

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

March 25, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 8:05 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees stated that the meeting complied with the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting having been made to all members of the Council by personal service on January 2, 2014 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 2, 2014.

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

Absent: None

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

INVOCATION:

Councilman Semenezc gave the Invocation as follows:

“As we gather here to make decisions for our community tonight, may we use only our best skills and judgment, keeping ourselves impartial and neutral as we consider the merits and pitfalls of each matter that is placed before us.”

- COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 1) Invitation from Mayor’s Committee on Community Celebrations to attend the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 10 a.m., with a rain date of April 19, 2014
 - 2) Request from HH Friends of the Library to display a Street Banner from May 27 through June 1, 2014 announcing their Book & Bake Sale May 30 through June 1.
 - 3) Memo from Fire Chief Patrick Hayes advising of the

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

resignation of David Cassiere from HHFD Engine Company One

4) Announcement from NJ DOT re: Safe Route to Schools Request for Applications

5) Announcement from NJ DOT re: Transportation Alternatives Program Request for Applications

6) Operation Take Back New Jersey - HH Police Dept. April 26, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

7) Invitation from HH Little League to Opening Day on April 5, 2014 at 9 a.m.

Mayor Heck asked if anyone wished to have any item read into the record. Item #6 was requested (copy attached). Mayor Heck requested a motion to accept the correspondence which was made by Councilman Semencz, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck then requested a motion to approve request regarding Item #2 which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilwoman Buckman, and unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(February 25, 2014 Regular Meeting, March 11, 2014 Regular Meeting, March 11, 2014 Work Session, March 11, 2014 Executive Session)*

Mayor Heck requested a motion to accept the foregoing Minutes which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Semencz, and unanimously carried.

BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$5,283,488.05 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

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BILLS (cont'd):

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 Lipari, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

REPORTS:

POLICE: Under Police, Commissioner DiPisa read from a report submitted by Police Chief Michael Colaneri that an automated license plate reader has been received from a grant from the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. This piece of equipment is able to read and check all license plates approaching the patrol vehicle as well as vehicles parked. It automatically checks DMV, NCIC and BOLOS and notifies if any vehicles are wanted or unregistered. We would like to thank Pros. Molinelli for this great piece of equipment. The cost would have been nearly \$20,000 installed. Now that the warmer weather is coming, we have placed the "Stop for Pedestrian" signs back on the Boulevard. The Police Department will be enforcing the stop for pedestrian in crosswalk law. With the snow melting our Parking Enforcement Officer can now mark tires and has started enforcing the 2-hour time limit along the Boulevard.

RECREATION AND PARKS: Under Recreation, Commissioner Buckman read a report submitted by Recreation Director Rob Brady: Recreation Basketball has finished the recreation and travel season. Congratulations to Coach Rob Faussette's 5th grade boys team for finishing 2nd in the Travel Championship. Recreation Wrestling has finished the regular season, congratulations to Matt Dallara for placing 3rd at the NJ State Championships. Recreation Softball has begun spring practices. There are three teams in the 3rd-4th grade division, two teams in the 5th-6th grade division and two teams in the 7th-8th grade division. They will play recreation from Wood-Ridge, Secaucus, Carlstadt, Wallington, East Rutherford, and others. The Recreation Department will also offer UGAL softball teams in the summer in the following brackets for girls who would like to play at a higher level. U12, U14 and U16. Recreation Track & field started practices last week. There are over 130 boys and girls in grades 3rd-8th. This is the first year that we added 3rd and 4th graders. The children will compete in the NJ Striders track series. These meets begin in April, and all information is available on the website www.njstriders.com. Adult Coed Volleyball continues to meet every Wednesday 7-9 p.m. at the new high school gym, this program is free of charge and open to residents and non-residents. Men's Over 20 Basketball meets every Monday 7-9 p.m. in the new high school gym, and is free to residents and alumni only. Special Needs Recreation will be starting its second year of programming in April. When the brochure is finalized it will be sent to the schools and local organizations. This year Lodi

RECREATION AND PARKS (cont'd):

has expressed interest in joining our Special Needs programs.

Summer Camp registration will be held on April 22 and April 29 from 7-9 p.m. in the recreation office. Registrations forms will be available soon. Summer Camp Employment and volunteering information: The Recreation Department accepts 12 volunteer Counselors in training (CIT). CITs can apply after they complete their freshman year. Counselor positions are based on availability. If interested e-mail hhrec@aol.com and I will reply with an application.

Under **Parks**, Commissioner Buckman reported the Department of Public Works, as reported last month, has been stockpiling snow in the rear parking lot of Woodland Park. During the off loading of the snow, a dump truck body caught a utility wire and caused it to dislodge. PSE & G was notified immediately and no one was injured. The DPW requested that the seasonal water meter be reinstalled by United Water Company at Woodland Park to have the Comfort Stations operational for our first event of the season on April 12, "Brunch with Bunny."

As **Library** Liaison, she reported upcoming events include the rescheduled Chinese New Year Luncheon on May 4, 2014 at the Asian Grill on Route 17. The Library Book and Bake Sale is scheduled for May 30, 31 and June 1, 2014. Donations of books, CDs and DVD will be graciously accepted. The Library is also looking for donations of costume jewelry for this sale. The Just Desserts event will be held on Friday, June 6. A Venetian Table of desserts along with coffee, tea and punch will be offered for a lovely social evening. More details to follow shortly.

FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION: Under Fire, Commissioner Gonzalez reported members of the Fire Department attended the viewing and funeral services for former Chief/Captain Gregory D. Barnas of Wallington FD Truck Co. 1 and Jersey City FD Ladder Co 6. Fire Captain Barnas died of injuries sustained when he suffered a heart attack and fell from the roof of a burning commercial structure. Barnas was a 29-year veteran of the Jersey City Fire Department. He was also a 40-year volunteer with the Wallington Fire Department and served as chief in Wallington in 1997. May he forever rest in peace.

The HHFD had 83 EMS calls and 26 Fire calls from February 15, 2014 to March 15, 2014. The HHFD responded to a house fire on the 200 block of Ottawa Avenue. Mutual Aid also responded and the fire was quickly extinguished. We would like to thank the Mutual Aid departments for all of their assistance. The HHFD was fit tested for their Scott Pack Masks this month.

Under **Streets & Sanitation**, Commissioner Gonzalez gave the following report: the

STREETS AND SANITATION (cont'd):

DPW has used eight tons of winter mix asphalt this past month to repair potholes throughout town and county roads which are the responsibility of Bergen County Roads Department. Although the County maintains certain roads, the potholes require immediate attention and our DPW has been filling them. A list was sent to the County requesting repairs.

On February 25 the salt trucks were out as a dusting of snow covered the streets. The DPW salted the main roads, hills, and areas around the schools. Again on February 28, the DPW applied salt brine to the streets in preparation for the next predicted snow storm. A dusting of snow fell as a result of that storm.

The DPW completed the repairs of a storm water catch basin located at the Boulevard and Franklin Avenue. The damage was caused by snow plowing.

The street sweeper has started cleaning the roadways of grit that was applied during the snow salting process over the winter season. Stormwater Catch Basin Cleaning and Inspection Program has began as required by State law. The Borough has 144 catch basins in town to comply with. The DPW Tree Crew has started to address the numerous tree issues throughout town as the weather permits. At the Woodside Avenue Sanitary Sewer Pump Station, the DPW responded to an alarm that was indicating one of the two pumps not in operation. The pump was removed and cleared of debris that caused the malfunction.

Repairs:

Tree Truck – Replaced heater motor.

Jet-Vac -Replaced pump disengagement switch.

Dump Truck 203 – Replaced eroded air tank & plow frame which dislodged while plowing.

Salter Truck 207 – Replaced interior hopper frame.

Dump Truck 205 - Replaced alternator.

Garbage Truck 101 – Replaced front end bushings.

Garbage Truck 102 – Replaced air solenoid and cylinder.

Garbage Truck 103 – Replaced flywheel and shaft assembly.

554J Loader – Replaced wire harness.

1996 Roll-off – Blown Engine. (Obtaining quotes)

As Environmental/Transportation Commissioner Liaison, he advised residents of the first shredding event this year on Saturday, April 5, 2014 in the Central Avenue Parking Lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Satellite container will also be there from 7 a.m. to noon.

FINANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Under **Finance**, Commissioner Link gave the following report: the Current Fund cash balance at February 28th was \$5,183,781.30 and at January 31st was \$4,095,572.61 which represents an increase of \$1,088,208.69. The entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.25%.

Cash receipts for the month of February totaled \$6,363,775.23 of which \$6,219,554.70 was for Current Taxes, \$20,420.63 was for delinquent 2013 taxes and \$123,799.90 was Miscellaneous Revenues.

Cash disbursements for the month of February totaled \$5,267,483.93 of which \$2,392,648.00 was for Local School Taxes, \$986,817.58 was for County Taxes, \$156,838.56 was Refunds Due to Tax Appeals, \$657,086.44 was for Salaries, and \$1,074,093.35 was for Other Expenses.

The 2014 budget is being introduced tonight with the public hearing scheduled for April 22, 2014, at 8:00 pm in the council chambers. The budget as introduced is within all “Caps” and will result in an increase in the Local Purpose Tax from \$14,006,525.41 in 2013 to \$14,125,633.28 in 2014, an increase of \$119,107.87. This represents an increase of 0.85% or one half of one tax point in the Local Tax Rate, or approximately \$17.58 in taxes on the average house with an assessed value of \$351,478.00. The CFO gave a detailed report at the March 11th meeting and will be ready to answers any questions at the public hearing. We do not have final numbers on the School and County tax requirements so an accurate estimate of their impact cannot be made at this time.

The agenda also includes an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank.” This ordinance does not automatically increase the amount of spending allowed but it does allow for the amount of the “Cap” increase not appropriated to be retained for the next two succeeding years, this is commonly known as the “Cap Bank.”

Report on Bond Anticipation Note Sale

The Borough accepted bids on short term borrowing known as a Bond Anticipation Note on March 20th. The amount of the note to be borrowed is \$3,200,000.00 and the most favorable net interest rate received was 0.500% submitted by TD Bank. The note will mature on March 27, 2015, at which time the principal and interest in the amount of \$15,955.56 will be due.

Under **Social Services**, Commissioner Link reported there were 136 grateful visitors to the Food Pantry from February 24, 2014 through March 24, 2014 who are invited to come to the Pantry on Monday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m.

SOCIAL SERVICES (cont'd):

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who helped stock and supervise the food pantry during these weeks including Dorothy Petroulas, Elsie Sternbach, Ethel Ball, Anna Tracz, Joyce and Andy, Madeleine Leddy, Colleen Sarden, Al Kinsley, Jeff Leidenfrost, Rosemary Willard and Kristy Spindler and Tyler Nunez who gave community service hours. We sincerely thank the following for their generosity: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church Women, Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday, First Reformed Church, Bible Baptist Church, Meals with a Mission, Liz Mendez, Mr. And Mrs. Carney, HH Rec Wrestling, Montessori School, Rosemarie Smith in memory of Ed Hart, Friedel Family, Joe Licante, Kathy Van Jura, Spindler's Bake Shop, Phylis Burman, Louise Davenport in memory of Ed Hart, Josephine McClean, Euclid Lodge who gave a most generous donation to purchase food store cards, Kathy Kaiser and Girl Scout Troop 469, Gail Olcott, Karen McDowell, Mrs. Pertuz, Melissa Nazzaro, and at least 100 bags were received from the Food Drive that Pack 17 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts held. When available, All donations are much appreciated and accepted in the Borough Clerk's office from 9 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HEALTH & LAND USE: As Commissioner of Health, Councilman Lipari reported the following:

Shingles Vaccine Clinic

The Board of Health in conjunction with Dr. Bellavia from Heights Medical and Heights Specialty Pharmacy will be conducting a second Shingles Vaccine Clinic on Thursday, May 1st, 2014. The clinic will be held in the Hasbrouck Heights Senior Center located at 320 Boulevard from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Dr. Bellavia will be administering the vaccination. Pre-registration and payment is required for all participants. The vaccine will be available for anyone over 50 years of age. The fee for the vaccination will be \$175. Health insurance will be accepted. Pre-registration & payment is due by April 21, 2014. To pre-register or to see if your health insurance applies please contact Heights Specialty Pharmacy located at 450 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights or call 201-288-0404.

Blood Screening Program

The Board of Health will be hosting their Annual Blood Screening Program on Thursday, April 3, 2014 in the senior center from 9 to 11 am. The program is an excellent opportunity to check on your body's internal wellness. The Cost is \$20 cash only for a Blood Chemistry Profile, which will consist of a Chem. 23, Lipid Profile, CBC and T4 (thyroid). A copy of the results will be sent directly to your private medical doctor and another mailed to the participant. Additional screenings will be available. This program is available to everyone. Registration and payment must be made in advance at the Hasbrouck Heights Health Dept., 320 Boulevard, Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. A 12-hour fasting period is required. If you have any questions, please call the

HEALTH AND LAND USE (cont'd):

Health Department at 201-288-1636.

Dog Licenses

The Board of Health Members would like to remind all dog owners that their 2013 dog license has expired. To date 304 residents have not renewed their Dog License and more than half of the dogs have an expired rabies vaccine. 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.

As Commissioner of **Land Use** he reported that as the cold weather and snow gives way to some sun, homeowners are slowly beginning new projects. Total receipt for permits for the month were \$10,248. Three Certificates of Occupancy were issued on the sale of homes. One new business opened on the Boulevard this month. Snow has hampered ongoing jobs from being inspected during the last month. There were 53 inspections requested – only 47 passed for a passing rate of 88.68%. Four out of the six of these failures were due to poor weather conditions which did not allow the contractor to complete the necessary work prior to the inspector's arrival. The property maintenance inspected made 15 inspections. He followed up 26 times and no summonses were issued this month. The Zoning Board has no new applications but has one resolution to memorialize from last month. The Planning Board has a soil movement application to memorialize which was also heard last month.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION: Commissioner Semencz offered the following report: A CO2 monitor and Exhaust Extractor repair was completed at the Public Safety Building in the Fire Department section as a result of a wire burnt in the control panel. The DPW responded to a sewer backup in the basement of Police Headquarters and discovered a problem in the sanitary sewer pump station which houses two pumps. One of the pumps was not operating and had burnt windings from an accumulation of debris. The second pump is currently being rebuilt. Also at this facility a new smoke detector was installed in the elevator shaft. At the Municipal Building shelves were erected in the basement storage room and the boilers were inspected by the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development. The boilers are in compliance. As for the boiler at the DPW facility, it was recommended by the Joint Insurance Fund Loss Prevention Control that the emergency cut off switch be moved outside of the Boiler Room. The repair was completed to conform to their standards.

Schedule of Meetings: Community Room, 18; Caucus Room, 9; Council Chambers, 8; Senior Center, 6 (not including Senior Activities).

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MAYOR'S REPORT:

March 4, Tuesday, 7 p.m.: The reorganization meeting of the Community Awareness Access for All Committee took place. After a productive year as president, elections were held and Brenda Colaneri was elected president, Pamela Link treasurer and June Raymond secretary. Recap of the 2013 accomplishments included the introduction of the Special Needs Recreation Program added through our Recreation Department under the direction of Robert Brady (working to research, plan and introduce the project were Rob Brady, Commissioner of Recreation Sonya Buckman and CAAFA Members Mayor Rose Heck, Council President Pamela J. Link and Member Chris Peters.) Second the installation of the new easy access door opener to the Hasbrouck Heights Free Public Library. The updating of the 2004 CAAFA Handbook was done by Rose Heck and Patrick McCarthy. CAAFA Members and volunteers worked at various events to update forms for the Police Department concerning Information of Persons with Special Needs and The Senior Citizens Telephone Chain. Both these lists are used during times of emergency.

March 6, Thursday, 11 a.m.: Finance Committee Meeting was held with Finance Chair Pamela Link, Vice Chair Justin DiPisa, Finance Officer Michael Kronyak and me. Matters pertaining to the 2014 budget were again part of the agenda along with current budget status, particularly as it was impacted by overtime and products used during the snowstorms to date.

After this I met with Rose Marie Sees re: Mayor's Celebrations Committee events and Street Fair

March 11, Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. I officiated at the Grand Opening of Vera's next to the New Balance store (previously a bank location) near 24 Hour Fitness. This newly renovated store was designed to display a full array of shoes and handbags that included practical, attractive shoes and sandals along with designer fashions in various sized heels and designs. Larry Kirschberg of New Balance along with his partner and staff participated in the event.

Later in the day I attended another Finance Meeting with Chair Pam Link, Vice Chair DiPisa and Finance Chair Michael Kronyak.

At 8 p.m. the Council Meeting was held. That Report and the Work Session Report can be found on line on the Borough's Web Site: hasbrouck-heights.nj.us.

March 14, Friday, 11 a.m. I attended, along with other invited guests, a special meeting at New Jersey Transit in Newark called by the new Executive Director of New Jersey Transit Ronnie Hakim.

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MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

March 17, Monday, 11 a.m. I attended and spoke at the Senate Transportation Committee Meeting chaired by Senator Nicholas Sacco in Trenton.

March 18, Tuesday, 11 a.m. I attended the Finance Meeting on Budget with Chair Pam Link, Vice Chair Justin DiPisa and Finance Officer Michael Kronyak.

11: 30 I then met with Rose Marie Sees re: Mayor's Celebrations Committee events and Street Fair

12:30 p.m. I met with ten Gifted and Talented Students from the Hasbrouck Heights Middle School and their teacher Michael Binazeski; Donna Mikulka, coordinator of the Middle School Gifted and Talented Program; Dr. Matthew Helfant, director of Special Services and Joseph Mastropietro, Middle School Principal and with Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees. I answered seven questions posed by them and placed them in a brochure along with a copy of the Mayor's duties and Oath of Office. I also was asked to be in photos with the students. Sixth Grade Students included Rebecca Beerman, Kyle Espinas, Max Franzoi, Logan Kennedy and Kirsten Mattern and Seventh Grade Students included Joseph Ferreri, Zachary Hauptman, Matthew Sireci, Adam Stavash and Krutika Thakkar. They were very intent about learning the duties of the Mayor and were able to expand on their subject matter by asking what else I did besides being Mayor. I believe I surprised them when I outlined my various volunteer involvement. I impressed upon them the importance of being involved and quoted Lincoln: "Governments like clocks go from the motion men given them," noting that we the people should take part in government and that they, when are they adults. could be the ones to take over the responsibilities of government.

March 19th, Wednesday, 7 p.m., I attended the Mayor's Community Celebrations Committee Meeting chaired by Rosemary Willard. Event dates included April 12, The Egg Hunt chaired by Cindy and Kate Palmieri. Rain date is April 19. May 31, June 1, is the Town-wide Garage Sale chaired by Juana DiBisceglie; July 4, July 4th Children's Costume Parade chaired by Dennis Nuzzo; Oct. 25, Ragamuffin Parade chaired by Lisa Quish; Nov. 28th Tree Lighting at the Circle Event chaired by Pat Link and Dec. 19, 20, 21st House Judging Contest with Final Judging Dec. 22 chaired by Rosemary and Dorothy Bernice. Another proposed event I suggested was discussed. It would be a project jointly done with the Chamber of Commerce for the Holiday Parade.

March 25th Finance Meeting 7 p.m. in Michael Kronyak's office with Pam and Justin.
8 p.m. Council Meeting.

Residents are invited to stop by on Saturday mornings to visit with me between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon. No appointments are necessary. That concludes my report.

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NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
69. Authorizing Raffle License for Wayne Rotary Foundation
 70. Adopting a Supplement to the By-Laws of the Governing Body of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights Regulating the Consent Agenda
 71. Authorizing a Complaint to Increase the Tax Assessment upon Lot 4 in Block 134.02, Commonly Known as 777 Terrace Avenue, Owned by Heights Plaza Associates
 72. Authorizing Application for Tonnage Grants for 2013
 73. Budget Appropriation Transfers
 74. Authorizing Application Under the 2013 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for Acquisition of Smoke Detectors for Senior Citizens and Acquisition of an Inflatable Fire Safety Training House
 75. Authorizing Raffle License for Corpus Christi Church
 76. Authorizing Approval of 2014/2015 Licenses for Commercial Sale of Certain Motor Vehicle Dealers
 77. Confirming Sale of Central Avenue Property
 78. Authorizing Raffle License for Rutherford Junior Football Association Inc.
 79. Designating Bond Anticipation Note dated March 28, 2014
 80. Self-Examination of Budget

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, with Councilman Semenech voting Nay on Resolutions No. 70 and 77, noting that regarding #70, three resolutions were put forth within the 48 hour period of the by law change and he didn't feel there

CONSENT AGENDA (cont'd):

was enough time for us to look at some of these things and #77, he has been opposed to the sale of the Central Avenue Property at this time and otherwise unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda Resolutions were approved. (Copies attached).

Mayor Heck took a moment to thank one of our residents Ron Ellis who suggested the adoption of a supplement to the Bylaws and was pleased to say it will now be in effect. She also stated you should take interest in what's going on in this business in this building whether it's on the agenda or not and keep abreast of what's happening.

Mayor Heck noted that with the Central Avenue property, \$255,000 was received. It is a buildable lot and the person who bought it is already has a person interested in building a home, and it will be a ratable.

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2323:

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 2014”** 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 8, 2014.

Mayor Heck requested a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2323 which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, with Councilman Semencz voting No, and otherwise unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS: 81. Introduction of 2014 Budget

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

APPOINTMENTS: John W. Slawenski to HHFD Truck Company

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing appointment which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Lipari, and unanimously carried.

Donato N. Squeo to HHFD Engine Company 2

APPOINTMENTS (cont'd):

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing appointment which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Lipari, and unanimously carried.

Scott Salerno as HHFD Junior Firefighter

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing appointment which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Semenez, and unanimously carried.

RESIGNATIONS: David Cassiere from HHFD Engine Company 1

Mayor Heck requested a motion to accept the foregoing resignation which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Lipari, and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 2322:

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 “2014 RENT LEVELING ORDINANCE”** 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 open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2322 which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

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

Mayor Heck then requested a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2322 which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

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

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

Ron Kistner, former Councilman, 75 Oak Grove Avenue, congratulated Chief Colaneri and the Police Department and the whole town for being ranked the 5th safest town in the State of New Jersey. He told a story of being out for dinner at the Risotto House with some town friends and how proud they were to see the new officers whom they had coached in the past. He asked a question of Councilman Semencz that he had voted No for some of these officers and asked the reason. The councilman said he is against the way the contract was formed, that from 2013 to 2014 the starting salary of a police officer increased, that it wasn't necessary and doesn't like the basis for the testing on promotions, we are not putting these police officers into a fair situation.

Mayor Heck said it is difficult to deal with certain councilmen who do this because they lack knowledge and lack asking questions at the proper time. We have made things available to certain people, there are five days in a week that people are here in the building, there are attorneys that have spoken to us on the procedure put together for promotions which is much more in depth than ever before in the history of the Police Department in Hasbrouck Heights. There is a lot of talk, no action.

Mr. Kistner said he assumed that Mr. Semencz has presented the Mayor and Council an alternative plan to process. Mayor Heck said he only said he doesn't like the one on one test, he wants a written test. He also complimented Judge Jones on his fairness and firmness.

Ronald Ellis, 107 Paterson Avenue, read the following prepared comments:

"I am happy to see on this evening's Agenda that a change is being made to list in the Consent Agenda process whereby only those items on which there is full agreement among the Council members are listed and acted upon en masse; listing as a separate item each issue requiring a vote on which there is disagreement among the council members. For those items on which there is disagreement the Council members can state their reasoning to vote against that item or their reasoning to vote for that item, allowing - we the people - whether attending the meeting, reading the newspaper or reading the official minutes - to have a better understanding of the issue and the rationale behind a council person's vote.

As you know, I have been requesting this change for a while, because I am sometimes confused by the NO vote cast on an item by a council person. A No vote - expressing the supporting reasoning - on an item may be for a valid reason that might cause other council members to rethink their position before voting. The biggest benefit is for we the people. We will know what the pros and cons are of an issue being addressed and we can then make an informed decision about the votes cast by our representatives.

A couple of quick illustrations. At the February 25th meeting, Councilman Semencz simply voted No on consent Agenda items 49. – Sale of Central Avenue Property and item 50. – Authorizing Shared Services Contract with Board of Education... . After the meeting I went to the dais and asked Councilman Semencz if he could explain his No vote on the Shared

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MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

Services to me. He expressed several reasons – none of which were related to the financing arrangement. One item was about the transition of material on the softball section (which he also said he voiced with the professionals who said it was not an issue) and he also thought that the upgrade should be for the entire field (more than twice the cost of the current project). Now I know his reasoning but who else does? But more importantly, the vote by the council was for the financing of the project – saving the Board of Education (we the taxpayers) money while enabling the quick remediation of a safety issue for our children – not a vote on the project scope or detail.

As I was returning to my seat to get my jacket, I stopped and engaged in casual conversation with our borough attorney. On his way out, Councilman Semenech stopped by me and began explaining to me his reasons for his No vote on the sale of the Central Avenue property. I expressed disagreement with his reasoning and I basically asked him why he didn't raise his concerns with the council. He ended this brief discussion by stating that "...I sent an e-mail to all of them over the weekend and never got a response. And there you go"; and he left.

I was stunned; I was speechless for a moment. During the public meeting, Mayor Heck had stated that no one had raised an issue with any of the agenda items and now a council member is telling me that he had. What to do? I immediately asked the mayor and each of the council members individually if they had received an e-mail from Councilman Semenech over the weekend and each responded that they had not.

The next morning, February 26th, I submitted an OPRA request with the Hasbrouck Heights Borough Office for all written (e-mail or otherwise, correspondence that Councilman Semenech sent to Mayor Heck or any Council member or borough administrator between the dates of February 20th and February 25th, more than covering the weekend. I have the official response – there was no written correspondence from Councilman Semenech during that time.

Putting in place the new "consent agenda" process will help insure that opposing sides of the issue are discussed in public and we will therefore have greater transparency and a more informed citizenry. Ron Ellis"

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 Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no other business to come before the governing body, at 9:03 p.m., Mayor Heck requested a motion to adjourn 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 25, 2014.

Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk