

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

February 12, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on February 12, 2008 at 8:08 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.

Mayor Heck declared the meeting in Session and 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, 2008 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 2, 2008.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Rose Heck, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilwoman Maryetta Saccomano, Councilman Anthony DiNanno, Councilman Stephen Altobelli, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman, Councilman David Gonzalez

Absent: None

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

INVOCATION: Councilman DiPisa offered a prayer in memory of Paul Rutt who passed away on February 6, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Heck announced that the presentation to Former Fire Chief Angelo Roccamo and the presentation to the Junior Football Cheerleaders would be postponed to the next meeting due to the snowstorm.

COMMUNICATIONS: 1) Note from Julie Palummieri regarding her re-appointment to the Community Celebrations Committee

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

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(November 27, 2007 Regular Meeting, November 27, 2007 Executive Session, December 11, 2007 Regular Meeting, December 11, 2007 Work Session, December 27, 2007 Regular Meeting)*

On a motion by Councilman Altobelli, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, with Councilman DiPisa abstaining on the December 27, 2007 minutes and Councilwoman Saccomano abstaining on the December 11, 2007 minutes as they were absent, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

BILLS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$3,238,152.19 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 Councilman Justin A. DiPisa
Commissioner of Finance

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
31. Raffle License for Hasbrouck Heights Junior Woman's Club
 32. Raffle License for Corpus Christi Cub Scout Pack 17
 33. Raffle License for Woman's Club of Hasbrouck Heights, Inc.
 34. Raffle License for Hasbrouck Heights Music Parents Association
 35. Raffle License for East Rutherford PTA

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

- RESOLUTIONS:**
36. Dog Licenses - Payment of Fees to State

RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

On Motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved. (Copy attached.)

37. Payroll

On Motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Buckman, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved. (Copy attached.)

38. Authorizing a Professional Contract with James Fordham as Engineer to the Planning Board

On Motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved. (Copy attached.)

39. Authorizing a Professional Contract with Joseph J. Rotolo, Esq. As Attorney and James Fordham as Engineer to the Board of Adjustment

On Motion by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved. (Copy attached.)

40. Authorizing Entry into a Developer's Agreement with BRE/Prime Properties, LLC, as to 630 Terrace Avenue

On Motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved. (Copy attached.)

41. Authorizing Entry into an Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement with the Owners of 459 Route 17 South

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved (Copy attached).

APPOINTMENTS: Matthew Albanese to Fire Department Engine Company Two

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

APPOINTMENTS: Lynn Taylor to Mayor's Committee of Community Celebrations

APPOINTMENTS (cont'd):

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

RESIGNATIONS: Julie Palummieri from the Mayor's Committee of Community Celebrations

On a motion by Councilman DiNanno, seconded by Councilwoman Saccomano, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resignation was accepted with regret.

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 2172:

Mayor Heck reported that the Committee for the new ordinance had met this morning with a second meeting scheduled for February 19, 2008. She had learned that there were 25 towns with anti nepotism ordinances and was curious if there were any in Bergen County.

She requested a motion to open the public hearing on this Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2172 and invited anyone wishing to speak on this ordinance to please come forward.

Robert Call, 231 Paterson Avenue, had read The Record and noted that nepotism has once again damaged the reputation of Hasbrouck Heights. He asked the Committee to find out how many employees of the borough had relatives employed in the Borough when they were hired. He commented that you don't hear too much criticism of revising or ending the nepotism ordinance in the weekly newspaper of Hasbrouck Heights, perhaps because ownership of the newspaper or previous employment in the newspaper has often served as a stepping stone to Borough employment, that of course is not nepotism and you cannot make a law against that.

Mayor Heck said the Committee was formed to prepare a better ordinance, as the present one was fatally flawed.

Chris Semencz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, agreed with Councilman Altobelli that this ordinance was putting the cart before the horse.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2172 (cont'd):

Robert Thomasey, 307 Franklin Avenue, regarding the anti-nepotism ordinance, called attention to a former Borough Clerk whose son wanted to join the Police Department. He had asked his son not to, to avoid the appearance of any impropriety. He asked that the new ordinance take this into consideration.

Dorothy Petroulas, 215 Central Avenue, gave her opinion that anyone who is employed by the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights should be evaluated by their academic, experience and way they do their job.

Charles Piazza, 100 La Salle Avenue, questioned if the current anti-nepotism law would not be repealed until the new one was in place, was told yes and asked why this was a priority with all the other issues in town. He was advised that this administration was working very diligently on a number of new projects, including a police substation in Borough Hall, the Finance committee has continued to meet, including meetings with Department Heads on saving money. She noted the Borough Attorney said the present ordinance was a flawed ordinance and the change would be done simultaneously with the new ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2172:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 2166 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER, TO BE TITLED ‘ANTI-NEPOTISM GUIDELINES,’ WHICH OUTLINES PROHIBITIONS AGAINST THE HIRING BY THE BOROUGH OF FAMILY RELATIONS FOR PERMANENT FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME PAID POSITIONS” ADOPTED OVER THE VETO OF THE MAYOR ON DECEMBER 27, 2007,”** was continued on public hearing until the meeting of February 26, 2008.

On a motion by Councilman Altobelli, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Public Hearing was continued.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Heck invited anyone wishing to speak, to please come forward.

Robert Call, 231 Paterson Avenue, questioned “sign limitation” which he was advised would be discussed in work session.

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

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Heck announced that the meeting would continue to Work Session, to which she invited all present to stay.

On a motion by Councilman DiNanno, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried, the meeting was continued to Work Session.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:57 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 February 12, 2008.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk