

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

February 24, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 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 5, 2015 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 5, 2015.

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 Semenez

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 DiPisa gave the Invocation as follows: "Prayer to Open a Meeting. Lord as we gather today at this meeting we ask that You will be in our midst. Help us to make decisions that will be pleasing to You. Help us to be able to discuss the matters at hand in a reasonable way, and to be willing to give up having our own way. God let this meeting be productive and, as should be the case in all areas of our lives, help us to keep You at the forefront of our minds as we do the work set before us. Amen."

PRESENTATION: Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition to various Members and Past Members of the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department

Before the presentation began, Fire Commissioner Gonzalez read the following poem:

I'll Show You A Volunteer (*Poem by Foley*)

Show me a person who spends endless hours in training without pay,

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I'll Show You A Volunteer (cont'd):

And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person where a cry for help brings split-second dispatch,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is devastated when lives are lost or maimed,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is graciously welcomed as a next-door neighbor,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who takes ridicule more than compliments,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person whose car is garaged with the grille facing out,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who sacrifices homelife, TV... even tender moments,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person visibly moved at the strains of our National Anthem,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who may be asked to give more than just dedication,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is asked to give more... and more... and more,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Mayor Heck, Fire Commissioner Gonzalez and Deputy Fire Commissioner Lipari recognized the following members of the Fire Department and presented each a certificate as follows. They were joined by Fire Chief Patrick Hayes, 1st Assistant Chief Angelo Roccamo and 2nd Assistant Chief Robert Knobloch:

For life saving efforts in saving a 94-year old female who was in Cardiac Arrest on May 31, 2014: Fire Captain Peter Kolodziej, Firefighters Greg Rubino, Ken Lambert, Nicholas Coviello, EMTs Rebecca Ratkowski, Adrianna Szaboova.

For serving on the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department for 25 years: Former Fire Chief Richard Giarratana and Firefighter David Ebert.

For being active in the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department and Hasbrouck Heights Fireman's Relief Association for over 50 years: Former Fire Chiefs Harry Maisch, Jack Ball, Vincent Monahan and Ron Monteleone.

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PRESENTATION (cont'd):

Mayor Heck stated on behalf of the entire community we give you our personal thanks for a fantastic job. You are great leaders for younger people to follow. Congratulations to you, your wives and families, and thank you again very much.

APPOINTMENTS: Alfred J. Cirelli to Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department
Engine Company 2

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

Antonio Cirillo Jr. From Fire Department Ambulance Squad
to Engine Company 2

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

Mayor Heck invited the appointees and Fire Chiefs to come forward and a picture was taken.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Letter from Bergen County Utilities Authority re: Certified Recycling Professional Tonnage Grant Assistance Program
- 2) Invitation to “K9 Veterans Day” on March 13, 2015 at Hall of Heroes at Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute
- 3) Memo from Fire Chief Hayes advising of transfer of Antonio Cirillo Jr. From Ambulance Squad to Fire Department Engine Company 2

Mayor Heck asked if any member of the Council wished to have any item read into the record. There was none. Mayor Heck then requested a motion to accept the Communications which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(February 10, 2015 Regular Meeting and Work Session)*

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing Minutes which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link, with Councilman Lipari abstaining as he was absent, and otherwise unanimously carried.

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BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$139,827.29, 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 Pamela J. Link
Commissioner of Finance

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

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND LAND USE: Under **Land Use**, Commissioner Lipari reported the total fees collected which also include local permits as well as UC Code Permits totaled \$12,707. 151 UCC inspections were done during the past month with 86.29% passing rate on the first inspection. 4 plan reviews for commercial renovations were completed . 6 Zoning Compliance Certifications for new businesses have been approved and 8 certificate of occupancy inspections were completed for the sale of existing homes.

During our last report it was noted that no warnings have to be issued for failure to remove the snow from the sidewalk 12 hours of daylight after snow has stopped falling. from 9 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Although there are times that the time to begin giving out tickets is when the property maintenance inspector is off, it should be noted that the Police Department also enforces this ordinance. This report only includes information through the 12th of February due to vacation.

Under **Health**, Commissioner Lipari reported:

AARP Safe Driving Program: The Health Dept. Has scheduled another AARP Safe Driving Program to be held Thursday, March 26 in Borough Hall. The cost for the class is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. 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 premiums. To pre-register, please

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HEALTH (cont'd):

contact the Hasbrouck Heights Health Dept. At 201-288-1636.

5K Run/Walk & Health Fair: The Board of Health is planning their third annual 5K Run and Fun Walk on Sunday, April 19. The 5K Run is to help raise scholarship funds for town residents and the N.J. State Seeing Eye Dog Program. The Race will begin at 9 am. at Borough Hall in Central Avenue. To register please go to www.runsignup.com.

If you or someone you know would like to donate supplies and gifts to the participating runners please contact the Health Dept. Our goal is to donate 100% of race proceeds to the various programs. If you make a donation by March 20, your contribution will be acknowledged on T-shirts provided to runners along with other event-related printed material.

Dog Licenses: The Board of Health would like to remind all dog owners that their 2014 dog license expired on January 31, 2015 and must be renewed as soon as possible. The Health Department has issued over 800 dog licenses and reminder letters will be mailed out during the last week of February.

POLICE: Under **Police**, Commissioner DiPisa read a report submitted by Chief Michael Colaneri: Police Headquarters was painted and the floors waxed by a work detail from the County Jail. We would like to thank Sheriff Saudino for sending the crew.

He continued that about three months ago the State Attorney General's office sent an invitation to participate in a State program for the removal of unwanted or expired drugs. Guidelines were given and there is now an unwanted medicine drop box received and installed in the lobby of the Police Station. The box will be available 24 hours a day for proper disposal of unused or expired medications. The medicine can be dropped in the box at no cost. He, Mayor Heck and Chief Colaneri put this together which he considers a very important function of the Borough to take care of these things, as there are a lot of questions about disposing of medications properly. Hasbrouck Heights is one of only nine towns in Bergen County now doing this. **NO SYRINGES OR LIQUID MEDICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED.** We would like to thank American Medicine Chest for giving us the box at no cost.

RECREATION AND PARKS: Under **Recreation**, Commissioner Buckman reported sign up for Girls Softball is ongoing. The new Drama Class program will start up the second week in March. Contact the Recreation office for more information. Recreation Track and Field sign ups will be March 4 from 7-9 p.m. in the Recreation office.

Under **Parks**, Commissioner Buckman gave a report prepared by DPW Supt. William Spindler: as previously reported, PSE & G has installed and energized the new lamp posts at Veterans Memorial Park. Also installed was an electrical box and outlet along

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PARKS (cont'd):

with a Flag pole light. A request to energize the electrical box has been sent to PSE & G. All park sidewalks were shoveled and salted. This is the standard procedure after every snow and ice storm event.

FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION: Under **Fire**, Commissioner Gonzalez reported on the following productivity as submitted by EMS Coordinator Elizabeth Waring. There were 97 EMS calls and 21 Fire calls from January 15 through February 15, 2015.

On January 27, the HHFD responded to a working fire at McDonald's on Route 17 S. This was a second alarm fire that originated from a deep fryer in the kitchen area. The fire was quickly extinguished. Mutual aid from Little Ferry, Wallington and Wood-Ridge were on the scene to assist.

On February 7, Chief Pat Hayes, 2nd Assistant Chief Rob Knobloch and Engine 616 responded to a mutual aid (3 alarm) call in Lodi for a house fire.

On February 16, the HHFD along with mutual aid assistance responded to the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton Hotel for a smoke condition on the 4th floor. The Hasbrouck Heights Police Department and Bergen County Police were on the scene as well. A small fire was extinguished and the room was destroyed by two individuals who were placed under arrest.

On February 21, 2nd Assistant Chief Knobloch, Rescue 614, EMS 603 and 604 were on the scene of an overturned car on Route 17 and Ottawa Avenue. One person was extracted and transported to Hackensack UMC.

On February 23, the HHFD responded to a fire at the Sonic Restaurant on Route 17 N during the early morning rush hour causing the highway to be closed on the north bound side for a short time. Mutual aid was requested and Little Ferry, Lodi, Moonachie, Wallington and Wood-Ridge assisted.

Under **Streets & Sanitation**, Commissioner Gonzalez reported from a report prepared by DPW Supt. William Spindler: The Department of Public Works responded to several main sanitary sewer blockages this past month, one that was on Route 17 southbound and Franklin Avenue and the other at Route 17 and Henry Street.

On Route 17 and Henry Street, a root cutter was used to cut through heavy soap build up. During that process the root cutter device became lodged in the pipe and National Water Main Company had to be called in to retrieve the device and clear the blockage.

Another blockage was cleared along the 200 and 300 blocks of Madison Avenue.

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STREETS & SANITATION (cont'd):

At the Woodside Avenue Pump Station the pumps were jammed and were not operating as a result of rags that lodged in the impellers. (An impeller is a rotor used to increase or decrease pressure and flow.) The pumps were removed and cleared and placed back in operation.

SNOW EVENTS & REPAIRS

01/24	6" of snow	Salters & plows responded.
01/26	8" of snow Two (2) nights, snow removal on Boulevard, schools, & churches.	Salters & plows responded.
02/01	Ice storm after the Super Bowl 8" of snow	Salters responded Plows responded
02/02	More ice accumulation	Salters responded
02/03	Snow removal at night and day shifts	
02/03	8" of snow 1984 Salt truck & plow was taken out of service with a blown radiator, within two (2) days the repair was completed and truck was back in service.	Plows responded
02/09	Ice storm	Salters responded
02/10	2" of snow	Plows responded
02/11	More snow removal of all corners, along Boulevard, Burton, & Oak Grove Avenues. The DPW provides this service as a courtesy. Homeowners are required by ordinance to remove the snow.	
02/15	Ice & snow of 1"	Salters responded
02/17	3" snow	Salters & plows responded
02/18	Snow removal of all cul-de-sacs	

FINANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Under **Finance**, Commissioner Link gave the following report: The Current Fund cash balance at January 31, 2015 was \$3,607,035.31 and at December 31st was \$3,271,768.81 which represents an increase of \$335,266.50, the entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.25%.

Cash receipts for the month of January totaled \$3,795,003.44 of which \$3,411,105.48 was for Current Taxes, \$76,274.17 Prior Year Taxes and \$307,623.79 was Miscellaneous Revenues.

Cash disbursements for the month of January totaled \$3,459,736.94 of which \$2,225,610.00 was for Local School Taxes, \$630,222.04 was for Salaries and \$603,904.90 was for Other Expenses.

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FINANCE (cont'd):

The formulation of the 2015 budget continues. The date for introduction of the 2015 municipal budget has been extended from February 10th until March 13th in order to accommodate the presentation of the Governor's budget earlier this afternoon. The Finance Committee met tonight prior to this meeting and regular meetings will continue right through the adoption of the 2015 budget. The Chief Financial Officer completed and submitted the Annual Debt Statement by its January 31, 2015 due date and the Annual Financial Statement which was due by February 10, 2015. The Financial Statement summarizes the financial position of the Borough at the end of the fiscal year.

Some key points indicated by the Annual Financial Statement are as follows:
2014 Tax Collection Rate was 98.93% , a small decrease from 2013's rate of 99.02%.

The 2014 budget anticipated \$1,100,000.00 in surplus as a revenue to offset taxes and cash surplus generated in 2014 was \$1,122,972.24, as compared to \$1,147,511.28 generated in 2013. The 2014 results of financial operations met one of the goals of the Finance Committee by limiting the use of surplus to an amount that may be re-generated.

Delinquent Taxes at 12/31/14 were \$456,778.46 as compared to \$382,322.48 at 12/31/13.

These are all factors to be considered when formulating the 2014 budget. The 1½ % appropriation CAP and 2% levy CAP are also critical to the formulation of the budget.

Under **Social Services**, Commissioner Link gave the following report: There were 83 visitors to the Food Pantry who came on January 26 through February 23, 2015. The Pantry was closed on February 2, due to the snowstorm.

The pantry is operational only because of the generous donations received on a continuing basis from the local churches, civic organizations, Scout troops, School and PTA food drives and the many, many generous residents.

We are also most thankful to the volunteers who supervise the food pantry on a rotating basis. Those who volunteered their time during these past weeks are Madeleine Leddy, Colleen Sarden, Audrey Gall, Joyce Belbo, Al Kinsley, Jeff Leidenfrost, Warren Nelson and Denise Betts. Thank you all for your time!

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, John Rizzo, Joann Trippodo, Mary Kearney, Henry & Coby Jasioneck, Anthony DiBello,

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SOCIAL SERVICES (cont'd):

Rosemary Smith, Barbara Juliano, Joseph Defrino, Karen McDowell, Josephine McClean and Justin Watrel.

All donations are very much appreciated and accepted in the Borough Clerk's office

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION: Commissioner Semenez reported there have been numerous repairs to our Borough facilities. They are as follows:

Repairs at the Library:

- Installation of two heat exchangers.
- Installation of two electrical heaters above the drop ceiling.
- Replacement of several electrical outlets.
- Installation of security mirrors.

Repairs at the Public Safety Building:

- Painting of the Police Department in collaboration with the Bergen County Work Release Program.
- Annual service of the emergency generators.
- Replacement of two (2) heaters in the Fire Department garage bays including the relocation of thermostats and a new flue pipe.

At the DPW facility an inspection of the boiler by the Borough's Joint Insurance Fund, recommended that a new valve be installed. This repair was completed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Heck asked Borough Clerk Sees to read her report, because she was getting over Laryngitis, which was as follows:

I would like a moment's silence in memory of Tom Verrastro who suffered a home accident and died on Feb. 6th. He was a dedicated Library Board Trustee for 25 years and a caring resident. Our sympathies were extended to his wife, former Councilwoman and Planning Bd. Trustee Marlene Verrastro and his children.

Jan. 28, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: I attended the Science Fair held at Lincoln School. Students from the third, fourth and fifth grades participated. The projects were not only diversified, but very well done and interesting. The students received recognition and medals given to them by Principal Joseph Colangelo. The room was filled with parents, children and their teachers. I am very impressed with the students and their attention to detail in their varied presentations.

Jan. 29th, Thursday, 11 a.m.: Finance Meeting: Finance Chair Pam Link and Finance Officer Michael Kronyak and I participated in the meeting. A review of 2014 budget and

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MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

projects were discussed as well as the projections for 2015. Settlement of tax appeals, projected completion of new building projects were also discussed by our committee.

11:30 a.m. A brief PBA meeting was held regarding the new contracts needed and to be presented for review by the Council.

7 p.m. I had the pleasure of attending Girl Scout Junior Troop's Bronze Award Ceremony held in the Library Meeting Room. The Bronze Award is the highest a Junior Girl Scout can earn. Family and friends attended and both Middle School Principal Mr. Mastropietro and I participated in the program. These young ladies have accomplished so much since they started as Brownies and will continue in the future as Cadets. Their Leaders were outstanding in their commitment to these Scouts. A photo Collage displayed their many projects and contributions and even included a group photo of them as the 517 Brownie Troop when they visited with me and Borough Clerk Rose Sees years ago.

Jan. 31st, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.: I officiated at the Grand Opening of the new Animal Hospital located on the South end of the Boulevard. Dr. Mia Frezzo greeted Council Members Justin DiPisa, Pam Link and David Gonzalez and me. We all were treated to the tour of this very beautiful facility. Dr. Frezzo showed us the various and most up-to-date Operating Room, Dental equipment, and examining tables that are raised and lowered electronically depending on the size of the dog and it also weighed the individual pets. We are very proud to have this very attractive addition to the Boulevard Business area.

Feb. 10th Tuesday, Council Meeting. Please check the Borough's Web Site for full minutes of the meeting.

Feb. 12th, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.: The first 2015 Street Fair Meeting was held with the Mayor's Business Community Committee members in attendance. Members Ray Vorisek of Heights Florist, Vickie Oller of TD Bank, Fritz Rethage of The Gazette Newspaper and David Fanale of Century 21 Eudan Realty, Cliff Witmeyer and Jimmy Spadola from Cliffhanger Productions, along with Police Chief Michael Colaneri, Capt. Joseph Rinke, and Lt. Ian Robertson who discussed traffic flow and streets that will not be able to access the Boulevard for safety reasons along with the location of various equipment – Children's Rides will be located between Washington Place and Kipp Avenue – Cliffhanger Productions promises some new additions to the event this year. The main stage for musicians will be located at Raymond Street. Food and Craft Vendors have already been calling Cliff Witmeyer to reserve their spots. Local organizations and sponsors were being made aware of the May 17th event. All preliminary work was planned with me by Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees and Borough

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MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

Administrator Michael Kronyak. The loss of one of our original members Bill Lenox was marked by Dave Fanale, the Mayor and all those who worked with him on this event. His premature loss will be felt by those who knew, loved and respected him for some time to come. He was a vital part of this committee since its inception and as I always noted "Bill was our main "GoTo Guy." He never said no to any of our requests.

Feb. 17th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Library Trustee Meeting. I attended a productive meeting that included numerous reports and works in progress. Friends of the Library plans were offered by Micky Maschio and Library Director Mimi Hui discussed all of the various programs that were already being enjoyed by the public and were set for the future. Program Flyers are available at the Library. As mayor I will lead a new program to find sponsors to fund the future needs of the our Library with Fundraising Chair John Baratta and Finance Chair Ron Ellis assisted by Library Liaison Councilwoman Sonya Buckman. I asked for a Dream List from our Library Director to use as a guide for the future.

I am very pleased to say how proud I am to be the Mayor of such a wonderful community representing the outstanding people who live and work here. Our residents take pride in their homes and property and it shows. Our Business community is healthy and chose Hasbrouck Heights to place their investments here knowing we take pride in our Borough. It is an honor for me to work with an outstanding team of administrators Michael Kronyak and Rose Marie Sees, Police Chief Michael Colaneri, Fire Chief Patrick Hayes, DPW Supt. Bill Spindler, our Tax office led by Conchita Parker, our Borough Attorney Ralph Chandless, the Head of our Building Dept. Nick Melfi, all Board Secretaries, along with employees and volunteers who want the best for Hasbrouck Heights. It just doesn't happen by accident. It takes planning, follow-through and a lot of hard work. Add to that an outstanding school system and you are in the top ten named with one of the Healthiest Housing Markets in the State of New Jersey. I have to say it again...

Hasbrouck Heights was named one of the Top Ten Healthiest Housing Markets in the entire State of New Jersey.

A total of four towns in Bergen were named, the other three being Glen Rock, Paramus and Ridgewood.

And just a reminder in 2014 Hasbrouck Heights was named the Fifth Safest Place to Live; the Eighth Best Place to Retire and the 10th Best Place to Live in New Jersey. I applaud everyone who has played a part in these accomplishments. My special thanks to the outstanding work of Finance Commissioner Pam Link, Police Commissioner Justin DiPisa, Fire Commissioner David Gonzalez, Recreations and Parks Commissioner Sonya Buckman and Health and Land Use Commissioner Russell Lipari,

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MAYOR’S REPORT (cont’d):

who go above and beyond their regular workload. Thank you to everyone.

I continue to meet on Saturdays in the Library from 10 till noon for any resident who wishes to visit with me for any reason.

That concludes my report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 52. Authorizing Refund of Taxes Overpaid for Block 124.02, Lot 18, 377 LaSalle Group
 - 53. Authorizing Inclusion of Premium to Redemption of Tax Title Lien #2014-0001 for Block 73, Lot 21, 35 Franklin Avenue
 - 54. Authorizing an Agreement with Cliffhanger Productions for the May 17, 2015 Street Fair
 - 55. Authorizing Award of Bid for Two 2016 Dump Trucks with Snow Plow and Salt Spreader for DPW
 - 56. Authorizing Entry into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System
 - 57. Authorizing Approval of 2015/2016 Licenses for Commercial Sale of Certain Motor Vehicle Dealers

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried. (Copies attached)

- APPOINTMENTS:** George Boisvert as a Substitute Crossing Guard

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

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

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

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MISCELLANEOUS (cont'd):

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.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 58. Personnel

Mayor Heck requested a motion to close for Executive Session at 8:56 p.m. for Personnel which was made by Council, seconded by Council, and unanimously carried

ADJOURN:

There being no other business to come before the governing body, at 9:15 p.m., Mayor Heck requested a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman Semenez, 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 February 24, 2015.

Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk