COMMUNICATIONS: 1) Letter from Senator Robert M. Gordon, District 38, with regard to EMT Training Fund

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COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

- 2) Letter from Cablevision regarding Removal of Dual Illumination Premium HD Channels
- 3) Thank You note from Jeremy Wojciechowski, Quigg Scholarship recipient
- 4) Letter of Resignation from Rent Leveling Board from Francesca Fitzgerald

Item #1 were requested to be read into the record (copy attached).

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

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(July 14, 2009 Regular Meeting)*

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$97,624.93 specified in the schedule hereto annexed, have been examined and approved by the Finance Commissioner, or his Deputy; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in the accounts listed for payment of the claims;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the claims be paid and checks be issued on the funds and accounts indicated on the attached schedule.

Signed Justin A. DiPisa
Commissioner of Finance

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

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REPORTS:

POLICE: Under Police, Mayor/Commissioner Heck reported as follows: Under Police Department News she reported their thanks to the DPW for removing trees at LaSalle and Burton for safety reasons. The 10th Junior Police Academy was held with 40 Eighth Graders participating who received training from Hasbrouck Heights Police Department instructors, Port Authority Police, FBI and DEA. Coordinators Sgt. Rinke and Mike Stillman from the Middle School. The DMV inspection checkpoint was held at Old Terrace Avenue and Henry Street, with 30 summonses issued. This was coordinated by Lt. Archer. The Eighth Grade DARE Swim Party was held on June 23 with over 80 Eighth Graders attending. The Hasbrouck Heights Swim Club, Lodi Shop-Rite and Hasbrouck Heights Anti-Drug Council for their donations. On July 1, 91 applicants took the written Police Exam. The top 60 will go on to the physical fitness portion on August 6. The Department has been conducting a "Clear the Sidewalk Campaign" to have sidewalks cleared of vehicles and basketball poles. Residents have received notices and warnings. The next phase will be summonses. She read the notice that was attached: In order to comply with Borough Ordinance No. 261-17, Parking Prohibited between 2 and 6 am, we understand that not all vehicles can fit properly in driveways and at times vehicles may hang out of the driveway onto the sidewalk. Please be advised in order to keep walkways safe, vehicles are required to be moved early in the morning. If vehicles are not cleared from walkways by early morning, a summons will be issued. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation." She read the following from Chief of Police Michael Colaneri, "On July 14 Patrolman Corey Lange was assigned to a traffic detail at the Sonic on Route 17. Patrolman Lange was attempting to check the paperwork on a vehicle that failed to comply with Lange's instructions. The vehicle attempted to flee and dragged Patrolman Lange onto the highway and he was struck by another vehicle. The Hasbrouck Heights Police Department would like to thank all of the responding agencies for their professionalism and concern, all who called, stopped by or said a prayer. Patrolman Lange is back at home."

Under Summonses, the month of June included 349 Parking versus 340 in June 2008; 287 Moving violations, 122 in June 2008, totaling in June 2009 - 636 and in June 2008 - 462. Under the General Complaints June report, she noted there were: Accident DWI, 1; 60 ambulance requests, 16 ambulance w/paramedics, 12 animal complaints, 27 assisting other agencies, 5 Borough ordinance violations, 1 Borough ordinance complaints, 23 burglar alarm-commercial, 35 burglar alarm-residential, 1 burglary-auto, 2 burglary residences, 61 cell phone 911, 4 criminal mischief motor vehicle, 1 criminal mischief-residence, 2 customer disputes, 1 death natural causes, 8 disabled vehicles, 18 domestic violence, 13 domestic violence orders, 5 DUI, 4 family disputes, 9 fire calls, 20 fire alarms, 5 fireworks, 1 found property, 3 fraud, 49 general calls, 8 general disputes, 3 harassment, 3 harassment phone calls, 2 hold up alarm, 2 identity theft, 16 juvenile incidents, 1 landlord/tenant dispute, 16 lockout-mv, 2 lockout-residences; 9 lost articles, 1 Missing Person, 9 neighbor dispute, 17 noise complaint, 3 notifications, 6 property damage, 3 public service, 2 recovered motor vehicle, 1 robbery-firearm-bank,

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POLICE (cont'd):

2 sewer backup, 1 simple assaults, 7 subpoenas, 30 summonses, 26 suspicious incidents, 12 suspicious persons, 13 suspicious vehicles, 5 Teterboro 911 calls, 1 theft, 1 theft from auto, 2 theft from buildings, 35 traffic accidents on county roads, 9 traffic accidents on Borough roads, 7 traffic accidents private, 39 traffic accidents State roads, 116 traffic enforcement, 2 traffic lights out, 59 traffic related services, 6 warrants, 22 welfare checks, 56 Wood-Ridge 911 calls, totaling 1,077 for all general complaints.

FINANCE & PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Finance, Commissioner Di Pisa reported he had no report. Under Public Facilities, he reported the New Jersey Department of Labor conducted a safety inspection of the mechanical systems at Borough Hall, the Public Safety Building and the DPW facility in which all passed. The emergency generator at Borough Hall had a malfunction which was repaired and put back online to its normal function and the HVAC system in the Council Chambers condenser needed recharging. He continued there were 12 meetings held in the Community room, eight in the Caucus Room, five in the Council Chambers and three in the Senior Center (not including senior activities).

PARKS: Under Parks, Commissioner DiNanno reported that animals were seen in the roof around the chimney area of the Pavilion at Woodland Park. The DPW discovered a hole in the roof and the flashing around the chimney was in need of repair. Animal Control was called in, and the roof was repaired on July 25. The glass block windows at the Comfort Station were vandalized and broken and plexiglass was installed over the broken windows. He also reported progress is being made on the plans to improve the playgrounds throughout town. Designs for new playground equipment was discussed along with new basketball courts at Miers Park. He complimented Rob Brady on doing an excellent job thus far with Summer Camp.

TRANSPORTATION: Under Transportation, Commissioner Altobelli had no report.

LAND USE, RECREATION & SOCIAL SERVICES: As Commissioner Buckman was on vacation, Mayor Heck noted her reports would be given at the meeting of August 25.

FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION: Under Fire, Commissioner Gonzalez gave the activity report submitted by Elizabeth Waring, EMS coordinator: from July 1 through July 27 there were 14 fire calls, 15 non-emergency and 127 EMS calls including 12 mutual aid calls to Teterboro, one in Wood-Ridge, four in Lodi and 1 in Hackensack. The activity for the first half of 2009 shows a total of 209 fire calls as opposed to 186 in 2008, 82 non emergency, 73 in 2008, and 773 EMS calls, with only 688 in 2008, for a total of 1,141 in 2009 compared to 969 in 2008, an increase of 72 calls. This does not include meetings, drills, stand by events and special events. He commended these volunteers. The Fire Department was on standby at the Fireworks on July 2. A

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FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION (cont'd):

garbage dumpster at the Swim Club had a fire which was quickly extinguished. Several mutual aid calls included the ladder truck assisting Wood-Ridge on July 8, and on June 23 the ladder truck and ambulance responded to a three alarm fire at Garibaldi Avenue in Lodi with 22 departments responding and 2,500,000 gallons of water used in seven hours to put this fire out. He noted with sadness that July 1 was the 21st anniversary of the fire at Hackensack Ford where five firefighters lost their lives. Under Streets & Sanitation, he reported asphalt repairs to streets included eight tons in the 400 block of LaSalle Avenue and four tons used for pothole repairs around town. Stone was replaced on the road that travels through Woodland Park. The tree crew started removing trees that were deemed a "line of sight" safety hazard by the Police Department. As reported at the last meeting, the DOT had covered sanitary sewer manholes on Route 17 which was resolved by a combined effort of Bill Spindler, Ken Job and Michael Kronyak. Other sewer problems occurred at the Boulevard Circle where PSE&G was replacing a gas main and the excavation broke a storm water pipe and Bergen County Roads Department was notified; and maintenance was performed at the Franklin Avenue Pump Station and on Central Avenue. In-house repairs were made to the old Senior Bus, Garbage Trucks 101, 103 and 106, Street Sweeper, Tink Claw, Fire Engine 616, Ladder Truck and Rescue 614 and 28 hours of service and repairs to Police Department vehicles. He also gave the year to date recycling report which totaled 491.64 tons amounting to \$1881.94. If this had been solid waste at \$82 per ton, it would have cost the Borough \$40,314.48.

HEALTH: Under Health, as Commissioner Link was on vacation, Mayor Heck noted her report would be given at the meeting of August 25.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Heck noted there is a considerable amount of savings by recycling and that more can be done and efforts will be more demanding. She also noted DOT Commissioner Dilts talked to the engineer and apparently they cover all manhole covers when they repave, it is a matter of practice, and then they go back. He complimented Hasbrouck Heights for noticing this so quickly. The Mayor's Report for July is as follows:

June 24th, Wednesday: Attended The Bergen County League of Mayors' formal visit to the Bergen County Community College Campus in The Meadowlands. I was impressed with the new facilities and learned that they had an initial student body of 500, and last semester that grew to 1,000 and this new semester they will have 1,500 students.

They have a great deal to offer students in the South Bergen area, including the convenient site. They also told us of the re-evaluation program they have for adults who have lost their employment. They test them and then offer them new training in several fields in which they have received training grants, so that it costs no money to that

MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

person. I asked them if it would be possible for them to come to Hasbrouck Heights to explain this program. I will be arranging for them to hold a Forum on this subject.

I believe I would like it to be done through the Library since Director Mimi Hui recently held a resume' training session and it was attended by 40 people. I will have more information on this in the next few weeks.

Sunday June 28th: I attended the final 11 a.m. service celebrated by Pastor Yodar of St. John's Lutheran Church. After which he was honored by his parishioners and friends at a luncheon held in the Community Room of the Church. The Bishop was also present.

I presented him with a Proclamation and gift card from the Mayor and Council. He told me he would miss Hasbrouck Heights very much. He has retired and moved with his wife and family to Pennsylvania.

June 24th Wednesday: 10 a.m. Attended a Police Committee Meeting with Police Chief Colaneri and Borough Administrator Michael Kronyak. A varied agenda was discussed.

7 P.M. As Police Commissioner and Mayor I spoke at and participated in the Junior Police Academy Graduation along with Chief Colaneri. This was the 10th Anniversary of the Hasbrouck Heights Police Academy and he told the graduates that Ptl. Joseph Armeli was a graduate of the Junior Police Academy and now serves as a Police Officer in Hasbrouck Heights. He spoke of the great training they had received and how they would be invited to participate in events such as The Lions Club Fireworks, Town Day and recently the Hasbrouck Heights Street Fair. Council Members Sonya Buckman, David Gonzalez and Pam Link were also in attendance.

July 2nd, Thursday, 7 p.m. attended the Lions Club Fireworks and Independence Day Celebration. Chair of the event Tom Mason had invited his former classmate Chris Christie to attend and he greets the thousands of people present as did County Clerk Kathleen Donovan and I. It was a fantastic event. I received a lot of good reviews on the 22 minute spectacular show and I pass on the thanks of our community to The Lions Club for their outstanding work.

July 4th, Saturday, 10 a.m. Attended the Mayor's Community Celebrations Committee Children's Costume Parade. It was well attended by contestants, moms, dads and grandparents. My thanks to the entire committee for their preparatory work and for volunteering their time that day.

July 6th, Monday 1 p.m.: Met with Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak on a number of matters, including coming events such as the Outdoor Mall Plans, vacation schedules, etc.

MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

7 P.M. Held the first of my Monday night Library meetings. As you know The Library is on its summer schedule so I meet with residents on Monday nights between 7 and 8 pm. I have been told by them that they are pleased with this opportunity. I give them information, and at times take their observations. That at times leads to meetings with department heads and leads to reminders of existing town rules that must be followed. Not the least of which is parking the wrong way on Borough Streets. In some instances as you heard in the Police chief's Report, Warnings are being issued and they will be followed by summonses. Newer residents come in to learn more about the community and to tell me how much they like the town.

July 7, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. I met with the Borough Clerk and Borough Administrator to discuss various matters of importance to the Borough.

10 a.m. Met with the PBA Negotiating Committee.

July 8th Wednesday: Stopped at the Summer Playground. It was Halloween in the Park Day. The Counselors under the supervision of Recreation Director Rob Brady are doing a great job and the children are busy and happy.

July 14th 8 pm Was a busy Council Meeting at which Soccer Awards were given by Council Member Sonya Buckman and Justin DiPisa and myself to the Girl Soccer Champs. We had a full house that evening.

July

16th Thursday: Attended the opening of the Sigma Alpha Mu Sorority Conference held at the Hilton Hotel and brought greetings to the attendees.

At noon that day I attended the Town's Senior Citizens Picnic held in the Senior Center. It was fantastic. Almost 200 people attended. My thanks to our Borough Clerk Ro Sees for all the work she did to make it such a great day.

Saturday, July 18th, 11 a.m. I attended the surprise announcement that the Hudson Bergen Light Rail would be extended along the Northern from North Bergen, into Ridgefield, Palisades Park, Leonia, Englewood and Tenafly. As most of you know when I was in the Assembly I chaired the Bipartisan Assembly Light Rail Panel that brought about the years of work that brought Light Rail to New Jersey. It has served Hudson County since 2000 and was to be in Bergen by 2005, the stretched to 2007 and as you know never happened. As Chair of the New Jersey Assn. of Light Rail Passengers Light Rail Committee we have been working diligently to bring the HBLRT in Bergen. We have been working on this for almost 4 years and have held hundreds of meetings. Well, Gov. Corzine came to Bergen to make the announcement. I must thank

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MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

Congressman Steve Rothman for all his help in making this happen. For me it was a very happy day.

I then had the opportunity to meet with D.O.T. Commissioner Steve Dilts and gave him an update on our disappointment in the manner in which things were progressing, or should I say not progressing. He said that he would check on the status of the environmental basin. Subsequent to that, in my packet was a letter from Engineer Snehal Patel, the Project Manager saying they could not move the Environmental Basin. I was not happy with the situation so I called the Commissioner's office this morning, Tuesday, July 28th, to tell the Commissioner, who was at meetings. I spoke to Brian Baertel, his Chief of Staff, who said he knew nothing of the letter and asked me to fax it to him. I did that and included an update from our Engineer Ken Job with his update.

The matter to proceed with my recommendation to the Council to proceed or not with litigation hinges on their response. I will report on same by the next meeting which will be on Tuesday, August 11th. At present no work is being done in that area.

July 21, Tuesday, 10 am: Attended a special meeting with Councilman Justin Di Pisa, Borough Clerk Ro Sees, Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak, Police Chief Michael Colaneri at which time Borough Attorney Ralph Chandless gave us an update on the Auto Licensing Ordinance being introduced tonight.

My meeting with the public continues on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm until September.

That concludes my report.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS: None

RESIGNATIONS: Francesca Fitzgerald from Rent Leveling Board

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

CONSENT AGENDA: None

RESOLUTIONS: 131. Recommendation of Award for State Aid Project - Boulevard Streetscape Phase I and II

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RESOLUTIONS(cont'd):

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved (copy attached).

132. Authorizing Refund of Taxes Overpaid for Block 129, Lot 1
Due to Tax Court Judgment

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved (copy attached).

133. Authorizing Refund of Taxes Overpaid for Block 175, Lot 19
Due to Tax Court Judgment

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved (copy attached).

134. Raffle License for Concerned Parents of Corpus Christi

On a motion by Councilman DiNanno, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved (copy attached).

135. Raffle License for Msgr. Robert Fitzpatrick Council 7041
K of C

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved (copy attached).

136. Authorizing Endorsement of 2009 Open Space Grant for
Woodland Park

On a motion by Councilman DiNanno, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved (copy attached).

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:**ORDINANCE NO. 2214:**

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 181 ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, LICENSING,” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS WHICH REQUIRES THE ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE FOR THE COMMERCIAL SALE OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES, WHICH SETS FORTH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR**
ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION (cont'd):

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ORDINANCE NO. 2214 (cont'd):

SUCH LICENSE AND WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A FEE FOR THE SAME” as 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 11, 2009.

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

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried,

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

Dragan Blanusa, 127 Division Avenue, questioned why the hole on Raymond Street was still not fixed, and was advised they were requested to fix it, but it is on private property. He questioned why they did not receive a ticket. He was also again asking about pedestrian safety and enforcement. He was advised that a program is presently under review that will be handled by a concerted effort to inform pedestrians and motorists alike. He was advised to meet with the Police Chief and Mayor Heck would be willing to meet with them both. Councilman DiNanno recommended putting one or two more signs out on pedestrian safety. It was agreed this conversation needed to be discussed with the Chief as the Boulevard is a County Road and requires the County's approval. Regulations and procedures need to be followed.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public portion which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 137. Litigation and Personnel

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the meeting for litigation and personnel which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck said the meeting would reopen following the Executive Session.

MEETING RE-OPENED TO PUBLIC:

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Mayor Heck asked for a motion to go back to public session at 9:44 p.m. which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

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 28, 2009.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk