

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

April 27, 2004

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2004 at 8:10 p.m. at the Municipal Complex, 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 Justin A. DiPisa, Councilman Garrett R. Pepe, Councilwoman Marlene Verrastro, Councilman Ronald F. Kistner, Councilman Thomas E. Meli

Absent: Councilman Andrew Link III

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

INVOCATION: Reverend Karyn L. Wiseman of First United Methodist Church

PROCLAMATION: Older Americans Month

¶Whereas, in April 1963 President John F. Kennedy designated May as ¶Senior Citizens Month¶, and

Whereas, thanks to President Jimmy Carter=s 1980 designation, what was once called Senior Citizens Month, is now called ¶Older Americans Month¶ to recognize and honor the countless contributions older Americans have made to the life of our Nation, and

Whereas, every President since JFK has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities, and

Whereas, historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country, and

Whereas, this year=s theme for Older American Month 2004 ¶Aging Well, Living Well¶ was selected to celebrate and recognize older Americans who are living longer, healthier, and more productive lives; and

PROCLAMATION (cont=d):

Whereas, generations of older citizens of Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey have led us through times of conflict, depression, peace, and prosperity and have witnessed firsthand the milestones of the development of our Borough,

Now, therefore be it resolved that we, the Governing Body of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights do hereby proudly acknowledge May 2004 as Older Americans Month, a time where we commend and recognize the older citizens of our community both present and past for their countless contributions to our Borough, State and Nation.@

/s/ Ronald R. Jones, Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter sent to Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney thanking him, the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management and Sgt. Barry Leventhal for their help at the April 26 Town Hall Meeting regarding AEmergency Preparedness.@
2. Letter from Senator Joseph Coniglio noting that he had received the Extraordinary Aid application and that applications will be awarded after the State budget is adopted and he will keep this Mayor and Council informed on any advancement.
3. Letter from New Jersey State League of Municipalities regarding the 4,300 National Guard soldiers who will be deployed beginning this week with a ASalute to Troops Ceremony@ to be held at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton on May 1.
4. Invitation to the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department Annual Inspection, Saturday, May 8 at 7 p.m. at the Temporary Fire Headquarters.
5. Letter from Bergen County Utilities Authority announcing a Mercury Thermometer Swap in exchange for a mercury thermometer a free digital thermometer will be exchanged at various locations and dates throughout Bergen County.
6. Letter from Cablevision on updated tariffs.
7. Letter from Borough of Bogota requesting to borrow the Fire Department Fire Engine for a two month period.

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COMMUNICATIONS (cont=d):

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

PETITIONS: None

BILLS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$160,434.25 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 Thomas E. Meli
Deputy Commissioner of Finance

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

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND RECREATION:

Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported that the Health Department will have self inspection reports available on May 1 for food establishments to monitor their own progress between the Bergen County health inspector visits. He thanked those who assisted in the recent Health Expo which was well attended with nine vendors exhibiting. Another event will be held in the fall. Under Recreation, the cultural subcommittee is bringing back the flower show on September 18, calling it the AHarvest Festival Flower Show@ with participation by all ages. A family camp night will be held in Woodland Park on July 17 and 18. A senior and junior talent show is proposed.

POLICE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES:

Under Police, Commissioner Pepe reported a 2004 Chevy Impala patrol package to replace the old 609 has been received. He commended the department and residents on their participation in the funeral of former Police Chief Howard Baker. The newly formed honor guard under the direction of Lt. Miller is preparing for Memorial Day. The citizens academy has begun and well attended. The junior police academy is assisting.

There are job openings for crossing guards and anyone interested should contact Lt. Thomas Archer. He read some letters of commendation for several members of the
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POLICE & PUBLIC FACILITIES (cont=d):

Police Department. Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Pepe reported that the tower is now installed, painting and last minute touches are being done, PSE&G looked

at removal of the poles, the command center furniture should be delivered this week, with most of the interior work near completion.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Under Social Services, Commissioner Verrastro reported the department had interviewed 15 families. She thanked the boy scouts donated food for the food pantry and the girl scouts and their families for helping putting it in storage. She reported that the scope of work is being prepared by Environ and once the Coalition receives it, it will be dispersed to the necessary departments.

STREETS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS:

Under Streets & Transportation, Commissioner Kistner reported after endless investigation on who is responsible for the wall packs under the bridges, that the municipality is responsible according to Mr. James McDermott who is head of NJ Transit government relations. Under Parks, Commissioner Kistner referred to the applications for open space funds which will be prepared. He was in contact with Mike Mongen, a resident of the borough and experienced in the repair of fields, who has been instrumental in securing a favorable price to repair the Woodland Park field. Under the Recreation Center, the room is almost completely painted. The application form is being prepared, with sign ups early in May. The equipment is being donated by Imperial International.

FINANCE AND FIRE:

Under Finance, Deputy Commissioner Meli reported that the Current Fund cash balance at March 31, 2004 was \$1,301,354.70 and at February 29, 2004 was \$3,500,303.81 which represents an decrease of \$2,198,949.11. The entire balance was invested and earning approximately 1%. Cash receipts for March totaled \$270,083.27 of which \$134,509.25 was for Current Taxes, \$19,839.90 was for Prior Year Taxes, \$25,388.03 was Grants and State Aid and \$90,346.09 was Miscellaneous Revenues. Cash disbursements for March totaled \$2,469,032.38 of which \$1,300,708.57 was Local School Taxes, \$479,647.51 was for Salaries, and \$163,500.87 was Debt Service and \$525,175.33 was for Other Expenses. Under Fire, Commissioner Meli had no formal report, however, there were at least five or six calls per day occurring this past month. The annual fire inspection is May 8 and encouraged all to attend. Volunteers are needed for the Fire Department and Ambulance Squad. Under Sanitation, he commended the department for its help with the Boulevard Beautification Program. New banners are on order. The September Town Hall Meeting will be the Leaf Removal Program. Under Library, he reported the May 17

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FINANCE AND FIRE (cont=d):

Macy=s night fund raiser, children=s room programs, a program on May 18 regarding the Pine Barrens, the teen book club, the adult book club and special thanks were

extended to all who donated or bought books at the Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

The Mayor read the following reports:

1. Ratification of Prior Promotions in the Police Department

In summary, Mayor Jones proposed that the council ratify and confirm certain promotions of police officers previously nominated and confirmed but since in question. These officers are qualified according to State and Borough code. (a) On Jan. 22, 2002 John DeLorenzo and Joseph Cronin to lieutenant; (b) on Oct. 3, 2003 John DeLorenzo and Joseph Cronin to Captain; (c) on Dec. 23, 2003 Thomas Archer, James Krisinski and James Miller to lieutenant; and (d) on Dec. 23, 2003 Kevin Corbliss and Joseph Rinke.

2. Nomination of Further Police Promotions

According to State statute and Borough code and in consultation with the Police Chief have determined that certain officers be promoted, Mayor Jones, pending an ordinance that will be included in the minutes amending and supplementing borough code, proposed the following promotions: (a) John Mullins, Thomas Tozzi and Charles Lesho to lieutenant; (b) Kelly Ruroede to lieutenant (from Dec. 23, 2003); (c) Kevin Caccavella, Michael J. Vargo, George Netelkos and Nicholas Sisto to sergeant.

A motion to confirm these promotion as stated was made by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilman Kistner, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Jones read a report from Environmental Commission Chairman Rose Heck who had attended the Coalition meeting on April 20 with DEP Deputy Commissioner Sam Wolfe and Environ representation present as well as five or six towns. A proposal was being prepared which could take from one to two months.

APPOINTMENTS: Bill White to Local Assistance Board

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

RESIGNATIONS: None

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NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: None

RESOLUTIONS: 75. Payroll

- 77. Authorizing Agreement for Loan of Fire Pumper to
- 78. Authorizing Award of Radio Maintenance Contract
- 79. Authorizing Change Order No.5-8 in Connection with
- 80. Ratification of Prior Police Promotions Pursuant to
- 81. Authorization of Settlement of Ruroede vs. Borough and Ruroede vs. Borough et als. and Ruroede vs. Torre et als.

On a motion by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the Resolutions Nos. 75, 77, 78, 79, 80, and 81 were approved (Copies attached).

- 76. Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for State Aid Improvement of Baldwin Avenue

On a motion by Councilwoman Verrastro, seconded by Councilman Meli and unanimously carried, Resolution No. 76 was approved (Copy attached).

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2045:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE I ENTITLED A CREATION AND ORGANIZATION@ OF CHAPTER 55 ENTITLED A POLICE DEPARTMENT@ OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALTERING THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS IN CERTAIN RANKS THEREOF TO ASSURE THE MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THAT DEPARTMENT@** was introduced this date be and the same is hereby passed on first reading and the Borough Clerk be
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ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION (cont=d):

directed to advertise notice of public hearing on said Ordinance to be held at the regular meeting of the Borough Council on May 11, 2004.

On a motion by Councilman Pepe, seconded by Councilman Kistner, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Introduction was approved.

ORDINANCE ON CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING:

The public hearing was opened on Ordinance No. 2035. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

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@** 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 DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Meli, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance was approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2038 and Ordinance No. 2039. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2038:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO FURTHER AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$9,500,000.00 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON THE BOULEVARD TO INCLUDE THE BOROUGH=S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, A NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND A SENIOR CITIZENS= CIVIC CENTER AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING ON HAMILTON AVENUE TO INCLUDE THE BOROUGH=S MUNICIPAL COURT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, TO APPLY TO THE COST THEREOF \$4,500,000.00 IN INSURANCE PROCEEDS AND A GRANT FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE SUM OF \$339,156.00, AND TO AUTHORIZE**

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

THE FINANCING OF THE COST THEREOF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL BOND LAW BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR

NOTES NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF \$4,427,000.00" BEING ORDINANCE NO. 1944 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 14, 2001 (AS THE SAME WAS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 1968 ADOPTED ON JULY 9, 2002, AND BY ORDINANCE NO. 1985 ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 26, 2002,) IN ORDER TO INCREASE BY THE SUM OF \$50,413.00 THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO \$11,234,136.00 BY APPLYING THE PROCEEDS OF A BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT IN THE SUM OF \$50,413.00 FOR AN

ELEVATOR IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING)@ 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2039:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL SUBSECTION U. OF SECTION 198-2 ENTITLED APROHIBITED ACTS@ OF ARTICLE I ENTITLED AGENERAL REGULATIONS@ OF CHAPTER 198 ENTITLED APEACE AND GOOD ORDER@ OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO REPEAL SECTION 261-15 ENTITLED ALIMITATION ON THE USE OF CELLULAR TELEPHONES@ CONTAINED IN ARTICLE II ENTITLED ATRAFFIC REGULATIONS@ OF CHAPTER 261 ENTITLED AVEHICLES AND TRAFFIC@ OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK SO AS TO REPEAL THE BOROUGH=S PROHIBITIONS AGAINST THE USE OF A HAND HELD CELLULAR TELEPHONE, THE SAME HAVING BEEN PREEMPTED BY STATE STATUTE**@ 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 Pepe, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinances on Public Hearing were approved.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

John Gehrig, 262 Lawrence Avenue, resident for 30 years, questioned the pedestrian cross walks and doesn=t feel the law is being enforced. He asked what more could be done. He was concerned with traffic moving too fast on the Boulevard. He asked when the signs would be replaced at the south end of town that still advertise the Old Homestead Restaurant. Lastly, he asked why there were no benches between the circle to Wood-Ridge. He asked for a sign in front of Borough Hall announcing town events.

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MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont=d):

Salvatore Scaglione, Springfield Avenue, commended the present council, was concerned with traffic on Springfield Avenue and that it could increase with the coming of Commerce Bank, asked about traffic counters and their operation, asked for signs indicating children were present.

The mayor recalled traffic counters on Springfield Avenue in the past and indicated it can be done again.

CLOSE FOR CLOSED SESSION:

- RESOLUTION:** 82. Close for Closed Session for any matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds, involving litigation or employment or appointment of personnel

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

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 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 April 27, 2004.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk