

# BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

## MINUTES

January 30, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Thursday, January 30, 2007 at 8:09 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 2, 2007 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 2, 2007.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor Ronald R. Jones, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilman Leonard Introna, Councilwoman Carol J. Skiba, Councilwoman Maryetta Saccomano, Councilman Anthony DiNanno, Councilman Stephen Altobelli

Absent: None

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

**INVOCATION:** A prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Karyn L. Wiseman, Pastor of First United Methodist Church.

- COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Letter from Senator Robert W. Singer, Assemblyman Joseph R. Malone and Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer requesting making petition to revise the school funding formula available to all residents to sign.
  2. Thank you letter from Elsie Paolini on the celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
  3. Letter from Juergen Hofheinz on his Volunteer Recreation Advisory Appointment.
  4. Letter from Alfino Ciminata regarding Burton Avenue.
  5. Resolution from Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding the Appointment of two Board Members

Mayor Jones requested the clerk read into the record Items #2, 3 and 5 (copies attached). He noted that Item #4 was referred to the Police Department. The clerk  
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**COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):**

asked for confirmation of the Council on Item #1. A motion on this petition was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Skiba, and unanimously carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM ZONING BOARD:**

Mayor Jones opened the meeting to any member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment wishing to speak on Item #5.

Rose Heck, 501 Collins Avenue, and Anthony Niosi, 205 Harrison Avenue, requested the Mayor and Council reconsider the reappointment of William Kremer and Andrew Heisey as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

There being no other Zoning Board member wishing to speak, this portion was closed.

Councilwoman Saccomano requested Item #1 be read into the record.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** (November 28, 2006 Regular Meeting, December 14, 2006 Regular Meeting, December 28, 2006 Regular Meeting)

Councilwoman Saccomano requested something be read into the Minutes. "At the last meeting of January 23, 2007 I was accused of changing my vote on one of the ordinances, and in the Minutes of December 12, 2006 on page 5, under Ordinance No. 2150, it says that myself and Councilman voted Nay. On December 28, 2006 on page 7 under Ordinance No. 2150, again I voted No with Councilman Introna also voting Nay. I want that in the Minutes because I was told I changed my vote from the introduction of the ordinance to the voting on the ordinance the second time. I hope this wasn't to discredit me or to smear my name, we're all here to work for Hasbrouck Heights and let's move forward."

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

**PETITIONS:** None

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the claims and accounts amounting to \$495,089.55 specified in the schedule hereto annexed, having been examined and approved by the Finance Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 1/30/2007 - page 3

## **BILLS (cont'd):**

Commissioner, or his Deputy, be paid and that warrants be issued therefore.

Leonard Introna  
Commissioner of Finance

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

## **REPORTS:**

**HEALTH AND PARKS:** Under Health, Commissioner DiPisa gave the year end review for the Board of Health. Totals for the year: health inspections, 1,315; dog licenses, 1,037; dog license fees, \$9,549; births, 122; deaths, 111; marriage licenses, 57; domestic partnership, 1; transcripts, 732; and total fees collected \$104,340.00. He gave an overview of programs that were provided. Under Parks, he reported the unpaved road that extends Roosevelt Avenue to Woodland Drive was graded with 25 tons of new stone, and the bid was awarded for the Woodland Park improvements. He offered his thanks and good wishes to outgoing Borough Attorney Ralph W. Chandless, Jr.

**FINANCE AND SANITATION:** Under Finance, Commissioner Introna read the following Finance Report: the current fund cash balance as of December 31, 2006 was \$2,049,518.11; on November 30, 2006 was \$4,415,639.26, which represents a decrease of \$2,366,121.15. The entire balance was invested and is earning 5.25%. Cash receipts for December totaled \$1,005,967.06 of which \$103,097.76 was for current taxes, \$70,080.10 was for Prepaid Taxes, \$67,903.20 was grants and aid, \$514,502.79 was for interfunds and \$1250,383.21 was miscellaneous revenues. Cash disbursements for December totaled \$3,396,254.88 of which \$1,563,704.25 was local school taxes, \$961,439.41 was salaries, \$207,684 was for refunds due to tax appeals and \$663,427.22 was for other expenses. The Annual Debt Statement was completed and submitted, which indicates net debt at \$11,219,968.48, a debt ratio of .70%, well below the 3.5% limit. Under Sanitation, he reported the DPW installed a new sanitary sewer manhole on Passaic Avenue which was cracked and broken. He referred to a copy of Borough Engineer Job's letter dated December 27, 2006 regarding the Terrace Avenue Sanitary Sewer Pump Station which was in need of repair.

**FIRE AND LAND USE:** Under Fire, Commissioner Skiba reported the Installation Dinner was held and Angelo Roccamo installed as fire chief. He congratulated Michael Ratkowski as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Fire Chief and Kevin Todd as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Fire Chief. Total calls for December were 203, with 129 being Ambulance calls. She noted a new ambulance is needed. Under Land Use, the Building Department reinstated use of local permits for minor work, saving residents additional state fees. The DPW and

## **FIRE AND LAND USE (cont'd):**

Building Department will allow sidewalk and curb cut permits to be issued through the Building Department, with the DPW continuing to do inspections. Homeowners undergoing construction were reminded to display the yellow placards until final inspections are completed. Eighty permits were issued in January totaling \$15,017 in fees. Under Property Maintenance, she reported 3 complaints of no permits, 3 summons to be heard in Municipal Court in January, one job stopped until a survey was done, two contractor signs on lawns and two warnings for placing trash at the curb on Saturday. Under Teterboro Airport, she reported the Environ air quality study final report is scheduled for Aug. 31. She congratulated the Police Department on the DARE program and graduation.

**POLICE AND STREETS:** Under Police, Commissioner Saccomano reported the new live scan finger print scanner is in use, training is underway for new records management software with patrol cars equipped to allow e-mailing the reports to headquarters and a new color copy machine installed in the Record Room. She also congratulated the DARE program. Under Streets, she reported on Jan. 11 the NJDEP conducted inspection of the Stormwater Management Plan and DPW garage. Several projects were completed to comply with mandated regulations, one diverting DPW garage floor drains to the sanitary sewer system and incorporating a contained fleet washing program that is mandated by 2009. A bid was awarded to Reiner Overhead Door for the requirement of doors on the salt shed containment area. A leaf committee meeting was held on Jan. 10 at which time a report was given on the use of the new claw purchased for leaf removal at a cost savings of \$26,264.00. Recommendations included purchasing a second claw, leaf bags available on Town Day, better homeowner clean up and publicity of leaf pick up days.

**TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION:** Under Transportation, Commissioner DiNanno reported with the NJ DOT state aid improvement of Oak Grove Avenue, all handicap ramps must comply with current ADA requirements. Thirty-nine additional ramps will be constructed in the Spring. Under Recreation, he reported on adult programs available to residents, boys and girls recreation basketball with 25 teams, boys and girls traveling teams, wrestling team has a website [www.hasbrouckheightswrestling.com](http://www.hasbrouckheightswrestling.com); the Rec Center has 178 children attending. A pool table from the DePalma family and a foosball table from the Buxbaum family were donated. The SASP program is underway affording seniors help with snow shoveling. A free AARP tax program is available for senior citizens. Under Depken Field Improvement, he reported the soil borings were in with no specific problems. Borough Engineer Job will meet with Mr. DiPiazza, a field turf expert to discuss the soil base and under drain systems.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Altobelli reported a temporary loss of electrical power at the Public Safety Building. After normal power was restored the generator did not disengage and it was determined that a malfunction required a new micro and limit switch installed. Annual fire sprinkler inspections were completed at the Public Safety Building, Borough Hall and Library. The Memorial Park flagpole was repaired, with four feet cut from the pole to allow easier maintenance. Under Social Services, he reported, the Food Pantry was getting a little sparse but replenished due to the generosity of donations received from Euclid Masonic Lodge and St. John's Episcopal Church, The First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday, Lynn Taylor, Harry Maisch, Jr., Vera Starke, Pat Thomasey, Audrey Maisch, Maria Beerman, Ethel Ball, and Troop 1097. The volunteers who man the Food Pantry were also thanked.

### **REPORT OF MAYOR:**

Mayor Jones, as this being the last day he could ask for appointments, asked the Council to reconsider Ralph W. Chandless, Jr. for Borough Attorney, Kenneth Job for Borough Engineer, Paul Garbarini for Borough Auditor, Mark Musella for Public Defender, Samuel Presti for Prosecutor.

A motion was made by Councilman DiPisa, with no second received.

He read those appointments for the various departments and boards. He asked for a motion to accept the individuals who were not appointed on January 1. A motion was made by Councilman DiPisa. Councilwoman Skiba asked for clarification on Special Law Enforcement, if special training is required and have they been used. Chief Colaneri said yes and went through the criteria, and during his term as Chief, Special Police have never been used. Councilman Introna asked if former police officers required training, and the answer was yes, if retired more than two years. It was noted Special Police were used more frequently until the State required special training. Police staff has remained the same throughout.

William Pols, 244 Pasadena Avenue, having served as special police for many years, gave a summary of his experience.

Councilwoman Skiba seconded the motion for the Mayor's appointees, with Councilman DiPisa and Councilwoman Skiba voting Yes, and Councilman Introna, Councilwoman Saccomano, Councilman DiNanno and Councilman Altobelli voted Nay, the appointments were denied.

Mayor Jones continued that the DARE graduation was excellent. He also offered his appreciation to Ralph W. Chandless, Jr. as borough attorney.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**APPOINTMENTS:** Timothy Moots as Mechanic for Fire Department  
Crash/Foam Truck  
Paul Malin as School Crossing Guard

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

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 22. Raffle Licenses for Woman's Club of Hasbrouck Heights
  - 23. Raffle License for Corpus Christi Cub Scout Pack 17
  - 23. Granting of 2007 Hotel Licenses
  - 23. Raffle License for Corpus Christi Rosary Society

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

- RESOLUTIONS:**
- 26. Payroll
  - 27. Authorizing Change of Date to Conform with Regulations for Accepting Qualifications for Professional Contracts
  - 27. Authorizing Certain Professional Contracts Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and 19:44A-20.5 et seq.
  - 27. Authorizing Cancellation of Taxes Overpaid

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, with Councilwoman Skiba voting Nay on Resolution No. 27, the foregoing Resolutions were approved (Copies attached).

**ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2153:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT SUBSECTION E ENTITLED “SIGNS” OF SECTION 275-21 ENTITLED “REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTAIN ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES OF” OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO INCLUDE A NEW PROVISION THEREIN GOVERNING ALL DIRECTIONAL RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE OPEN HOUSE SIGNS AND TO FURTHER SUPPLEMENT OTHER SECTIONS OF SAID CHAPTER**

**ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2153 (cont'd):**

**IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH** 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 February 13, 2007, 2007.

Borough Attorney Chandless said the zoning committee requested this ordinance be withdrawn and The Observer take out the notice of publication.

**ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on Ordinances No. 2151 and 2152. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2151:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT SUBSECTION D WHICH PROHIBITS CERTAIN EXTERIOR STAIRWAYS TO THE SECOND FLOOR OF RESIDENCES CONTAINED IN SECTION 275-18 ENTITLED “DESIGN CONTROLS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES” OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION FROM THE SAID PROHIBITION IN RESPECT TO STAIRCASES LEADING FROM CERTAIN DECKS UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIED CONDITIONS”** was continued on public hearing to the meeting of February 13, 2007.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2152:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 275-16 ENTITLED “YARD REGULATIONS” OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO SUPPLEMENT SUBSECTION A ENTITLED “ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS” OF SECTION 275-21 ENTITLED “REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTAIN ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES” OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO ALLOW DECKS THAT EXCEED A HEIGHT OF THREE FEET OVER THE NATURAL GRADE UNDER CERTAIN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES”** was continued on public hearing to the meeting of February 13, 2007.

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman Introna, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinances on Public Hearing were continued to February 13, 2007.

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**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

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

Robert Thomasey, 307 Franklin Avenue, regarding the automatic switches at the Police Department, when he was Fire Chief had recommended replacing the switches. Chief Colaneri advised that all circuitry has been replaced, and backup systems in place. A maintenance contract for the generators has also been obtained.

Maryetta Saccomano, 57 Ottawa Avenue, asked to read a resident's letter and the mayor advised her to have the resident mail it in.

John Fitzin, 234 Columbus Avenue, requested to have the No Left Turn sign removed from the Borough Hall parking lot, as he felt it was a danger to senior citizens. This was referred to the Police Committee.

Dorothy Petroulis, 215 Central Avenue, recommended they park in the other lot across the street and turn right onto Central Avenue.

John Fitzin, 234 Columbus Avenue, regarding the No Left Turn sign at the rear parking lot of the Municipal Building, and questioned the traffic counts.

Michele Zahn, 119 Springfield Avenue, publicly noted that she was dismayed that after being a volunteer for 15 years was fired.

Sonya Buckman, 239 Central Avenue, regarding the No Left Turn sign on Central Avenue, noted it was a compromise to the residents of Central Avenue to lessen the traffic from this (Municipal) building and would like to see it stay there. On the Fair and Open resumes due on February 2, questioned when they would be made available to the public for review. She was told that they would be opened at 10 a.m., and would be available shortly thereafter after copies were made.

Christian Semenez, 415 Jefferson Avenue, served on the Council with Mr. Chandless and his father. He referred to the last council meeting, and Councilwoman Saccomano's reference to insurance paid out, recommended the council members give up their insurance. He said the Fire Department volunteers get no insurance. In his opinion, he did not consider Mr. Ortiz a viable candidate for borough attorney.

Rose Heck, 501 Collins Avenue, spoke on behalf of herself and former Mayor Bill Torre, in support of Ralph Chandless, Jr. as Borough Attorney.

Paul Rutt, 15 MacArthur Avenue, asked for remediation of the no parking between 8-9 a.m. signs, and the possibility of a sticker program.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

John Baratta, 269 Walter Avenue, thanked Mr. Chandless for his past help. He also noted pay to play is not a good thing, but to use the fair and open process and obtaining resumes is good, and questioned where the request for resumes was posted and was told the Borough web site. He thought this was not fair.

Councilman DiPisa requested nominations be made from the floor, accompanied by their resumes. A discussion between the Mayor and Council members ensued.

John Goehrig, 62 Lawrence Avenue, agreed that resumes should be accepted from all interested, questioned how a volunteer could be fired.

John Hund, 238 Pasadena Avenue, questioned how volunteers could be voted down and not all change is good, that an attorney should come from Hasbrouck Heights.

George Shihanian, 59 Garrison Avenue, said accepting resumes is opening it up and had no problem with advertising on the website.

Josephine Pontocorbo Coccia, 140 Springfield Avenue, originally from Union City, was against the negative publicity, that the council represents all the people of the town, and to be respectful.

Jim MacDonall, 51 Washington Place, recommended that before resolutions were voted on, public comment be allowed and that with respect to professional appointments, in particular, the engineer knows the town, whereas a new engineer loses institutional memory, which could cause delays.

Daniel Vecchio, 313 Hamilton Avenue, thought advertising for resumes on the Internet was exclusionary by definition, and questioned at length resumes for volunteers, and that this could discourage volunteerism, that you can never have too many volunteers.

John Nesbitt, 26 Walter Avenue, said you can never have enough volunteers and noted his past presidency of the Little League in 1982.

Edith Ollwerther, 368 Lincoln Avenue, was confused on volunteers, and why couldn't lists from both sides be put together.

Alice Vega, 397 Church Street, referring to Councilman DiPisa's reference to drastic changes, said the only change is in the balance of power on the council. He said he was talking about the total number of volunteer changes.

Sonya Buckman, 239 Central Avenue, had a preliminary list of proposed professionals, and questioned why were they very large Bergen County Democrat contributors.

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#### **MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

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

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 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 Regular Meeting held on January 30, 2007.

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Rose Marie Sees, RMC  
Borough Clerk