

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

July 25, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2006 at 8:08 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 3, 2006 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 3, 2006.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ronald R. Jones, Councilwoman Maryetta Saccomano, Councilwoman Carol J. Skiba, Councilman Leonard Introna, Councilman Thomas E. Meli, Councilman Ronald F. Kistner, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa

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 Deacon Vincent DeFedele of Corpus Christi R.C. Church

COMMUNICATIONS:

Letter from Ralph Izzo, PSE&G regarding the approval process for the PSEG-Exelon merger.

On a motion by Councilwoman Skiba, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Correspondence was accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (May 9, 2006 Regular Meeting, May 23, 2006 Youth Week and Regular Council Meeting)

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

None

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$462,663.87 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.

Thomas E. Meli
Commissioner of Finance

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

Councilman Meli questioned if it was appropriate for Councilwoman Skiba to approve the bill for litigation which she has against the Borough. She thanked him and abstained from voting on that particular item.

REPORTS:

HEALTH AND PARKS: Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa reported 23 deposits to the treasury, issued 5 marriage licenses with two from Hasbrouck Heights. The Dog Census has begun with 10 crossing guards canvassing the borough. He attended an event called Health Ease run by Bergen County with 175 in attendance. He likened it to the Borough's Health Fair Expo, of which Expo IV will be held on October 13. He noted that the Community Awareness Access for All Committee is recruiting new members. Under Parks, Commissioner DiPisa had no report.

POLICE AND RECREATION: Under Police, Commissioner Kistner had no formal report. He thanked Detective Joseph Rinke who has been volunteering his time at the Recreation Center. Under Recreation, he reported Summer Camp will close on August 4, with eight trips taken. The Recreation Center opened two weeks ago with 70 children registered. The first Concert in the Park - Ron Gartner - sponsored by Gateway Realtors was held on July 13. He noted the Senior Picnic was also held that afternoon, and Camp Out Night which was held that weekend and thanked those who were involved in these events.

FINANCE AND FIRE: Under Finance, Commissioner Meli read the following Finance Report: The current fund cash balance as of June 30, 2006 was \$584,802.28; on May 31, 2006 was \$3,002,884.37, which represents an decrease of \$2,418,082.09. The entire balance was invested and is earning 4.75%. Cash receipts for June totaled \$361,672.30 of which \$140,457.03 was for current taxes, \$42,893.08 for Delinquent Taxes, and \$11,870.82 was grants and aid, and \$166,451.37 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for June totaled \$2,779,754.39 of which \$1,473,969.42

was local school taxes, \$852,879.87 was salaries, and \$452,905.10 was for other expenses. No word on extraordinary aid has been received as yet. Under Fire,
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FINANCE AND FIRE (cont'd):

Commissioner Meli reported during the month of June the Ambulance and Fire Department went out about seven times a day. A picnic combined with Wood-Ridge was held this past weekend. He again reminded residents of the Fireman's Walk of Honor brick paver program. Construction will begin in September. He added his thanks to those involved in the Concert series and Camp Out, and thanked the Lions Club on a successful July 4th Fireworks Program.

SANITATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Sanitation, Commissioner Introna reported that the DPW was inundated with trash due to household cleanouts and real estate sales and wished to remind residents that there is a limit of eight trash items placed on the curb on collection day. Monitoring will take place with warnings and possible summons given if non-compliance is observed. He read the portion of the Recycling Calendar headed "Trash."

TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Under Social Services, Councilwoman Skiba referred to an article published in The Observer and asked residents to continue to donate to the Food Bank. Under Transportation, she reported Senator Lautenberg's office had called her and provided a copy of their statement regarding the Metro Air Space Redesign which was submitted by Senators Menendez, Lautenberg and Representative Rothman, Garrett, Hayne and Andrews. They strongly stated their concerns with respect to the draft environmental impact statement, that the FAA should develop new alternatives where the minimum aircraft noise one of the stated purposes. They felt that the FAA understates the real noise impact and concerned that the draft environmental impact statement did not propose an alternative for the runway at Teterboro Airport which brings aircraft into close proximity with high rise buildings in the area. The Coalition for Public Health and Safety will hold meetings in Carlstadt Borough Hall in September. On July 12 she attended the NJ DEP public hearing at Giants Stadium on the development project on Paterson Plank Road.

STREETS AND LAND USE: Under Streets, Commissioner Saccomano reported a busy two weeks which began on July 18 with a severe thunderstorm that caused uprooted trees and property damage. The DPW responded and worked for two days round the clock to restore normal operations. On Friday, July 21, another storm produced the same outcome and the DPW responded accordingly. Cleanup procedures are continuing with so far over 300 cubic yards of material collected. Residents were reminded to tie branches in bundles not longer than five feet, and leaves and twigs put in barrels or paper bags. Under Land Use, she reported 12 verbal warnings for overgrown lawns, six for contractor signs on lawns, nine disputes over property maintenance issues, which were resolved with no summonses issued; three complaints of construction work without permits, two complaints by residents with large

amounts of water in their backyard, which appeared to be due to the recent storms, and a complaint of a property line, with advisement of obtaining an updated survey. She thanked Ed Carter as Property Maintenance Officer. She advised residents to obtain construction permits when needed.

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REPORT OF MAYOR: Mayor Jones commended the DPW during the storms, Detective Joseph Rinke and Councilman Kistner regarding the Rec Center, and the borough clerk and Lori French with regard to the Senior Picnic.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS: None

RESIGNATIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: None

- RESOLUTIONS:**
- 121. Renewal of 2006-2007 Liquor License for Siva Corporation
 - 122. Acceptance of 2005 Audit Report
 - 122. Cancellation of Balances from Capital Improvement Ordinances

Councilwoman Saccomano questioned the Audit Report and Resolution No. 122, regarding the comment on Recreation, when this software program would be installed, and was told within the next few weeks.

Councilman Introna questioned page 10 of the report regarding Long Term Debt and this was explained to him.

Councilwoman Skiba questioned Bond Anticipation Note payments.

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman Introna, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolutions were approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2135:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$50,000.00 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF GEAR AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE USE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND FURTHER TO AUTHORIZE 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 \$47,500.00” 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 August 8, 2006.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2136:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$420,000.00 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT, A POCKET PARK, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS UPON LOTS 20.01, 20.02 AND 22 IN BLOCK 47 BEING PREMISES ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION FORMED BY CENTRAL AVENUE AND THE BOULEVARD TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS OF A PORTION OF CENTRAL AVENUE IN RELATION THERETO, TO APPLY TO THE COST THEREOF A GRANT FROM THE BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND IN THE SUM OF \$54,000.00 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCING OF A FURTHER PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF \$346,000.00 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL BOND LAW”** 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 August 8, 2006.

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING: None

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Jones opened the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to speak.

Steven Altobelli, 67 Hamilton Avenue, questioned if the Audit was available to the public and he was told he could view it in the Borough Clerk’s office.

Chris Buxbaum, 146 Berkshire Road, was concerned about flooding on her property coming from two houses across the street. Mayor Jones requested Acting Supt. Spindler look at this area with the Building Inspector. Mr. Spindler noted that stormwater basins were retrofitted with restrictive flow plates which hinders proper flow.

Chris Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, questioned what is a controlled intersection and was told a Stop sign. He referred to Charlton Avenue as a bus stop and asked the council to make this one. He was not happy with the DPW’s work with the storm and referred to a personal incident. He asked for support in making a complaint against Public Service during the storms and their lack of customer service.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

Councilman Introna questioned budgeting such an emergency. Mr. Kronyak answered that he keeps a running total of overtime and budgets items accordingly. If the budget couldn't handle it, an emergency appropriation would be made.

Semencz asked if the DPW workers were being paid overtime to water the Boulevard plants, and was told this is part of the duties of the weekend on-call men.

Councilman Meli noted the DPW would not be responsible for watering plants due to vacation schedules in the next few weeks, and the Garden Club took over this responsibility and approached merchants, that the planting and placement was done by volunteers. Councilman DiPisa noted he had received a frantic negative call on the DPW watering plants by a former councilman.

Robert Rosario, 349 Roosevelt Avenue, reportedly had tree limbs fall in his backyard on the previous Friday from a tree on a piece of property with unknown ownership and was looking to the borough for help. He was advised that this property did not belong to the borough, and it could not accept liability, that there are small parcels of land throughout the borough such as this, and in some instances adjacent property owners sought legal counsel to find exact ownership. Mr. Rosario was advised that he could remove the limbs that encroached on his property as the law allows. Discussion would continue in closed session.

John Baratta, 269 Walter Avenue, questioned how many years would it have to be abandoned to acquire title, and was told 30 years.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 124. Personnel and Litigation

On a motion by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilman Introna, 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 9:37 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 July 25, 2006.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk