

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**MINUTES**

**April 8, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on April 8, 2008 at 8:00 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 Altobelli offered a prayer written by Mahatma Gandhi in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- 1) Thank you letter from Senator Robert Gordon for sending him the Resolution regarding Governor Corzine's proposed state budget.
- 2) Letter from NJ DOT announcing Municipal Aid, Bikeway, Centers of Place, Historic Bridge and Safe Streets to Transit Programs
- 3) Invitation to Mayor and Council to attend Wallington's Park Row Hose Co. #3 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade on June 14.
- 4) Letter from Mary Jones to accept her resignation from the Local Assistance Board

**COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):**

5) Letter and application from B.C. Community Development for 2008 funding round of the B.C. Open Space Municipal Park Improvement Program

Letters #1, 2 and 5 were asked to be read into the record. (Copies attached).

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomanno, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Communications were accepted.

**PETITIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *(January 22, 2008 Regular Meeting, March 11, 2008 Regular Meeting, March 18, 2008 Special Meeting)*

On a motion by Councilwoman Saccomanno, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, with Councilman DiPisa abstaining from the March 11, 2008 Regular Meeting minutes as he was absent, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

**BILLS:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the claims and accounts amounting to \$1,908,899.69 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 Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** 61. Raffle License for Friends of the Hasbrouck Heights Public Library

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

**RESOLUTIONS:** 62. Marriage/Civil Union Licenses - Payment of Fees to State

**RESOLUTIONS (cont'):**

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

63. Burial Permits - Payment of Fees to State

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

64. Dog Licenses - Payment of Fees to State

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

65. Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Playground Equipment and Site Work at Depken Field

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

66. Declaring April as Autism Awareness Month

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

67. Payroll

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

68. Extending Lease of 301 Division Avenue to Thirty-Second Degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

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

**RESIGNATIONS:** Mary Jones from Local Assistance Board

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

**APPOINTMENTS:** Neil Reyngoudt to Local Assistance Board

**APPOINTMENTS (cont'd):**

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

**ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:** None

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

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2173, which was out of order, which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried.

Christian Semenez, 415 Jefferson Avenue, questioned what this ordinance did that the old ordinance (Ordinance No. 2166) didn't do.

Councilman DiPisa answered that Ordinance No. 2166 focused on the person, if it was a relation it would be discounted, whether or not it was the most qualified. This ordinance (#2173) was less punishing, it focused on the process, allows for a relative to apply, go through the same process which did not necessarily mean hiring, the same as anyone else not related.

Chris Semenez said #2166 only eliminated about 10-11 people, that nepotism should be taken out of government.

Carol J. Skiba, 191 Field Avenue, agreed with the prior ordinance and it should stand, that it was a shame voting was done with a legal opinion. Borough Attorney Chandless said his opinion on the prior ordinance was on record.

As there was no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Heck closed the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2173 on a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried.

As the Council voted, the following comments were included.

Councilman DiPisa said the process was just as important as the people.

Councilwoman Saccomano said this ordinance was a way to hire relatives, not stop anti-nepotism.

Councilman DiNanno said the original ordinance was stronger, that this new ordinance favored cronyism or favoritism.

Councilman Altobelli considered nepotism as the outlining process for hiring family members.

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

Councilwoman Buckman thought it a better ordinance for the town, it was well written, fair and truly comprehensive.

Councilman Gonzalez thought it better serves the town, and protects from litigation.

Mayor Heck said the committee did a good job, it was reviewed by department heads, the borough attorney, and that hiring would be on merits through a fair process and thorough review and thought cronyism would be more of a problem with the old ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2173:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 45 ENTITLED “OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS SO AS TO INCLUDE THEREIN A NEW ARTICLE ENTITLED “ARTICLE VIII, ANTI-NEPOTISM”** 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 circulating and published in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, with Councilman DiPisa, Councilwoman Buckman and Councilman Gonzalez voting yes, Councilwoman Saccomano, Councilman DiNanno and Councilman Altobelli voting no, with Mayor Heck breaking the tie by voting yes, Ordinance No. 2173 was approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2172:**

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2172 which was made by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried. There was no public comment.

**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,”** 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 circulating and published in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

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

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, with Councilman DiPisa, Councilwoman Buckman and Councilman Gonzalez voting yes, Councilwoman Saccomano, Councilman DiNanno and Councilman Altobelli voting no, with Mayor Heck breaking the tie by voting yes, Ordinance No. 2172 was approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2175:**

Mayor Heck opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2175. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO STABILIZE AND REGULATE RENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO ESTABLISH A RENT BOARD, WHICH ORDINANCE IS TO BE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “2008 RENT LEVELING ORDINANCE”** was continued on public hearing.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to continue Ordinance No. 2175 on public hearing to allow for proper publication. A motion was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

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

Carol Skiba, 191 Field Avenue, questioned the status of the matter of Rose Heck v. Hasbrouck Heights and was advised that it had been dismissed.

Robert Thomasey, 307 Franklin Avenue, had attended a Hackensack Council Meeting which discussed the firing of eight paid EMTs and found few answers forthcoming. The City Manager had made it clear that Hackensack University Medical Center would provide two ambulances, and the rest of the calls would be answered through the surrounding towns. He was concerned with sending the Hasbrouck Heights ambulances to Hackensack.

Mayor Heck advised the Borough Attorney to meet with the Fire Department and Ambulance Squad, and that all local communities should come together.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to have the committee meet, which was made by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried.

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 Councilman DiPisa, 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 8:45 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 April 8, 2008.

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Rose Marie Sees, RMC  
Borough Clerk