

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights – 4/24/2012

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

April 24, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 8:05 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Acting Borough Clerk Michael Kronyak 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 3, 2012 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 3, 2012.

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

Absent: Councilman Justin A. DiPisa

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

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Buckman gave the Invocation as follows:

“Serenity Prayer. God grant us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other, living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did, the sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen.”

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Letter to Mayor and Council from Robert F. Layton, Tax Administrator, B.C. Board of Taxation regarding Tax Ratio
- 2) Letter to Town Clerk from Melissa Eichholz of Prospect Transportation advising of Fundraising Walk-a-thon “Walk with Chuck” on Sunday, May 20, 2012 which will pass through Hasbrouck Heights

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

- 3) Letter to Mayor Heck from Michael Russo, Director, Div. of Local Aid and Economic Development, that NJ DOT Fiscal Year 2012 Municipal Aid Program is unable to provide a Municipal Aid Grant for Division Avenue
- 4) NJ DEP Updates Recreational Fish Consumption Advisories
- 5) Invitation to Water Quality Informational Program to municipalities in the watersheds of lower Hackensack and Passaic Rivers and all municipalities with combined sewer overflows
- 6) Request from Amanda Kistner, Co-chair of Relay for Life Hasbrouck Heights to Permit "Paint the Town Purple" Day on May 5, 2012.

Mayor Heck asked if anyone wished to have any item read into the record. Item #6 was requested to be read (copy attached). Mayor Heck asked for a motion to approve the request for "Paint the Town Purple" Day on May 5, 2012 which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to approve the correspondence which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck recognized Lillian Romano who was present as chairperson for Relay for Life which will take place on June 2 and 3, 2012 and invited the Mayor and Council to take part in the event, thanking them for their cooperation and Chief Colaneri's in the past. She gave each an invitation and the schedule for that evening to each councilperson. Mayor Heck commended her on a very successful event last year. Ms. Romano continued, speaking on the Survivor Walk and invited anyone with family member survivors to take part. She invited Mayor Heck to be guest speaker at the Opening Ceremonies and any other councilperson who would like to participate.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$182,674.43 specified in the **BILLS (cont'd):**

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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 Pamela J. Link
Commissioner of Finance

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

REPORTS:

POLICE: Under Police, Deputy Commissioner Gonzalez gave the following report as submitted by Police Chief Colaneri: Electronic tickets known as E-tickets was installed in patrol cars and a portable unit was received for the Parking Enforcement officer. This system will save time for officers on motor vehicle stops which enters information directly into the court system saving time for court personnel. The registration information is taken from DMV, eliminating errors and a higher fine collection rate. The Corpus Christi DARE graduation was held with Mayor Heck, Msgr. Lewis Papera, Chief Colaneri addressing the graduates and their families and friends. Police Commissioner DiPisa, Councilwoman Link and Councilman Lipari were in attendance. Sgt. Rinke was thanked for a job well done with the children. DARE Night at Space Odyssey was held with 180 children attending. Chief Colaneri, Sgt. Rinke and Capt. DeLorenzo were chaperones. Chief Colaneri read to first graders at Lincoln School, the Red Cross certified three shelters for their national DATA base. They are the Public Safety Building, Borough Hall and the High School. Year to date parking and moving violations are at 1,063, whereas last year was 1,537. He briefly read from a letter written by a borough resident, commending Officer Kest and Officer Cook for immediate response for a resident who required emergency assistance.

RECREATION: Under Recreation, Commissioner Buckman as submitted by Recreation Director Robert Brady reported the Spring events include Summer camp trip registration on May 17 from 7-9 p.m. The Recreation Center is open on most Friday nights from 7-10 p.m. for all boys and girls 6-8th grades. It will be closing for the summer beginning June 8. Congratulations were extended to Coach Partyka's 8th grade traveling basketball team for winning the South Bergen League championship, the first Recreation team to win. She congratulated the wrestlers who placed in the New Jersey

RECREATION (cont'd):

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Wrestling championship, Sean O'Malley, 1st Place, Mickey O'Malley, 4th Place and Jason DalCortivo, 7th Place. Recreation Track and Field is underway. Recreation Softball is underway with eight teams playing in the South Bergen Softball League. The Recreation will also be hosting a UGals team in the summer. Adult volleyball and basketball programs will continue during the summer months. Senior programs are ongoing. As Library liaison, she reported the Library circulated 10,719 items last month with total circulation of materials to date shows a 3% decrease compared to last year's figures. Total circulation 29,439 versus 29,410 from last year. 44 new patrons were registered, with total to date of 5,545 card holders. Upcoming events include "Neighbors helping Neighbors Job Search Support Group," on Monday afternoons from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tai Chi classes 3rd Monday of each month at 7-8:30 p.m. Interior color basic and redesign, Tuesday, May 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Rave On – the music of Buddy Holly on Saturday, June 16 from 2-3:30 p.m. The Library Book and Bake Sale is Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3.

FIRE: Under Fire, Commissioner Gonzalez reported activity report submitted by EMS Coordinator Liz Waring: March 15-April 15 – 41 fire calls, 11 non-emergency calls and 139 EMS calls. The Annual Inspection will be held May 12 at 7 p.m. He gave a brief report on activity reported by Chief Giarratana: the following incidents occurred on the same day -- a house fire on Division Avenue with mutual aid response. The homeowner was home and called very quickly, a fully enflamed car fire on Williams Avenue, a brush fire at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton, with mutual aid called in as well. The HH Fire Department went on a mutual aid call in Carlstadt where 200 acres caught fire. The new Chief's truck has arrived and lettering will be installed.

STREETS & SANITATION: Under Streets & Sanitation, Commissioner Gonzalez reported the Department of Public Works has planted 50 trees as part of the Tree Replacement Program. Instructions were given to residents to help with the watering of the newly planted trees in the public right-of-way. Due to the October snow storm which damaged a tremendous amount of trees that had full foliage on them, the DPW Tree Crew has removed 108 trees, grinded out 100 tree stumps, and removed 160 hanging broken branches. The list is still on going for many of the other tree issues which include general trimming, evaluations from outside tree services where we lack equipment, and utility company removal from high voltage power lines. These issues did not include the Borough's trees in our parks. This DPW has removed 1,080 cubic yards, which equates to 36 truck loads at 30 cubic yards each, of tree and/or tree parts from Woodland Park that took a big hit from the storm. Although the mild weather enabled the DPW to focus on many tree issues, the storm put a burden on the regular maintenance of the Borough's tree canopy. At the request of DPW, Bergen County Roads Department addressed the potholes on the entire length of the Boulevard which is a county road. Also, our DPW Department used several tons of asphalt this past month. A continuous list remains.

STREETS AND SANITATIONS (cont'd):

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As part of a shared service agreement between Hasbrouck Heights and Teterboro Airport and Port Authority, the DPW transported the goose sweeper to Hitchcock Field at the request of the Board of Education to sweep and remove goose feces on the field. The Board of Education staff was trained on the how to operate the sweeper and they completed the task.

Letters were sent to NJDOT advising them of falling concrete from the Rt. 46 overpasses that are located across the Boulevard and Terrace Avenue and a list of DOT properties within the borough that are also in need of clean-up.

The Hasbrouck Heights Clean Communities Alliance in conjunction with New Jersey Clean Community Council sponsored a “Litter Free” event on Saturday, April 14. Over 100 student athletes from the Hasbrouck Heights High School wrestling and track teams participated in successfully cleaning up Polifly Road off ramp from Rt. 17 South. 160 bags of litter and trash were collected from that area including a variety of automobile parts. The Hasbrouck Heights Environmental Commission was at the Central Avenue Municipal Parking Lot to send off all the students. He thanked Commission member Donna Gasser.

FINANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES & WELFARE: Commissioner Link read the following Finance Report: The Current Fund cash balance at March 31st was \$678,211.45 and at February 29th was \$5,342,714.90 which represents a decrease of \$4,664,503.45. The entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.25%. Cash receipts for the month of March totaled \$344,365.62 of which \$174,955.67 was for Current Taxes, \$47,264.51 was Delinquent Taxes, and \$122,145.44 was Miscellaneous Revenues. Cash disbursements for the month of March totaled \$5,002,278.14 of which \$1,944,378.58 was for Local School Taxes, \$570,513.58 was for Salaries, \$772,164.87 was for Debt Service and \$1,715,221.11 was for Other Expenses. The 2012 budget was introduced at the March 13, 2012, meeting and the public hearing was held on April 10, 2012, adoption will not occur until some time in May. The budget as introduced was within all required “Caps” and will result in an increase in the Local Purpose Tax from \$13,670,206.04 in 2011 to \$13,831,225.70 in 2012, an increase of \$161,019.66. This represents an increase of 1 tax point in the Local Tax Rate. Each tax point represents approximately \$35.00 in taxes on the average house with an assessed value of \$349,750.00 after the reassessment. We now know the School Tax requirement but not the County tax requirement so an exact calculation of the final total tax rate cannot be made at this time. The Tax Collector's Office, located at 320 Boulevard, will be open this Saturday, April 28th, from 9 AM until 12 Noon for the collection of second quarter taxes due on May 1st.

PARKS, PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION: Under Parks, Commissioner Dingertopadre reported the Central Avenue Park & playground has had new certified playground mulch applied throughout the area. That park is being locked every night and reopened each morning to control the loitering. The playground is cleaned daily by

PARKS, PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION (cont'd):

the Borough Hall custodians. At Woodland Park, a new entrance fence was installed at Roosevelt Avenue and red mulch was spread at all entrances. At Polifly Park, beds were cut out around the six new trees planted last year to allow for new mulch. The Little League requested the help of the DPW's Boom Truck to replace several lights in need of replacement on their light towers. The tree crew was sent and installation was complete. The Lions Club provided Logo's to the DPW to manufacture a sign to be placed on the backstops at Woodland Park. The Lions funded the construction materials and installation. Steve Daus, DPW mechanic, completed the task and the signs are in place.

The schedule of meetings was as follows: Community Room – 19; Caucus Room – 10; Council Chambers – 6; Senior Center – 4 (other than senior activities)

HEALTH & LAND USE: Under Land Use, Commissioner Lipari read a report prepared by Secretary Dorothy Bernice: the Zoning Board met on April 20 with the following resolutions discussed, #12-3-Walter Avenue 2nd floor addition and non-conforming front yard; #12-4-LaSalle Avenue garage and side yard setback. Under New Business Application #12-5-Burr Place front yard and porch, #12-6-Cleveland Avenue side yard and front yard. During the month 41 permits were issued with income total of \$11,165, 74 initial UCC, inspections were 81% passing grade. The property maintenance inspector made 39 inspections.

Under Health, Commissioner Lipari read a report prepared by Board of Health Secretary Lori French: During the first quarter of 2012 the Health Inspector conducted 57 food inspections, 21 spot checks, 19 grease trap inspections and 28 complaints of various nature. The Health Department collected \$23, 229 in fees and issued 994 dog licenses.

Under Vital Statistics the Boro Registrar issued 477 certified transcripts collecting \$7,125.00. The department certified 198 non-resident death certificates and 33 resident certificates. Eleven marriage licenses were issued and the Health Department was notified of 30 births to town residents.

The Board of Health Members would like to remind all dog owners that their 2011 dog license has expired. Failure to license your pet is a violation of Borough Code 124-6 and will result with a summons, court appearance and fine. Please advise the Health Department if you no longer have your pet by calling (201)-288-1636.

The Teterboro Animal Shelter will be issuing free rabies vaccines to all dogs and cats of Bergen County residents on May 3rd., May 17th. and June 7th., June 21st.

Just as a reminder the Board of Health is sponsoring this years *Family* Health Fair, which will be held on this Saturday, April 28th from 11 am to 2 pm in the Senior Center at 320 Boulevard. A total of 24 vendors will be participating. Refreshments will also be served by Care-One at Wellington from Hackensack.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

March 30, Friday, I attended the Fifth Friday Bergen Leads Lunch at Stony Hill Inn. It was one of the best attended events in recent years. Speakers led by William Pat Schuber were very interesting and the slide show depicting Student involvement was very well done.

At 2 p.m. I continued my Month of March one day a week Reading to students at Lincoln School. I am always pleased to participate in the Read-A-Thon Program.

April 3 –Tuesday, 7 p.m. – Community Awareness Access For All Committee is planning for the May 20th Street Fair. Volunteers from the Youth Committee will help with a questionnaire that will begin to focus on the needs seniors and physically challenged.

April 7, Saturday, 10 a.m. Arrived early at the Egg Hunt that had been postponed from the previous week due to rain. Cindy Palmieri, Co-Chair had everything in place for what proved to be a very successful event for the children from Pre-School to Third Grade. It was estimated that 500 children participated in the three part run. Council Members Justin DiPisa, Pam Link, David Gonzalez, John Dingertopadre and Russell Lipari were also in attendance and we all helped the already well-staffed Committee. The event is sponsored annually by the Mayor's Community Celebrations Committee and assisted by the Police Dept., D.P.W. and Fire Dept. Volunteers from the Youth Committee also helped this event from the work collecting tickets at the gate, directing parents of various age groups in to their proper seating groups and then on the field. Congratulations were extended to all for a well coordinated and safely run program. The stands were filled with parents and older children and the younger children also had the pleasure of visiting and taking photos with the Easter Bunny.

April 10- Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. As First Vice President attended the Bergen County League of Municipalities Breakfast at the Arena Diner. Bergen County Chief Higgins gave the Mayors an overview of the County Dispatch Service and the outreach to towns such as Demarest that is considering contracting for their service and disbanding their Police Force. It is strictly an investigative process commented the Demarest Mayor.

Shared Services has long been a part of the normal pattern of business for Hasbrouck Heights. We have other towns contracting with us for our Police 9-11 Dispatch Service. We continue to investigate possible cost saving services, some have already been dismissed as not being cost effective for Hasbrouck Heights and others still be investigated and in the process of moving ahead.

7 p.m. Police Committee Meeting attendees included Police Chief Michael Colaneri, Police Commissioner Justin DiPisa, Deputy Police Commissioner David Gonzalez, and

MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

Finance Officer Michael Kronyak. Police Contract is up this year and negotiations will begin for 2013.

It was noted that negotiation for the D.P.W. Contract includes 2012 and 2013.

The Department is short two men and one opening will be considered to be filled this year. Changes in the Traffic Bureau included the assignments of Officers Scott Adamo from the Detective Bureau and Ian Richardson. Both cover the shifts for the entire week. As previously reported Lt. Thomas Archer, head of the Traffic Bureau retired earlier this year.

8 p.m. Council Meeting We honored Wrestlers and Cub Scouts that evening and continued the Public Hearing on the proposed new Budget. Work Session was held and final decision was made as to the continuation of the fence on Franklin Avenue to be the same as Oldfield Avenue.

April 12, Thursday, 8:30 a.m., Street Fair Meeting was held. In attendance were: Mayor Rose Heck, Michael Kronyak, Rose Marie Sees, Rob Brady, Cliff Witmeyer, Jimmy, Bill Lenox, of Lenox Auto Body, Fritz Rethage of the Gazette, Peter Gallo, Ray Vorisek of Heights Florist and Venetian Tea Room, Sam Papasavas, of BeJay Drugs, Joseph Costa of IHOP, Dave Fanale of Eudan Century 21 and Police Chief Colaneri. Discussion was held as to the adding of one extra block and what would be placed between Washington Place and Kipp Avenue and the Boulevard. Cliff told of popular rides returning and the addition of new ones. Placement of the Concert Stage remains at Raymond but the location of the Children's Stage will most likely change. The Dunk Tank will again be placed in the Driveway of Heights Florist and Venetian Tea Room. Approximately 60 vendors were reported already in place.

April 14, Saturday, 9 a.m. I attended the Grand Opening of the Little League along with Council Members Justin Di Pisa, Pam Link, and Sonya .Buckman.

Councilman Gonzalez was busy at the Boulevard with DPW Supt. Bill Spindler and Recreation Director Rob Brady preparing over 100 Athletes in Action volunteers for the Spring Clean-up. Our congratulations go to all for an outstanding early Earth Day event.

April 16, Monday, 9 a.m., Attended the Grand Opening of the new jewelry store on the Boulevard called Michael A. Diamonds at 194 Boulevard right next door to The Observer Newspaper.

April 17, Tuesday, 7 p.m. Councilwoman Sonya Buckman and I attended the Wrestling Dinner Chaired by Recreation Director Rob Brady. Awards and recognition were given to all the Wrestling Program participants.

MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

April 24, Tuesday, 11:45 a.m. Police Negotiations began today.

7p.m. Fire Committee Meeting.

8 p.m. Council Meeting

I will be at the Library from 10 till noon on Saturdays to meet with residents.

That concludes my report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 72. Authorizing Refund of Taxes Overpaid for Block 66.01, L 12.04
 - 73. Authorizing Refund of Taxes Overpaid for Block 184, L 24
 - 74. Approving List of Volunteer Fire Department Members who Qualified for Credit Under the LOSAP Program for 2011
 - 75. Urging the State Legislature to Approve A-2454, which would alter Eligibility Requirements of Unemployment Insurance for Seasonal Public Entity Workers
 - 76. Supporting Employment Initiative Program of the New Jersey Employer Support Guard and Reserves
 - 77. Opposing Senate Bills Which Reform and Modernize both Open Public Meetings Act (S-1451) and Open Public Records Act (S-1452)
 - 78. Authorizing Approval of Bylaw Amendments to the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Dingertopadre, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda Resolutions were approved (Copies attached).

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

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Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried. Mayor Heck invited anyone from the public wishing to speak to please come forward.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 79. Disposition of Public Property and Potential Litigation

Mayor Heck requested a motion to close which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilwoman Buckman and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution to Close was accepted.

At 9:03 the meeting was re-opened to conduct the following business:

RESOLUTIONS: 80. Appoint Steven Sinisi, Esq. as Special Counsel

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

ADJOURN:

At 9:10 p.m. Mayor Heck requested a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Buckman 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 April 24, 2012.

Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk