

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

March 9, 2004

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on March 9, 2004 at 8:07 p.m. at the new Municipal Building, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.

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, Councilman Ronald F. Kistner, Councilman Thomas E. Meli

Absent: Councilwoman Marlene Verrastro

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

INVOCATION: Rev. Katherine Ellison

A moment of silence was requested for the passing of Gloria Clarke, wife of Joseph Clarke, and longtime resident.

PRESENTATION: Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the 2003 Lightweight Cheerleaders who supported the Lightweights Meadowlands Jr. Football League champions. Mayor Jones was assisted by Councilman DiPisa. The cheerleaders included: Tiffany Amariuta, Angela Aponte, Natalie Ayoub, Raquel Barroso, Brittany Biroc, Brittany Buckman, Sandra Buffone, Samantha Bunone, Amy Calderone, Mary Lucia Carle, Macie Colazo, LisaMarie Crabbe, Deanna DeCongelio, Mounia Deodato, Rachel Doheny, Cassie Fuhro, Bernadette Gerrity, Ashley Giblin, Alexis Harden, Danielle Hofheinz, Leeanne Hum, Nickie Inglesby, Marisa Jentz, Georgia Karlos, Lauren Klenk, Missy Machtemes, Renee Pikowski, Gabriella Reynaldo, Kiana Richardson, Carmella Risquet, Jackie Ruroede, Leigh Ann Ruroede, Andrea Sanzari, Olivia Shock, Jackie Stinson, Nicole Telepun, Christine Whelan, Crystal Wrede, Alexa Ziemkiewicz, Gabriella Smith, Lindsay LaConti, Coaches: Linda Condal, Cindy Stinson and Lora Ruroede; Assistant Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/9/04 - page 2

PRESENTATIONS (cont=d):

Coaches: Cristina Annese, Amanda Condal, Kimberly McCrystal, Danielle Dussault, Cory D=Amato. Mascot: Emily Condal, Jessie Stinson.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from BCUA with a check in the amount of \$7,479.81 for the Municipal Recycling Assistance Program.

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

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (December 16, 2003, December 23, 2003, January 3, 2004 Sine Die, January 13, 2004)

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

BILLS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$1,724,055.79 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 therefor.

Signed Andrew Link III
Commissioner of Finance

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

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: 41. Raffle License for Hasbrouck Heights Junior Woman=s Club

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Meli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda Resolution was approved (Copy attached).

- RESOLUTIONS:**
42. Payroll
 43. Dog Licenses - Payment of Fees to State
 44. Authorizing Introduction of 2004 Budget
 45. Authorizing Contract with Planning Board Attorney
 46. Authorizing Check to be Paid to United Jersey Auto Body
 47. Authorizing Payment of \$500 Representing Council Fees Payable Under Court Order

SUMMARY OF INTRODUCTION OF 2004 BUDGET:

Councilman Link read the following report from the Finance Committee:

The Borough Council is introducing the 2004 Municipal Budget tonight with total appropriations of \$13,764,179.15 and an Amount to be Raised for Municipal Purposes of \$10,095,268.72. The public hearing is scheduled for April 13, 2004 at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building

The 2004 Municipal Tax Rate as introduced is \$1.159 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation which represents an increase of 12 points over the 2003 Local Tax Rate. A projected total Tax Rate is not possible at this time because of the uncertainty of the School and County requirements.

Some of the major budget issues to deal with are as follows:

1. Health insurance costs had a 10-15% increase which amounted to approximately \$122,500.
2. Despite continued aggressive sewer maintenance and repair programs sewer service charges increased by approximately \$44,500.
3. Item line for payment of Debt Service increased by \$254,000, due to the fact that this year=s budget reflects the first payment debt issued for new construction as well as the last payment of an old bond issue. Although the debt service line increased this year due to this overlap it was very important that the bonds were sold when they were last year to take advantage of the historically low interest rates. The end result will be that over the life of the new issue, there will be great savings sue to the timing of the sale and the favorable interest rate.

SUMMARY OF INTRODUCTION OF 2004 BUDGET (cont=d):

4. Since the administration is to a great extent a service provider, a large percentage is for salaries and increases in salaries are estimated at approximately \$400,000. The 2004 budget as introduced is approximately 50% salaries.
5. Costs associated with liability and workmen=s compensation insurance increased by approximately \$36,000.
6. Interest rates have declined and the result is that we cannot anticipated any increase revenue from this source.

The net increase of the above items amounts to approximately \$857,000 which equates to 9.8 points, 82% of the entire increase represented by the introduced budget. An Extraordinary Aid Application will be submitted seeking funding to reduce taxes. Last year \$100,000 was received.

In 2003 the Borough generated approximately \$1,070,000 in surplus and realized a Tax Collection Rate of 98.75%.

On a motion by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, Resolution No. 44 was approved (Copy attached).

On a motion by Councilwoman Pepe, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolutions No. 42, 43, 45, 46 and 47 were approved (Copies attached).

APPOINTMENTS: None

RESIGNATIONS: Debra Torre from Committee of Community Celebrations

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Pepe, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resignation was accepted with regret.

ORDINANCE (S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2034:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled **A2004 ACAP@ ORDINANCE TO EXCEED INDEX RATE; INDEX RATE LESS THAN 5% LIMITATION FOR THE YEAR 2004 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)@** was introduced this date be and the same is hereby passed on first reading and the Borough Clerk be directed to advertise

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

notice of public hearing on said Ordinance to be held at the regular meeting of the Borough Council on March 23, 2004.

ORDINANCE NO. 2035:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ARTICLE XII ENTITLED ADESIGN DISTRICT@ OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED AZONING@ OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS WHICH WAS ADOPTED ON JUNE 11, 1996 BY ORDINANCE NO. 1748 AND REPLACING THE SAME WITH A NEW ARTICLE ALSO TO BE DESIGNATED ARTICLE XII AND TO BE ENTITLED ACENTRAL BUSINESS DESIGN DISTRICT@** 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 March 23, 2004.

ORDINANCE NO. 2036:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 20-6 ENTITLED AOFFICE OF BOROUGH PROSECUTOR@ OF CHAPTER 20 ENTITLED AMUNICIPAL COURT@ OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO ELIMINATE THEREFROM THE OFFICE OF CO-PROSECUTOR@** 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 March 23, 2004.

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2033. There being no one wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2033:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN THE SUM OF \$275,000.00 TO ABIDE THE COST OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX REVALUATION PROGRAM ORDERED BY THE BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION AND THE COST OF THE PREPARATION OF AN UPDATED TAX ASSESSMENT MAP REQUIRED IN RELATION TO THAT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 AND TO**

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ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING (cont=d):

AUTHORIZE THE FINANCING OF THE SAME BY THE ISSUANCE OF >SPECIAL EMERGENCY NOTES= PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:4-55 SHOULD THE SAME BE REQUIRED@ 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 published and circulating in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

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

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Juana DiBisceglie, 101 Paterson Avenue, asked if a written response had been received from the Board of Education regarding the shed and lights to be placed on Hitchcock Field, that was the expense of lights necessary versus cutting education. She was advised that only a verbal response had been received indicating that no bathrooms would be installed.

Carolyn Rose, 121 Paterson Avenue, also regarding the shed on the Board of Education property. She was concerned about the questions to be placed on the referendum. She was advised that her concerns should be presented before the Board of Education.

Carol Skiba, 191 Field Avenue, with respect to the contract for Planning Board Attorney, she requested how many applications had been received, and who they were with Mayor Jones noting he would obtain the names from his office after the meeting. She asked for a copy of the letter from the NJ DOT regarding Route 17 but was told only a call had been received. She asked how many co-prosecutors there were before and was told two. She asked how many applications had been received for the night maintenance man and was told three or four.

RECESS FOR WORK SESSION

Mayor Jones announced that the meeting would be recessed for Work Session.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 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 Mayor and Council Meeting held on March 9, 2004.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk