

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

November 23, 2004

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, November 23, 2004 at 8:06 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, 2004 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 5, 2004.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ronald R. Jones, Councilman Andrew Link III, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilman Garrett R. Pepe, Councilwoman Marlene Verrastro (who arrived late), Councilman Ronald F. Kistner, Councilman Thomas E. Meli

Absent: None

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

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Rev. Karyn L. Wiseman, Pastor of First United Methodist Church.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade on November 26, 2004 at 7 p.m.
2. Appeal Letter to help V.F.W. Post 4591

On a motion by Councilwoman Verrastro, seconded by Councilman Meli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Communication was accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (October 12, 2004)

On a motion by Councilman Link, seconded by Councilman Pepe, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

PETITIONS: A petition was received from Ileana Toledo, 251 Division Avenue, with 898 signatures which read: "To Mayor Jones and all the board members:

PETITIONS (cont'd):

“On Wednesday, October 6, 2004, the Hasbrouck Heights zoning board voted to allow AT&T to go ahead with the construction of a cell phone tower in the steeple of the Methodist Church, 57 Burton Ave. on the corner of Burton and Division Avenue. Although several Hasbrouck Heights citizens spoke at the meeting against the construction and warned the attendees of the risks involved in having this tower near families, kids and schools, AT&T was still given permission. By allowing AT&T to do this, many other areas in Hasbrouck Heights could be subject to the same in the very near future.

“AT&T’s ‘experts’ could not tell us with 100% certainty that this exposure over a prolonged period of time was safe. Cell phone technology is relatively new and there isn’t enough data out there to support either case and therefore, there are too many unknowns. Who benefits from having this tower in our neighborhood? Only AT&T and the church will benefit. We don’t benefit. Our property values could be affected and more importantly, our health could be at risk.

“Although we don’t know whether AT&T can be stopped, we must do our best to get support in stopping this invasion and others like it. Our quality of life in this town is most important, not whether or not we can get better reception on the Boulevard.

“We ask residents of Hasbrouck Heights oppose the cell tower construction. We do not want this in our neighborhoods.”

On a motion by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilman Pepe, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Petition was accepted.

BILLS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$278,135.35 specified in the schedule hereto annexed, having been examined and approved by the Finance Commissioner, or his Deputy, be paid and that warrants be issued therefore.

Signed Andrew Link, III
Commissioner of Finance

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

REPORTS:

FINANCE AND LAND USE: Under Finance, Commissioner Link gave the Finance Report for the month of November. The current fund cash balance at Oct. 31 was \$2,505,852.37; on September 30 was \$6,113,609.98 which represents a decrease of \$3,607,757.61. The entire balance was invested and is earning 1.75%. Cash receipts for October totaled \$3,921,132.98 of which \$3,529,286.26 was for current taxes, \$3,336.00 was prepaid 2005 taxes, \$245,573.60 was grants and state aid, and \$142,937.12 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for October totaled \$7,935,171.46 of which \$1,379,290.16 was local school taxes, \$750,154.69 was salaries, \$5,000,000.00 was repayment of a Tax Anticipation Note, \$146,658.78 was for debt service and \$659,067.83 was for other expenses. He continued that the budget process is underway.

HEALTH AND RECREATION: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa gave the statistics for October: 11 births, 8 males, 3 females; 72 burial permits, four in town; 616 transcripts, 23 marriages, \$58 in dog licenses. Total collected in fees: \$3,940. This past Monday an additional 180 flu shots were distributed with 11 people in high risk under the age of 65, including two children; 165 doses given to seniors over 65, and two to pregnant women. Under Recreation, he reported that on Saturday, Nov. 13, a Senior Western Party was held with 115 people in attendance. On Oct. 14, 62 children signed up for junior wrestling. On Oct 21, basketball sign ups included 270 children. The Community Awareness Access to All Committee of 15 members put out their first directory.

POLICE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES:

Under Police, Commissioner Pepe reported that a message board trailer was purchased. He commended the department, with over 1,000 calls for service and numerous summons written. Under Public Facilities, he reported the Police Department is in its new home and all is in working order. The Municipal Court is holding sessions in their new home as well. Punch list items are continuing with the construction manager.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Commissioner Verrastro had attended the retirement dinner for outgoing director, Lee Kulakowski. She was pleased to see the resolution supporting ocean routing for aircraft.

STREETS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS:

Under Parks Commissioner Kistner reported the Soccer season has ended. Woodland Park field area will be aerated, seeded and temporary fencing installed until Spring. Miers Park was in need of cleanup and the DPW was requested. Under Streets, he reported that potholes in some areas needed filling in and requested the DPW in this area also.

FIRE AND SANITATION:

Under Sanitation, he commended the DPW for putting up the Christmas decorations in time for the Holiday Parade which was scheduled for the Friday after Thanksgiving. Under Fire, Commissioner Meli reported the Fire Department year ends in November and elections were held. He introduced and commended retiring Chief Robert Thomasey. He read the the results of the Fire Department Election for 2005: Fire Chief, Joseph Taylor, Jr.; First Assistant Chief, Angelo Roccamo; Second Assistant Chief, Michael Ratkowski; Secretary, Thomas Rubino; Treasurer, Richard Giarratana. Engine Company One: Captain, Kevin Todd; Lieutenant, Edmund Carter III; Secretary, Bernardo Valente; Treasurer, Christian Semencz. Engine Company Two: Captain, James Halloran; Lieutenant, Patrick Hayes; Secretary, John Phelan; Treasurer, Thomas Rubino. Hook and Ladder Company One: Captain, Richard Giarratana; Lieutenant, Alfred Cirelli; Secretary, Robert Salerno; Treasurer, Laurence Donohue. Ambulance: Deborah Karlsson; Lieutenant, John Riordan; Secretary, Patricia Thomasey. Rescue Company: Captain, Robert Knobloch; Lieutenant, John Phelan; Secretary, Bernardo Valente. He continued this department is responsible as first responders to Teterboro Airport, the U.S. Postal Facility, Quest Diagnostics. The volunteers must be highly trained to handle these situations. Some accomplishments: a new chief's car was purchased, moved into new headquarters, updating turnout gear, complete exempt room, eight firefighters graduated, re-implemented the department review board, updated the application form. With the cooperation of the Police Department, a new efficient application process was developed. Communications between the commissioner and the council were vastly improved. Lingering personnel issues were addressed. Money was raised for the purchase of pediatric gear for the ambulance corps. He commended the Honor Guard, the Inspection. The radio system was changed to keep up with FAA regulations. There were two major fires, with no injuries reported. Over 2,000 calls were responded to, additional training for anthrax and decontamination occurred. Going forward, the breathing apparatus needs upgrading, another chief's car is needed, the by-laws need upgrading. He asked for continued support of these volunteers.

A motion to confirm the Fire Department Election Results was made by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously approved.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

Mayor Jones also added his commendations to Chief Thomasey, and the Fire Department volunteers.

APPOINTMENTS: James Phelan to Fire Department Ambulance Squad

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Meli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Appointment was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: 187. National Bible Week

188. Urging the FAA to Adopt the Concept of Ocean Routing of Aircraft over Bergen County

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

RESOLUTIONS: 189. Authorizing Cancellation of Checks to Surplus

Authorizing Cancellation of Checks in Payroll Fund to Surplus

Referring Two Ordinances to Planning Board for Review

Accepting Appeal of Planning Board Decision on Cell Tower

Authorizing Contract with Teterboro for Fire and Ambulance Services and "911" Emergency Telephone Service

Authorizing Contract with Wood-Ridge for "911" Emergency Telephone Services

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Link, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolutions were approved. (Copies attached)

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2061:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2004"** was 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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2004”** was 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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2004”** was 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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO PROVIDE THEREIN A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED “CHAPTER 18, CONTRACTS, PUBLIC” REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE BY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS OF CERTAIN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROHIBITING THE AWARD OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS TO CONTRACTORS HAVING MADE CERTAIN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS”** was 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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO FURTHER DESIGNATE AS A PERMITTED USE THE “B-2” HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL AND “I” INDUSTRIAL ZONES COMMUNICATION TOWER OR ANTENNA FACILITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN SPECIFIED**

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION (cont'd):

RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS" was 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 December 14, 2004.

On a motion by Councilwoman Verrastro, seconded by Councilman Pepe, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinances on Introduction were approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2060. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2004,"** 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.

On a motion by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Public Hearing was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Jones invited anyone wishing to speak to please come forward.

Matthew Ahearn, Esq., attorney representing Ann Risquet, addressed the proposed ordinance (No. 2065) referring to FCC law, noting cellular coverage, that under the federal government, that for any carrier to succeed there must be proven that there is a significant gap in coverage. He recommended expert advice is required. He requested that the borough consider a plan in the future for all licensed carriers. He would be conversing with the borough attorney.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the public portion was closed.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 195. Personnel

On a motion by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilman Link, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution to Close was accepted.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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 November 23, 2004.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk