

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS****YOUTH WEEK COUNCIL  
MINUTES****MAY 24, 2016**

A Youth Week Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 8:03 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Mayor John DeLorenzo invited the Youth Week Mayor and Council to come forward and conduct the Youth Week Council Meeting. Matt Pollizotti took over as Youth Week Mayor.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Maddie Kalmowitz stated that the meeting complied with the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting having been made to all members of the Council by personal service on January 4, 2016 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 4, 2016 in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

Youth Week Mayor Pollizotti requested that Youth Week Borough Clerk Kalmowitz conduct the Roll Call:

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Youth Week Mayor Matt Pollizotti (*Mayor DeLorenzo*) Youth Week Councilmembers: Danny Kalmowitz (*Councilman DiPisa*), Julie Ravert (*Councilwoman Buckman*), Amanda Azer (*Councilwoman Link*), Kelsey Deininger (*Councilman Gonzalez*), Nour Abelwahab (*Councilman Lipari*), Meghan Azer (*Councilman Traina*)

Absent: None

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

**INVOCATION:** Youth Week Councilwoman Deininger gave the Invocation which was as follows: "Student Prayer. Eternal and Gracious God, Help me to be curious about the world around me. Help me to be prepared for the challenges I face each day. Help me to be open to difficult tasks. Help me to be determined to complete my work. Help me to be responsible in all I do. Help me to be accepting of people's differences. Help me to be kind in my thoughts and words. Help me to be aware of my talents. Help me to be myself – to be the best that I can be. Amen."

**YOUTH WEEK ROSTER:**

Youth Week Mayor Pollizotti read the following list of Youth Week participants:

Mayor John DeLorenzo III	Matt Pollizotti
Councilman Justin A. DiPisa	Danny Kalmowitz
Councilwoman Sonya Buckman	Julie Ravert
Councilman David Gonzalez	Kelsey Deininger
Councilwoman Pamela J. Link	Amanda Azer
Councilman Russell A. Lipari	Nour Abdelwahab
Councilman Peter Traina	Meghan Azer
Borough Clerk	Madie Kalmowitz
CFO/Admin	Kevin Kaloshi
Police Chief	Bobbi Kelly
	Ramneet S.
	Anne Khalil
	Chloe Chang
Fire Chief/EMS	Eddie Diaz
	Jerrika Kim
	Lara Tablieah
	Kinga Kolakowski
Tax Collector	Peter Neuman
Recreation Director	Emma Nichols
	Monika Lucic
Library Director	Alyssa Volpe
Children's Librarian	Megan Lorfink
DPW Superintendent	Darren Katz
	Nick Bini
Building Inspector	Kevin Kaloshi
Board of Health Secretary/Registrar	Nina Bienkowska

**YOUTH WEEK COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Youth Week Mayor Pollizotti invited each Youth Week Councilperson to give their Commissioner reports which they wrote themselves:

**FINANCE :** Youth Week Commissioner Dan Kalmowitz reported those who say that money is the root of all evil have clearly never been to Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey. Here you will find a bustling metropolis characterized by extravagance and excess while simultaneously being at the forefront of generosity and kindness in the world. As the head of Finance, I vow to work tirelessly to use the nearly unlimited finances I have at my disposal to insure that Hasbrouck Heights maintains its status as a epicenter of peace and prosperity. However, to accomplish these goals we must have obscenely high taxes that my parents have assured me are absolutely ridiculous. Still they remain a necessary evil in order to maintain and upkeep every facet of our beautiful town

ranging from the parks in which we play our games to the schools in which we play on our cell phones. As head of the Finance Committee it is my duty to enforce these necessary evils in order to make our town great again.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Kalmowitz recorded the vote, motion to approve this report was made by Youth Week Councilwoman Azer, seconded by Youth Week Councilwoman Ravert and unanimously carried.

**LAND USE:** Youth Week Commissioner Ravert reported that Hasbrouck Heights is a great town to live in. There are many food places and shops on the Boulevard. The town is very well kept. The streets are very clean. There are some things I would want to be added to the town. I think we should add more trees on the Boulevard. It is very bare. We should create another parking lot by the high school. It takes so long in the morning to try and find a spot on the streets. It would be a lot easier if they had another parking lot for students. Overall there aren't many changes that need to be made to the town.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Kamowitz recorded the vote, motion to approve this report was made by Youth Week Councilman Kalmowitz, seconded by Youth Week Councilwoman Ravert and unanimously carried.

**SOCIAL SERVICES & WELFARE & PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION:**

Youth Week Commissioner Amanda Azer reported that Hasbrouck Heights may be a small town, but the hearts of its citizens are far from it. The people of this town put an immense amount of time and work into ensuring the well-being of all those who are less fortunate that reside in the town. Our soup kitchens are constantly restocked, and food is always available to those who need it. Not only does everyone work hard to guarantee that no one sleeps on an empty stomach, they also raise money in order to provide clothing, toiletries, other essential materials. We, as a unified town, constantly have food, clothing and toy drives in order to provide for those who are not as lucky as the rest of us. We look out for each other in a way that not only shows great respect and kindness, but also forms a comradery between all the citizens in the town. Everyone claims that words spread fast in a small town, but we have discovered a way to turn that into a positive, beneficial tool. We use it to spread word that volunteers are needed in the soup kitchen or that a community toy drive will be occurring during specific dates in order to ensure success in all our endeavors. Not only has our community assisted those within it, but it also has been successful in assisting many different organizations beyond the town borders. People say the size of your town deciphers how great of an affect it can have, however, Hasbrouck Heights and its residents have proven that is not the size of the town that matters but the amount of care and drive the residents possess in order to simulate change.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Kalmowitz recorded the vote, motion to approve this report was made by Youth Week Councilwoman Ravert, seconded by Youth Week Councilwoman Deininger, with Youth Week Councilwoman Meghan Azer voting No, and otherwise unanimously carried.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION:** Youth Week Commissioner Amanda Azer reported that getting to your destination every day can be a hassle without a car or a friend to drive you around. In most towns, there are three maybe four bus stops in the entire vicinity. Hasbrouck Heights, on the other hand, possesses a bus stop on almost every corner. It not only has that, but these busses are constantly passing through, so if someone misses the first one because their sister was taking too long in the bathroom, or they were having a really bad hair day and needed that extra ten minutes in order to groom their mane there is always another one about fifteen minutes later. The continuous bus rotation through the town lessens the burden of trying to find a parking spot where you work or worrying about snow because you know the bus can return you back to the corner of your street. Not only is our transportation system extremely beneficial, our postal system is also great. Our post office is staffed with kind people always willing to assist you with any issues and are always quick to rectify any mishaps. Some towns have problems with mail getting lost or stolen or never arriving within the time perio stated, however our postal system ensures that each citizen receives their mail and packages. They may not always receive much recognition but all who are a part of the public facilities in the town are greatly appreciated.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Kalmowitz recorded the vote, motion to approve this report was made by Youth Week Councilwoman Deininger, seconded by Youth Week Councilman Kalmowitz, with Councilwoman Meghan Azer voting No stating that the report is not factual and asked Chief Colaneri to confirm there is not a bus stop every block, and in fact only every six blocks. With a town of 14 blocks there can only be two, and otherwise unanimously carried. Councilwoman Amander Azer retorted she did not know what she was talking about, I can count.

**FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION:** Youth Week Streets & Sanitation Commissioner Deininger reported anyone living in Hasbrouck Heights already knows how great of a town it is, but people looking in from the outside would undoubtedly agree just by the look of the town. This is because of how clean our sidewalks are, how smooth the roads are, and how well-maintained we keep our buildings, houses, parks and schools. We keep enough trash cans on the two main roads of town to ensure there's always a place to properly dispose of any trash and the schools have recycling bins to encourage students to be green and help the planet. Every year the wrestling and track team come together for a program called Athletes in Action where we are sent around town to pick up garbage and I can speak from experience that the amount of garbage I collected this year along with teammates was significantly less than the previous year. The roads in town are also kept very clean and street markings and traffic signs are always visible. Hasbrouck Heights also has a very high rate of pulling over drivers who are under the

influence so the streets are just as safe as they are clean, especially with the addition of a speed detector on Terrace Avenue.

Youth Week Fire Commissioner Deininger reported that the people in town can also feel safe because of how responsive, efficient and successful our Fire Department is. Although we don't have a high rate of fires in town the few we have had were quickly put out and taken care of. We owe our gratitude to our exceptional Fire Department and DPW that have done a tremendous job keeping our town safe and clean.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Kalmowitz recorded the vote, motion to approve this report was made by Youth Week Councilman Danny Kalmowitz, seconded by Youth Week Councilwoman Abelwahab and unanimously carried.

**HEALTH and POLICE:** Youth Week Health Commissioner Abelwahab reported Hasbrouck Heights is a very healthy community due to all the athletic opportunities it provides both for teenagers and adults. Hasbrouck Heights High School, for example, holds approximately 13 sports yearly and spends a reasonable amount of tax money on these sports teams. These teams are not only healthy, but also excel in their field bringing honor and recognition to our community. Providing interactive opportunities for our students does not stop once the school year ends. Mr. Brady runs a successful summer camp that allows the younger students to participate in games, sports and field trips, while the older students earn community service hours as well as remain active. We also promote the health and well being towards elders by providing activities like yoga and line dancing for a reasonable price. Our efforts in keeping our community healthy don't stop at the external factors. We also care about the kind of food being eaten in our town. We hold a "Farmer's Market" weekly on Tuesdays from 12 to 6 p.m. and our school is partnered with a food company that certifies each meal has the necessary amount of protein and vitamins. We are extremely fortunate to live in a community that cares for the well being of its citizens and provides numerous opportunities to get involved and remain healthy.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Kalmowitz recorded the vote, motion to approve this report was made by Youth Week Councilman Amanda Azer, seconded by Youth Week Councilwoman Meghan Azer and unanimously carried.

As Youth Week Police Commissioner, Nour Abelwahab reported according to Patch.com, Hasbrouck Heights has been ranked the 9<sup>th</sup> safest place to live in New Jersey. We hold the lowest number of burglaries reported and an even lower number of robberies, making this a very safe community to come home to at night. Not only does the Police Department do a tremendous job of ensuring everyone remains safe, but they are also moving with the times by signing up for a social network service that allows residents to stay informed about occurring events daily. Patrolman Brian Donohue is also stationed in the high school, allowing students to know they are protected at all times. Another way Police protect our students is by implementing

regular drug checks throughout the year. Policemen sometimes block off roads when necessary during school hours so students can cross with safety. It's great to live in a community where no one has to go to bed afraid of being robbed or murdered in their sleep. We are extremely proud of our Police Department for all that hard work they put to minimize the amount of DUIs in our town. The Police Department is involved with teaching the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse to fifth graders during the "DARE Program." By enforcing the law at such a young age, the fundamentals are set and students are able to recall facts they previously learned as they reach their teenage years and these topics become more prominent. These ideas are then again reintroduced to students who choose to participate in Junior Police the summer following seventh grade, and those not wanting to stop there can also become a part of Advanced Leadership, which becomes available to them once they reach ninth grade and goes all the way to senior year.

Mayor, I'd like to make a motion. If possible, I believe it would be beneficial to add directions in The Observer on how to sign up for texting programs to receive regular updates on events in our town.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Kalmowitz recorded the vote, motion to approve this report was made by Youth Week Councilman Deininger, seconded by Youth Week Councilwoman Meghan Azer and unanimously carried.

**RECREATION AND PARKS:** Youth Week Commissioner Meghan Azer reported Hasbrouck Heights recreational sports are well known by our neighboring towns to be outstanding and successful. From basketball to soccer, from softball to baseball, all our teams not only work hard and play hard, we are most of the time successful and take the win. We are lucky enough to have Woodland Park a clean and safe facility where our teams can practice and have their games. Woodland Park is not only home of Aviator Success, but also where the Summer Recreation Camp is held. The green grass and multicolor swing sets hold hundreds of laughs and memories for children of all ages. I am extremely happy to have grown up in such an outstanding town and to be given the opportunity to participate in all that it offers.

Youth Week Borough Clerk Kalmowitz recorded the vote, motion to approve this report was made by Youth Week Councilwoman Deininger, seconded by Youth Week Councilwoman Abelwahab, with Councilwoman Amanda Azer voting No, and otherwise unanimously carried.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Youth Week Mayor Pollizotti gave the following Mayor's Report: To the members of the council and those in attendance, it is with great pride that I am able to headline the annual report on the municipality. Once again, the town of Hasbrouck Heights has proven to be a community worthy of high praise and appreciation. As a student nearing graduation from the high school, I can personally attest that our district breeds the kind

of invaluable bonds that we hold in such high regard. I take pride in being raised in a town that has been able to provide all the necessities and luxuries associated with a successful community, and that capacity has not diminished in the 18 years I have spent in residence. In fact, I am hard pressed to find an area in need of improvement. Our Recreation Department has flourished for generations under the leadership of Mr. Robert Brady, and our athletics department has been excellently administered by Mr. Michael Sciulla. Dr. Helfant's oversight of the school district has been not only efficient, but cooperative with the needs of the students, and the municipal services at large have not faltered in maintaining a strong and healthy community. Not only am I proud to have been able to spend the first 18 years of my life here, but I have great hope and confidence in the prosperous future of our town and the success of its residents.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** BMs. Mimi Hui, Library Director

Ms. Hui was proud to share with the members of the Council and with Your Honor, that the library received one of three awards and were Statewide recognized for their Multicultural Program that was offered last year. This library has been selected across the State of New Jersey and also received a \$1,000 honorarium for the current year to be used for programming, but also received Statewide recognition to be used as a model for all libraries to use for the coming year. It gave her great pleasure to share that we are a small community, but we certainly have a big heart. Last year there were four different cultural programs offered. This prestigious award recognizes how a library offers creative and sustainable programming to ethnic groups. They highlighted Chinese, Korean, Tibetan and Asian Indian. There were over 800 people who attended the programs. Last year our library circulated over 131,000 items, offered 347 programs for all age groups. Last week she accepted the award at a conference on the community's behalf. We were compared to other residents statewide in larger municipalities and was asked where is Hasbrouck Heights. She was proud to say we are in Bergen county, with population under 12,000, yes we are a small community but have a big heart and serve on a big scale.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

Youth Week Mayor Pollizotti requested a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilwoman Amanda Azer, seconded by Councilwoman Deininger and unanimously carried.

Bill Thorne, 365 Boulevard, thanked the Mayor and Council for having this, this is his 5<sup>th</sup> year doing it, the dinner was delicious, he asked for a round of applause. He highlighted the students between PAARC testing which ended last week, end of year activities, field trips, testing, sports, they all took the time to write nearly perfect reports on their own, took the time to come here tonight, a school night, he said they deserve a round of applause also. A friend of his Pete Traina, whom he graduated with, who was a member of Youth Week when they were in high school, is now a member of the actual Town Council and remarked how this program can come full circle.

Youth Week Councilwoman Amanda Azer thanked Mr. Thorne for all the work he put into Youth Week and for helping them be so successful in this program.

Andrew Kalmowitz, 246 Kipp Avenue, asked Youth Week Councilman Danny Kalmowitz questions, bantering back and forth.

Lisa Traina, 128 Washington Street, Lodi, as Library Board President thanked Mimi and her staff for the recognition. Being one of three municipalities to receive that award is really great and we are humbled here in Hasbrouck Heights because the library does such great things. She commended Mimi and her staff for a great great year.

Samantha Kalmowitz, 246 Kipp Avenue, said how proud she was of her kids and their friends and was so impressed by all they did, hours of homework, sports. Her older son did it last year and had a blast, and this year her two children also. She also congratulated the library.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Mayor Kalmowitz declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. and asked for a motion which was made by Youth Week Councilwoman Amanda Azer, seconded by Councilwoman Kelsey Deininger.

Submitted by Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk