

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

July 9, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on July 9, 2013 at 8:04 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.

Mayor Heck declared the meeting in Session and Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees stated that the meeting complied with the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting having been made to all members of the Council by personal service on January 2, 2013 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 2, 2013.

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

Absent: None

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 Gonzalez as follows :

“Firefighter’s Prayer: When I am called to duty, God Wherever flames may rage Give me strength to save a life Whatever be its age. Let me embrace a little child Before it is too late Or save an older person from The horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert And hear the weakest shout, And quickly and efficiently To put the fire out. I want to fill my calling To give the best in me, To guard my friend and neighbor And protect their property. And, if according to your will, I have to lose my life, Please bless, with your protecting hand, My family and my wife.”

PRESENTATION: Proclamation to Mary Beth Barrios as “Police Chief for a Day”

Police Commissioner DiPisa read the following Proclamation, assisted by Chief Colaneri and Deputy Police Commissioner Gonzalez

Honorary Hasbrouck Heights Police Chief for a Day

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2013, the Hasbrouck Heights Police Department

PRESENTATION (cont'd):

participated in the Bergen County "Chief for a Day" initiative; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Hasbrouck Heights Police Department play an integral role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Hasbrouck Heights; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties and responsibilities of law enforcement in their community; and

WHEREAS, as an honorary "Chief for a Day," Mary Beth Barrios learned about the inner-workings of law enforcement and explored the important work that Hasbrouck Heights police officers face on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights along with our community honor Mary Beth Barrios who was Police Chief for a Day for her interest in law enforcement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, on behalf of its citizens, do hereby recognize and congratulate Mary Beth Barrios as Police Chief for a Day.

*/s/Mayor Rose Heck
and Members of the Council*

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 142. Personnel

Mayor Heck requested a motion to close for Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING:

The regular meeting was resumed at 8:32 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

- COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 1) Thank you from Patricia Link re: Bus Stops Issue
 - 2) Thank you from Connor Gillespie, Quigg Scholarship recipient
 - 3) B.C. Board of Chosen Freeholders Resolution No. 773-13
B.C. Announcing Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

4) Historic Preservation Trust Fund 2012 Funding Round Grant Award of \$24,000 for Polifly Park Improvements

Mayor Heck asked if anyone wished to have any item read into the record. Item #3 was requested (copy attached). Mayor Heck requested a motion to accept the correspondence which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilman Semencz, and unanimously carried.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(June 25, 2013 Regular Meeting)*

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the aforementioned Minutes which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, with Councilwoman Link abstaining, and otherwise unanimously carried.

BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$2,736,388.51 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.

/s/ Councilwoman Pamela J. Link
Commissioner of Finance

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

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: 135. Payroll
136. Dog Licenses – Payment of Fees to State

CONSENT AGENDA (cont'd):

137. Authorizing Refund of Overpaid Taxes due to a Tax Court Judgment for the Year 2011 for Block 42, Lot 38.01
138. Marriage/Civil Union Licenses – Payment of Fees to State
139. Burial Permits – Payment of Fees to State
140. Authorizing Appointment of Joseph Olivo as Probationary Patrolman
141. Authorizing Appointment of Cosimo Marino as Probationary Patrolman

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing Consent Agenda which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link, with Councilman Semenez voting No on #140 and #141, and otherwise unanimously carried.

Councilman Semenez commented that he did like the men, but it wasn't fair to the taxpayers at this time, that he had requested minutes from the committee meeting, the commissioner sent him chasing to find out there are no minutes.

Councilman DiPisa responded there are no minutes required on subcommittees, and Semenez waited until the 11th hour which he thought unfair and making it public is irresponsible.

Councilman Semenez said it was not a subcommittee, a committee of the council, and as per Robert's Rules, all committees are to take minutes even on personnel matters which can be put into confidential and given to him.

Councilman DiPisa asked him not to make something public that will bring something bad to the council.

APPOINTMENTS: Joseph Olivo as Probationary Patrolman

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing Appointment which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link, with Councilman Semenez voting No, and otherwise unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENTS: Cosimo Marino as Probationary Patrolman

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing Appointment which was made

APPOINTMENTS (cont'd):

by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link, with Councilman Semenech voting No, and otherwise unanimously carried.

At this point Mayor Heck swore in Joseph Olivo and Cosimo Marino, surrounded by their families, Chief Colaneri, Police Commissioner DiPisa and Deputy Commissioner Gonzalez.

Mayor Heck asked to make a statement as a point of personal privilege noting that the political season started very early in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights in some very creative ways and takes offense that the candidates are using the media in such a way as to cast a shadow in the way this council conducts business. She was referring to a letter to the editor written by a council candidate that appeared in a regional newspaper which caused concern to her as a 50 year resident knowing that she has seen the business of the borough conducted both fairly and with honor. She said for candidates to cast a shadow on our town is offensive to her personally and took offense when they made mention of her Mayor's Report as her "diary," that her diary would be triple her report, that she is on several boards and committees as well as being a mother and grandmother. She said she doesn't just run for office once every so many years and then make a stir, that she conducts herself with honor and integrity as she knows the members of this council have done. She said she intended to contact the editor of the newspaper that ran the letter, and ask that facts be checked during the campaign season. She continued that to make a stand here in front of these families is offensive to her, that the time she has given to the sitting councilman and respect she has given to him since he was elected and since he sits on this dais she thought was obvious. She said she always liked him personally and has treated him with respect.

She asked the Borough Attorney if he found anything the Council does that is not open government, he replied he did not and if he did he would insist it be corrected. She asked the Borough Administrator about taping the meetings, who said the first time was in the late 90s, saying we were able to get some equipment through Cablevision as part of the negotiated contract and at that point he contacted the Board of Education asking if the AV class had someone to do it as a school project. He said more recently the cable company indicated you might have to pay people to run cameras which would be in different parts of the building and physically run the show. Mayor Heck said she even went to talk to the high school, because she even had her own cable show when she was Assemblywoman and with The Observer she taught college children who didn't have access to television. She was their mentor and is very proud of the people who have become successful. She has always believed in open government and will speak loud and clear when people try to abuse the system by trying to make them appear to be doing something that is not correct or legal. She noted Councilman DiPisa and she were members many years and served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and that Councilman Lipari conducted a parking survey as one of his first things he did as a councilman. She and council members Pamela Link and Sonya Buckman were instrumental in developing a Special Needs Recreation Program and also through

CAAFAs making the library more handicapped accessible. She said to Councilman Semenech she was absolutely counting on him to conduct himself with honor and integrity and not attack his fellow council members irresponsibly. Councilman Semenech stated that her statement was out of order according to the agenda tonight and her function is to run the meeting not to make comments. He would appreciate if the agendas were put out earlier so he would have a couple of days to do his homework. The clerk said he gets it Friday evening before the council meeting, He said he would appreciate the agendas coming out on Wednesday, the clerk responding it would be difficult as there are certain things that require waiting and putting together. Councilman Gonzalez said if he ever has a problem or a question he has a phone. The clerk noted that Councilman Semenech had called that afternoon to ask a question and forwarded him to the proper person.

RESIGNATIONS: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 2308:

Mayor Heck requested a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2308 which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Heck requested a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2308 which was made by Councilman Semenech, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$100,000.00 TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPAIR AND/OR RECONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE SANITARY SEWERAGE FACILITIES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS 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 \$95,000.00**” 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.

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2308 which was made by Councilman Semenech, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez and unanimously carried, the foregoing ordinance was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

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

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

WORK SESSION:

The meeting went directly into the work session.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m. on a motion 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 Mayor and Council Meeting held on July 9, 2013.

Rose Marie Sees
Borough Clerk