

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/23/2010

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**MINUTES**

**March 23, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 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 4, 2010 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 4, 2010.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor Rose Heck, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman Councilman David Gonzalez, Councilwoman Pamela J. Link, Councilman John Dingertopadre, Councilman Russell A. Lipari

Absent: None

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

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Heck gave the Invocation which was as follows:

"I want to thank God for all the blessing he has bestowed on this town during our emergency situations, no one got hurt, all of our volunteers, our department heads were out there working very hard, our residents went through a difficult time, but they survived, and that is the most important thing and I thank God for all the good things that have come to the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights and I also want to say a special prayer for a dear friend and former councilman Byron deRussy, who passed away."

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- 1) Letter from Albert Solokins commending Wendy Spindler as Senior Citizens Bus Driver
- 2) Letter from Raymond W. Dressler, Acting Director of Bergen County Parks regarding use of Showmobile for Street Fair

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

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**PETITIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *(March 9, 2010 Regular Meeting)*

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

**BILLS:**

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$3,744,289.59 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 Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

**REPORTS:**

**POLICE:** Under Police, Commissioner DiPisa gave the following report: He commended the crossing guards, noting that he was driving during a snow storm and observed them crossing children and parents and commended them for their efforts. He asked to read their names aloud into the record, Robert Cuccio, Art Horne, Karen Carney, Paul Malin, Mike Nekriewicz, Fran Sanzo, Agnes Anderson, Donald Lucas, Peter Parrish, Marilyn Mccollum, Ed Powers, Christie Harrington, Jean Reyngoudt, Renita Goldsberrry, Vincent Varelas, Michael Gingerelli, Robert Blauvelt, Helena Brady, Gail Canavatchel, Kevin Makely, Anna Horne, Frances LaCorte and John Proto. He commended the Police Department for doing a great job, in particular thanked the new officers who have been writing the lion's share of summonses. On March 1 the department switched over to a new record management and computer ready dispatch system and new motor vehicle diagram system using a \$2,500 DOT grant. On March 2 the department participated in MVA's annual lockup to raise money for Jerry's Kids. On March 3, the Corpus Christi DARE graduation was held, he attended with Mayor Heck, Chief Colaneri, the DARE officers and a great turnout for parents. Members of the department were recertified in CPR and pepper **POLICE (cont'd):** spray. The spring firearms qualifications are scheduled for April at the

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pistol range. Carlstadt will be using the pistol range until theirs is completed, and will share in the maintenance expense. During the major storm on March 13 and 14, the department responded to approximately 50 calls ranging from wires, poles, trees down, no electricity, and 100 homeowners and 10 businesses reported damage. With the help of the HHFD 20 families were evacuated to seek shelter. Chief Colaneri thanked other department heads, that when Hasbrouck Heights has tough times, every department pulls together, noting that Lt. Tom Tozzi helped to get the ambulance out. For February parking violations, 110 for a total of 323, no parking from 2 am to 6 am, 195, careless driving 13, accident DWI 5, abandoned 911 calls 109, ambulance requests 125, ambulance w/paramedics 38, animal complaints 19, assisting other agencies 43, boro ordinance violations 16, burglar alarms commercial 42, residential 65, cell phone 911 187, disabled vehicles 32, family disputes 15, fire alarms 27, general 57, general disputes 21, harassment 5, juvenile delinquency 17, motor vehicle lockouts 20, residences 6, noise complaints 21, suspicious incidents 24, suspicious persons 14, suspicious vehicles 14, traffic accidents on county roads 24, traffic accidents on boro roads 9, traffic accidents on state road 19, traffic enforcement 86, traffic related services 29, adult arrests 9.

**RECREATION & PARKS:** Under Recreation, Commissioner Buckman reported the Recreation Center continues to be open on Friday and Saturday evenings. To find out if it is open, call 201-288-4143 and hit the #4 key. Recreation Traveling Basketball had a successful winter season with Coach Pikowski's team losing in the South Bergen tournament semi-final round and Coach Partyka's team of 5th-6th grade girls making it to the South Bergen League Championship game losing to a very good East Rutherford team. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish is the best any girls team has done in the very competitive South Bergen League. The Recreation Wrestling Team completed the District Tournament, State Qualifier Tournament, the NJ State Championship and will be wrestling the snow-delayed regional championship this weekend in Paramus. Many wrestlers placed in the top three in this championships, with Sean O'Malley winning the NJ State championship in his weight class last weekend. The Awards Dinner will be held on April 13 at the Graycliff. All Recreation wrestlers and coaches are invited guests of the Recreation Department. Recreation Softball has over 10 girls registered, split up by grades and play in a traveling recreation league. They have already attended four hitting clinics at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck. There are three teams in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> grade division, three teams in the 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> grade division and two teams in the 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> grade division. Each team will have the option to send their pitchers and catchers to a three-part clinic at FDU in Teaneck with the Recreation Department providing the transportation. The competition schedule begins April 12 and all home games are played at Hitchcock Field. Summer Camp registration will be held April 6 and April 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Recreation office. The camp is open to all Hasbrouck Heights boys and girls six years old (before June 25, 2010) through 14 years old. The camp will be held at Woodland Park with 4 new trips scheduled. The Track and Field team has over 90 boys and girls in the program and will be competing in the NJ Striders Youth Track Series on Sunday afternoons. The team is coached by Anthony Pomo, a NCAA Division 1 All American track athlete at the **RECREATION AND PARKS (cont'd):** University of Connecticut, Chris Guerrio, a Division 3 All American track athlete

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from the College of New Jersey, and Kaitlin Gianni, a former Hasbrouck Heights All League track athlete who now attends Montclair University. Under Parks, Commissioner Buckman reported that on March 3, William Spindler and a representative from the US Wildlife Bureau inspected all parks within the Borough for geese that might inhabit the area. Results of that inspection found that no geese have inhabited Borough parks. Superintendent Spindler then toured the Board of Education properties with the representative. Results of that inspection found geese on Hitchcock Field located behind High School. The geese had not been nesting at that location but were feeding there. Spindler notified Joseph Luongo (Superintendent of School) of their findings and advised him of methods for geese control according to US Wildlife standards. A presentation given by the US Wildlife Bureau on geese control was sponsored by Mr. Luongo at the High School. It was open to Bergen County School Superintendents and DPW Superintendents. During our most recent storm two trees had fallen in Woodland Park and one 60 foot pine tree fell at Polifly Park. The DPW has removed them and will clean-up all the debris after responding to other areas throughout town. As Council Library Liaison, she reported the Library was a victim of the storms closing early on February 25 and was closed February 26 due to snow. On March 13 the entire BCCLS network shut down to a loss of power in Hackensack, with all 75 libraries having no Internet access through the BCCLS, no circulation operations and no communication with one another. During the wind storm the Library was a warming center for those without power. It continues to be a haven for the economy and problems people are having with an increase overall of 7% in circulation in February compared to last year, adult circulation is up 21% over 2009, juvenile circulation up 10%, young adult 31% and media up 13%. There were 47 new patrons registered and overall total to date 7,485 card holders. On March 9 the Barnum and Bailey Circus visited with 245 registered to attend. Mayor Heck gave a key to the Borough to the ringmaster and the Library dedicated two children's books in his honor. April 11-17 is National Library Week, and in honor of this, the library is offering its patrons amnesty in overdue materials during that week. Beginning May 1 the traditional 10 cent fine for overdue books will increase to 25 cents.

**FIRE:** Under Fire, Commissioner Gonzalez read the following activity report submitted by EMS Coordinator Elizabeth Waring: February 15 through March 15 there were 33 fire calls, 23 non-emergency calls and 136 EMS calls. He continued that on March 2, a meeting was held in Moonachie with the Port Authority of NY/NJ, including himself, Mayor Heck, Fire Chief Joseph Taylor, 1st Assistant Chief Richard Giarratana and Fire Dept. Liaison Thomas Meli. The purpose of the meeting was to keep ongoing communication between the Port Authority and the Borough. On March 9, the first Fire Committee meeting was held involving himself, Mayor Heck, Chief Taylor, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Giarratana and Michael Kronyak. The purpose of this meeting was improving communications with the Mayor and Fire Chiefs regarding the needs of the Fire Department. A meeting is scheduled later this month of the Fire and Police Committees to keep communications open there as well. Commissioner Gonzalez acknowledged and commended the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Pat Hayes for their outstanding performance

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**FIRE (cont'd):** responding to all emergencies on March 13 and 14 due to one of the worst storms to hit our area. Many residents and businesses lost power or had trees, telephone poles and power lines caused damage to many homes in town. 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Hayes had a tree destroy his garage and personal vehicle, and yet he responded to every call in town. He was on the scene at the Hilton which almost required evacuation and Madison Avenue, with a resident there requiring shelter until a family member arrived, and other families were brought to the Public Safety Building. While on Madison Avenue a telephone pole snapped and a tree went down, causing a frightening noise and requiring quick movement.

**FINANCE & PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Under Finance, Commissioner Link reported the Current Fund cash balance at February 28, 2010 was \$4,591,717.53 and at January 31, 2010 was \$2,465,785.82 which represents an increase of \$2,125,931.71. The entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.70%. Cash receipts for February totaled \$6,595,281.09 of which \$6,380,537.75 was for Current Taxes, \$21,506.20 was for Delinquent Taxes and \$193,237.14 was Miscellaneous Revenues. Cash disbursements for February totaled \$4,469,349.38 of which \$2,030,423.92 was for Local School Taxes, \$942,261.31 was for County Taxes, \$607,852.72 was for Salaries and \$888,811.43 was for Other Expenses. The Borough will be taking bids on a Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$3,640,150.00, on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The note represents short term debt and we are anticipating a very favorable rate. A report of the note sale will be given at the next meeting of the Mayor and Council. The date for introduction of the 2010 budget which was previously extended from February 10<sup>th</sup> until March 31<sup>st</sup> in order to accommodate the planned March 16<sup>th</sup> presentation of the Governor's budget has been further extended to the next meeting immediately following March 31<sup>st</sup>. In our case that means the introduction of the budget will be at the April 13, 2010 meeting. The Finance Committee continues to work on the 2010 Municipal Budget with regularly scheduled meetings every Tuesday in the Municipal Building. The committee had been prepared to present a budget to the entire Council which called for a modest 1.8% increase in spending and was under both the Budget and Levy "CAPS" imposed by the State. But as we are all aware, last Thursday we received word that formula state aid to the Borough would be reduced by \$278,447.00. The finance committee had to get back to work in an effort to plug the almost \$280,000.00 gap that had just been created. The change in state aid also changed the 4% Levy Cap that the spending plan must be within. All of the cap calculations were prepared and as of the finance committee meeting this morning approximately 75% of the gap had been filled. The goal is to formulate a budget that does not exceed the new limits and does not sacrifice the safety and welfare of our residents, all while preserving as many of the services we provide as possible. Not an easy task. Approximately 12 line items were reduced amounting to approximately \$135,000.00 and a revenue for Cable T.V. Franchise Fees was increased by \$28,415.00. These combined equate to approximately \$163,415.00. 45 line items in the budget have currently been frozen at 2009 levels and we will be looking at those and others to make up the difference needed to get under the 4% levy cap. The recent **FINANCE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**

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**(cont'd):** storm once again brought out the best in all borough departments. The DPW, Fire and Police departments worked tirelessly during the storm and the week that followed. The Borough Administrator wishes to express his appreciation to all of them and congratulate them on a job well done. He is currently working with all department heads on compiling information for FEMA in the hopes of recouping costs related to the storm. These would include overtime, vehicle use and debris removal. A complete estimate of costs is not available at this time but will be reported in the near future. Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Link reported some damage occurred at the Public Safety Building as a result of the severe winds during storm. The front door at Police Headquarters was blown open that damaged the opening mechanism. Also the ceiling tiles were blown out of their grinds in the lobby. The DPW responded and is repairing the area. New heaters were installed at two locations at the DPW facility, one in the Butler Building which houses the Tree Truck and sewer Jet-Vac truck and the other in the garage that houses the salt spreaders. The schedule of meetings was as follows: Community Room – 27; Caucus Room – 6; Council Chambers – 5; Senior Center – 3 (not including senior activities)

**STREETS, SANITATION & TRANSPORTATION:** Commissioner Dingertopadre reported Hopefully the last snow storm of the season came on February 25, which dropped 22-inches of snow on the Borough. The DPW plowed our streets for 30 hours and then performed snow removal at the schools, churches, and the Boulevard Business District. DPW Superintendent Spindler billed Bergen County for snow plowing of County roads within the Borough for the last three (3) snow storms for a total of \$9,530.00. Severe winds and rain on Saturday, March 13 caused 24 trees to fall throughout the Borough. The DPW was out in full force during and after the storm event. All 24 trees, some which fell on homes and blocked streets, were taken down and cleared from the roadways. Clean-up continues through the town. DPW Superintendent William Spindler, DPW Assistant Superintendent James Schneider, Chief of Police Michael Colaneri, Borough Administrator Michael Kronyak all worked together in pushing PSEG to respond to power outages. Commissioner Dingertopadre inspected the 200 Block of Madison Avenue on Thursday evening, March 18, and commended the DPW Tree Crew for all their hard work.

**HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & LAND USE:** Under Land Use, Commissioner Lipari reported the Zoning Officer responded to several zoning violations which are in the process of being investigated at this time. He reminded residents that a business should be approved prior to signing the lease for rental space. In response to resident notification the Building Inspector is also investigating work being done without permits. He commended residents for their vigilance as we are not always aware of work that occurs over the weekend or in the evening. The Building Inspector has been in touch with the contractor who will be demolishing the house that burned on Washington Place and that permit should be issued within the week. Homeowners were reminded if there is a question about the necessity of obtaining a permit to call 201-288-4143, as contractors do not always know. For the month of February the Building Department

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**HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND LAND USE (cont'd):** issued \$10,843 in permits. The sub code inspectors performed 125 inspections with 107 passing and 12 not ready. Contractors and homeowners were advised to not call unless they are ready. The Property Maintenance Inspector performed 42 inspections with four warning issued and six summons issued. Under Social Services he read a report prepared by Rob Brady which was as follows: during the month of March the pantry helped over 68 residents in need. He thanked the generous volunteers who help stock and supervise the food pantry on Monday mornings between 9 and 11 a.m. and the following donors: First Reformed Church, Karen McDowell, Pat Thomasey, Connie Margagliano, Woman's Club of HH, Mary and Lita, Ed La Forge, Karla King, Sondy Ungert, Corpus Christi Church, Paul Fitzpatrick and a special thank you to Cub Scout Pack 17 and Boy Scout Troop 17 for organizing a local food drive and dropping off over 60 bags of food and toiletries. Items needed include canned fruit, juices, paper products, soaps and cleaning products, shampoo, toiletries, jelly, coffee, tea, powdered milk and snacks. Please call Recreation Dept. (201-288-4143) or Borough Clerk (201-288-0195) if you have any questions.

Under Health, Commissioner Lipari read a report from Lori French that due to the Storm over the weekend, the Health Dept was called in to notify food establishments of possible closure due to the lack of water pressure. Without adequate water pressure dishes, pots and utensils could not properly be washed along with the use of public bathrooms. On March 14, United Water issued a "Boil Water Advisory" to various towns included Hasbrouck Heights. This was only a precautionary measure. Customers were advised to boil their water for one minute for the following: drinking, cooking, making ice cubes, taking medication, brushing teeth, washing food, feeding pets and all other consumption. Water did not have to be boiled for showering, washing dishes or cloths. United Water lifted this advisory on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 pm.

**Dog Licenses:** During the month of January & February, the Health Department licensed over 860 dogs. Reminder letters were forwarded the second week in February. The Hasbrouck Heights Police Dept. is currently advising residents who have not complied a summons will be issued by the end of March. Teterboro Animal Shelter will be giving free Rabies vaccinations on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup>, and May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**AARP Safe Driving Course:** The Health Dept. along with H.A.R.P. has scheduled the second annual AARP Safe Driver Course to be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and May 13<sup>th</sup> in the Borough Hall. This refresher course teaches safe driving strategies and defensive driving techniques and will be open to all ages. Completion of the course, which is renewable every three years, will allow a two point reduction from your driver's license and a five percent deduction on car insurance. The cost is \$12.00 for AARP members and \$14.00 for non-members.

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**HEALTH (cont'd): Removal of feces required:** The Health Department is receiving numerous complaints about violations to the "Pooper Scooper" Law throughout Hasbrouck Heights. During the March 10<sup>th</sup>, Board of Health meeting, Councilman Lipari reminded all dog owners of "Chapter 124-4; "Removal of feces required" and further explained no person shall walk a dog on any public street and private premise other than property owned by the owner of the dog, unless the dog owner at all times carry the proper scoop and container to immediately remove any and all feces deposited by such dog. Violation to any provision of this article shall be subject, upon conviction to one or more of the following: a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00, imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a period of community service not exceeding 90 days, at the discretion of the Municipal Judge.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Heck reported as follows:

**Feb 24th:** As Chair I attended the Southwest Community Development Grants Committee with Michael Kronyak to vote on grant applications. Awards were made including one for \$81,000 for Hasbrouck Heights eligible grant for Collins Avenue paving. It now heads to the Freeholder Board for approval and then on to the Federal HUD Committee for their approval.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

Met with Finance Committee and Police Chief

**4 pm:** Attended a meeting along with the Mayor's Liaison to the Fire Dept. Tom Meli with the Port Authority Representatives called by Fire Commissioner David Gonzalez. Councilman Gonzalez and I again thanked the Port Authority for their \$80,000 contribution to Hasbrouck Heights that was helping the Borough to purchase the new Ambulance that we expect to be delivered in May. We also said we would like to invite them when it arrives and that might possibly be during our Annual May Fire Inspection. Fire Chief Joe Taylor and 1<sup>st</sup> Asst Fire Chief Richard Giarratana made that formal request and then went on to discuss various plans to work jointly with the Port Authority Fire officials on several safety projects.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>:** 7 pm I attended the DARE Graduation with Police Commissioner Justin DiPisa and Police Chief Colaneri. Police Lt. Sean Mullins was thanked for all of his work with the children. I congratulated the children on behalf of the Council and told them how proud we were of their work. They performed a number of skits for us. The parents and teachers were also recognized by Chief Colaneri for their support of their children in this effort since it is definitely all of us united in keeping them safe and ready for the world in which they are growing up.

Spoke with DPW Supt. Bill Spindler who was already out there getting his Spring Tree Planting Program in operation.



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**MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** 9 am: I attended the Research Committee Meeting along with Councilwoman Pam Link and Councilman Russell Lipari, Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak and Committee Members Bill Foley, and Steve Pikowski and Mark Nazzaro who was appointed at our March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilman Lipari discussed the PSE&G interest in participating in our Street Fair by bringing cost saving light bulbs and information that could lead to other cost savings. He will also meet with Councilman Gonzalez who is the Liaison to the Environmental and Transportation Commission and turn over the material he has thus far accumulated.

He and I also discussed the meetings he and I had attended to try to encourage the use of Solar Panels for the Borough's School Buildings. Councilman Lipari introduced several ideas the he and I both believed could be beneficial to the Schools.

10 am I arrived at The Library a little late but was pleased that no residents had yet arrived to meet with me. I was pleased to have met with several residents that day.

**March 9<sup>th</sup>**, Attended the 7:30 am Breakfast Meeting with the Bergen County League of Mayors. Frank Luna, Regional Director for Governor Chris Christie spoke of the Governor's plans and the Budget Address in general terms and told us many changes were in the works and it would be best for us as Mayors to wait for that Budget news since the debt in the State was in such a bad state of affairs that some dramatic cuts would be coming to the Municipalities and the Counties in addition to those that had already appeared in the newspapers pertaining to the Schools.

**9:30 am**. Met with Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak and DPW Supt. Bill Spindler to go on a tour of the most northern section of Hasbrouck Avenue. The road is in need of repairs and it was ascertained by our site visit that much of the problem there appears to have been done by a combination of Utilities people having dug up that street in a number of areas and in my opinion led to the cracking and damage done to the street. Our Borough Engineer had been there earlier in the day. We spoke with the resident who visited me on Saturday to again point out that the patch work that had been done, did not resolve the street situation. It is now being looked at as possibly being one of the streets that have to be on our list this year.

**11 am** Met with Police Chief Colaneri, Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak and I discussed a number of Police matters. This was followed by the Finance Committee meeting where Mr. Kronyak and the group began to look at final numbers prior to the introduction of the budget. Of course most of that work had to be revisited as shown in the report given by Finance Commissioner Pam Link.

**4 pm** Attended the special Library Ringling Bros. Circus event with Director Mimi Hui, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman, Library Board Members and Friends of the Library who supplied the refreshments that included freshly made pop corn with the machine

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**MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):** maker they had recently purchased. Hundreds of children enjoyed the clowns and the Ringmaster who asked what they would like to be when they grew up. Answers included being the Ringmaster and a clown and then one child answered he wanted to grow up to be an elephant. It brought much laughter. On behalf of the Borough I gave Ringmaster Jonathon Lee Iverson a Key to the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights. He was happily surprised.

Special thanks to Mimi Hui, her Library staff and everyone involved in this very wonderful afternoon event.

**6:30 pm** Special Fire Committee meeting attended by me, Fire Commissioner Dave Gonzalez, Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak, Chief Joe Taylor and 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Richard Giarrantana. An in depth discussion was held in reference to Fire Dept. procedures, purchasing and personnel. It was a very worthwhile meeting and several reports will be forthcoming in due course. A joint Fire and Police Committee meeting was set up for March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**8 pm. Attended the Council Meeting**

**March. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm** Attended the meeting held by Senator Robert Gordon to introduce the new Transportation Commissioner Jim Simpson to the Mayors and Councilmen of District 38. Each of the mayors brought up matters of interest to the people of their towns. I asked for permission to enter the D.O.T. properties for our Spring and Fall Anti Litter Campaigns. I advised the Commissioner that Hasbrouck Heights had been cleaning and filling potholes on the entrances and exits to Route 46 for years since they are never done. He proceeded to tell me that we should stop and he will make sure the D.O.T does the necessary work including the litter problems on their properties. I do believe he is not yet aware of how few people he has to do this type of work. I had prior to the public portion of the meeting set up the date of April 14<sup>th</sup> to meet with him privately in his Newark office.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** Met with Chief Colaneri, DPW Supt. Bill Spindler and Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak to do an assessment of the damages and work yet to be done. I asked Mr. Kronyak to contact PSE&G and ask them to come to our April meeting because of communication problems during the past hurricane-like storm. Too many of our people had problems and it is our intention to make certain that we let PSE& G know we were not pleased. They will send representatives to our April meeting.

**March 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 am.** We met with the D.O.T. Transportation, Landscaping and Community Outreach groups. Representing the Borough were Mike Kronyak, Chief Colaneri, DPW Supt. Bill Spindler, Borough Engineer Ken Job and me.

**MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):** A detailed description of the 8 foot fence to enclose the now open Environmental Pond, along with the appropriate flowering grasses and trees

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on the inside and bushes on the outside were discussed. Arrangements were also made for the D.O.T. to pay for the fencing and plantings adjacent to the back of Depken Field and Route 17 South. Chief Colaneri asked if it go along the entire back to include the Board of Education properties so it would be aesthetically more attractive and have continuity. They said they would check their budget and get back to us. Also discussed were the placement of highway lines that are now confusing the drivers; signage and arrows to show the end of a lane that turns into an exit, etc. Traffic light replacements for Route 17 will have signs designating the name of the Street for example Franklin Avenue street sign attached to the traffic light, etc. Numerous matters were discussed including hash marks and crosswalks for Franklin and Field Avenues; No blocking the street warnings to allow residents access in and out of their neighborhood. It was a very detailed meeting followed by a number of the above visiting the site with our Borough Engineer and Bill Spindler.

**11:30 am.** Finance Committee Meeting was held. Budget details again being reviewed.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>,** I Attended a meeting along with Mike Kronyak, Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees, Recreation and Senior Citizens Director Rob Brady with Cliffhangar Productions to coordinate sponsors names and their commitments. We are still awaiting a number of responses to reach our goal. We now have commitments of over \$25,000.

**11:30 am.** Finance Committee meeting was attended by Fire Commissioner Pam Link Deputy Fire Commissioner Justin DiPisa, Borough Finance Officer Mike Kronyak and me to go over the new information that has impacted our budget; especially the loss of state aid in the sum of more than \$278,000.00. A detailed report was given by Councilman Link. My thanks to Mike Kronyak for working this past weekend on those numbers and to all departments for getting as much information to us as possible. My Very Special Thanks to all departments for their outstanding work during this past horrific storm. It started late Friday night and just continued throughout the weekend. Our Thanks go to DPW Supt. Bill Spindler, Asst. Supt. Jim Schneider, and their men who worked over 36 hours straight to insure safe streets; Our thanks to Chief Michael Colaneri and his men for all of their work trying to ease the concerns of many people who called in for help, taking care of traffic problems due to fallen trees and downed wires and with lights out, extra patrolling of our streets was done to insure safety to our residents and the opening of the Public Safety Building for emergency housing; Our thanks to Fire Department and Ambulance Corps. They were out there during the storm helping wherever they were needed and last but not least our very outstanding Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak who was out there doing what he does best making the calls to PSE& G, the Utility Companies, taking care of the residents who needed help whether they were in single family residences or apartments left without electricity and heat. Our Police Chief, Borough Administrator and DPW Superintendent drove around all week checking and stopping PSE&G trucks trying to get as much help to our people as possible. Our thanks to all the residents for their words of thanks Mto **MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):** our various departments for all they did during this storm and the snowstorm we had just prior to this horrible rain and wind storm. It was

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frightening, but all these people were out there doing their best to help. I lost power for only 7 hours, so I felt lucky. Mike Kronyak and Chief Colaneri who is also head of our Emergency Management kept in touch with me, kept me informed and certainly as Mayor I gave them my full support. Thank you to all of our Department Heads and to everyone who works for the Borough for your outstanding commitment to our residents and our town. That concludes my report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTIONS:** 63. Authorizing Promotion of Joseph Armeli from Probationary Police Officer to Regular Patrolman

**APPOINTMENTS:** Joseph Armeli from Probationary Police Officer to Regular Patrolman

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution and Appointment were approved.

**RESIGNATIONS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**RESOLUTIONS:** 59. Certifying Submission of Expenditure of Taxes Paid Pursuant to P.L.2007, Chapter 311

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Lipari, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved

60. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien #2009-0007 for Block 40, Lot 1

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

61. 2009 Appropriation Reserve Transfers

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

62. Authorizing Grant Agreement with the County of Bergen for 2010 Open Space Trust Funds for Improvements to Depken Field Complex

**RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):**

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

64. Authorizing Grant Agreement with the County of Bergen for ADA Improvements on Terrace Avenue and the Boulevard

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

65. Raffle License for Corpus Christi Church

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

**ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2231:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO STABILIZE AND REGULATE RENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO ESTABLISH A RENT BOARD, WHICH ORDINANCE IS TO BE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “2010 RENT LEVELING ORDINANCE”** 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 April 13, 2010.

On a motion by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilwoman Buckman, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Introduction was approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2232:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN FENCING, SIDEWALKS AND LANDSCAPING AT THE GARY DEPKEN ATHLETIC FIELD IN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO APPROPRIATE THE TOTAL SUM OF \$75,000.00 THEREFOR, BEING A GRANT FROM THE BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE FUND, THE REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS FOR WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FROM HITHERTO ADOPTED ORDINANCE NOS. 2146 AND 2147”** as introduced this date be and the same is hereby passed on first reading and the Borough Clerk be directed

**ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION (cont'd):**

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/23/2010

to advertise notice of public hearing on said Ordinance to be held at the regular meeting of the Borough Council on April 13, 2010.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2233:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$100,000.00 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUED REHABILITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AS REQUIRED BY THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND FURTHER TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCING OF THE COST THEREOF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL BOND LAW BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF \$85,000.00”** 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 April 13, 2010.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2234:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CURB AND SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION ALONG CERTAIN PORTIONS OF TERRACE AVENUE AND THE BOULEVARD AS PART OF THE BERGEN COUNTY ROAD PROGRAM, TO APPROPRIATE THE TOTAL SUM OF \$100,000.00 THEREFOR OF WHICH \$90,000.00 BEING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, BUREAU OF LOCAL AID FUNDS, GRANTED THROUGH THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND THE REMAINING \$10,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND”** 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 April 13, 2010.

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

**ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:**

## Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/23/2010

**ORDINANCE NO. 2228:**

Mayor Heck asked for a motion open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2228 which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

Chris Semenech, 415 Jefferson Avenue, agreed with a civilian in the Police Department, had a problem with why longevity pay was included in this ordinance. Mr. Kronyak said this employee will not get longevity as it is after the date, but this clause was in keeping with the standard format of the salary ordinance. In looking further, this question related to Ordinance No. 2230 that creates the salary and asked Mr. Semenech to hold his questioning until the public hearing on that ordinance. This ordinance creates the position.

John Kroncke, Columbus Avenue, could not understand why there would be a Civilian on the Boulevard when the Police Department could take care of it. He asked for an explanation. He recalled that when he was a member of the Police Department a Civilian could sign a complaint, but not a summons under Title 39. He asked if that changed. He did not consider this a full time job. Police Chief Colaneri said they are allowed to sign summonses, as a parking enforcement officer. He asked what other duties, and was told church post, help out at Court, crossing people, public relations, littering enforcement. He questioned if there would be a PBA problem with regard to the church post. He questioned if a dispatcher could stay on the desk by himself. It was said he would be trained. Mayor Heck said this man would be taken from the top 11 who took the police test, that the Police Academy is not until August and graduation January 2011. It would take a year. This would help to get through until the next Academy date, and with some retirements in the near future.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2228 which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 55 ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSITION OF CIVILIAN PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/DISPATCHER:“** 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 Link, with Councilman DiPisa, Councilwoman Link, Councilman Lipari and Mayor Heck voting

**ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING (cont'd):**

## Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/23/2010

Yes, and Councilwoman Buckman, Councilman Gonzalez and Councilman Dingertopadre voting No, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2229:**

Mayor Heck asked for a motion open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2229 which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Lipari, and unanimously carried.

Christian Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, heard the Finance Report and saw no reason to elevate the CAP, that we were below \$280,000. Mr. Kronyak explained there was an appropriation CAP which establishes 0 increase in appropriations within limits of the budget or by ordinance to increase to 3.5 percent, we are not near it but there is no harm in doing it.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2229 which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa and unanimously carried.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) CALENDAR YEAR 2010”** 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 Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2230:**

Mayor Heck asked for a motion open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2230 which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

Christian Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, questioned why the longevity clause was included. Mr. Kronyak noted language was included to follow the salary ordinance, and did not include new employees. Mr. Chandless said that paragraph could be stricken on a motion. Mayor Heck asked for a motion to remove those paragraphs not necessary, which Mr. Chandless did, and amend the ordinance which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link with Councilman DiPisa,

**ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING (cont'd):**



Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/23/2010

Councilwoman Link, Councilman Lipari and Mayor Heck voting Yes, Councilwoman Buckman, Councilman Gonzalez and Councilman Dingertopadre voting No, the motion to amend was approved.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2230 which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

**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 2010”** 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 Link, with Councilman DiPisa, Councilwoman Link, Councilman Lipari and Mayor Heck voting Yes, and Councilwoman Buckman, Councilman Gonzalez and Councilman Dingertopadre voting No, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

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

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

Christian Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, was upset to learn that this position was already filled. Mayor Heck said there was a recommendation from Chief Colaneri to use the list of those tested for the Police Academy. He was glad to hear they were meeting with PSEG as he could not believe what had happened this week. He was saddened by the loss of Byron deRussy, who was an important part of the community.

Councilman Gonzalez said many of the houses were restored power by replacing a simple fuse which he found unacceptable.

Mark Nazzaro, 143 Oldfield Avenue, questioned the open space grants for Depken Field and who owned the field. Mr. Kronyak said it is BOE property, that this was a joint project of the field which was funded by the sale of municipal assets, Open Space money and Community Development grant money. He continued that \$75,000 was applied for in 2007, and was not enough to use for the specific project applied for, and

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):**

## Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/23/2010

Community Development was petitioned to allow this money to be used for improvements such as trees, fencing and walkways. This was not the same as Green Acres money, it is an Open Space Tax used for municipal and county wide programs. He asked if the environmental basin was working properly, and was told it was.

Councilman DiPisa stated as Police Commissioner about "this new, un-new position of Civilian Parking Enforcement, Dispatcher" that he believed in it, that it was a test of the position and the person and valuable. If in a year from now, it is found it does not work for the good of the Borough, it does not need to be filled.

Mayor Heck said there were civilian dispatchers in the past who moved on to become police officers. She had every faith in this and that it would benefit as a feeder to the Police Department, especially now. Within the next few years there would be five eligible for retirement, two right now, Lt. Archer and Lt. Mullins.

Councilman Gonzalez, in rebuttal said that if we were in a normal economy, he would agree to pursue a new venture to expand presence on the Boulevard, but with \$278,000 lost in aid, this wasn't the right time. The amount should be put aside to give to police academy recruits, that it is cheaper to pay overtime.

Mayor Heck said we can have our debates, but we cannot debate the safety of the residents, it is not just a question of money, this Borough has been cost efficient for decades and will continue to do so, it is not being frivolous. This did work in the past twice. The money for this position is there.

Councilwoman Buckman asked why the dispatchers weren't replaced back when, and was told there were 32 police officers and not needed. She agreed with Councilman Gonzalez that it was not the place or time right now.

Mayor Heck said Mr. Kronyak would advise the governing body if it were not a good time financially.

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

**RESOLUTION TO CLOSE:** 66. Litigation and Personnel

On a motion by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Lipari, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution to Close was approved.

**MOTION TO RE-OPEN AND ADJOURN:**

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/23/2010

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez 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 March 23, 2010.

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Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk