

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

July 8, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on July 8, 2008 at 8:02 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, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman, Councilman David Gonzalez

Absent: Councilman Stephen Altobelli

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

INVOCATION: Councilman DiNanno offered the following prayer:

*God of power and might, wisdom and justice,
through you authority is rightly administered,
laws are enacted, and judgement decreed.
Assist with your spirit of counsel and fortitude the
Governmental leaders of these United States.
May they always seek the ways of
righteousness, justice and mercy,
Grant that they may be enacted by your powerful protection
to lead our country with honesty and integrity,
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

PRESENTATION: Certificate to Mark Petrino, E3, U.S. Navy who was to be deployed to Iraq.

Mayor Heck presented Mark Petrino with a certificate from the Mayor and Council and thanked him for his service to our Country. She noted that Mark is the grandson of

PRESENTATION (cont'd):

Albert Borghi, former tax collector of Hasbrouck Heights and his wife, Alba Borghi who are well remembered.

She also noted that certificates will be sent to the families of Peter Reuther, a Hasbrouck Heights resident, and Derek Hernandez, a Hasbrouck Heights firefighter, who have already been deployed to Iraq.

- COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 1) Thank you letter from Pak Tsun Victor Lai for receiving the Mary B. Quigg Scholarship
 - 2) Thank you letter from Harry Maisch IV for receiving the Mary B. Quigg Scholarship
 - 3) Letter from Valley National Bank announcing merge with Greater Community Bank
 - 4) Letter from Williams Gas Pipeline regarding Transco pipeline overview

No items were asked to be read into the record.

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

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(May 27, 2008 Regular Meeting, June 10, 2008 Work Session, June 24, 2008 Executive Session)*

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, with Councilwoman Saccomano abstaining from the May 27, 2008 Minutes as she was absent, and otherwise unanimously carried, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

BILLS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the claims and accounts amounting to \$1,849,909.47 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

BILLS (cont'd):

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

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA: None

RESOLUTIONS: 111. Payroll

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

112. Dog Licenses - Payment of Fees to State

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

113. Marriage/Civil Union Licenses - Payment of Fees to State

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

114. Burial Permits - Payment of Fees to State

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

115. Change Order #1 for State Aid Improvement of Oak Grove Avenue

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

116. Authorize a Snow Plowing Agreement with the County of Bergen for 2008-2010

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

APPOINTMENTS: None.

RESIGNATIONS: Christopher Lisi from Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department Engine Company Two effective July 1, 2008

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 2179:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2179, which was made by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez and unanimously carried.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2179 which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: “ **AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT SECTION 21-A OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED "ZONING" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS WHICH REGULATES ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS SO AS TO INCLUDE THEREIN FURTHER REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE STORAGE OF GARBAGE, RUBBISH, TRASH, REFUSE AND RECYCLABLES** ” 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 Record, a newspaper circulating in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, with Councilwoman Saccomano voting Nay, and otherwise unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance was approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 2180:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2180, which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2180 which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2180 (cont'd):

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: “**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SCHEDULE 2 ENTITLED "AREA, BULK AND YARD REQUIREMENTS FOR PRINCIPAL USES" OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED "ZONING" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS IN RESPECT TO FOOTNOTE #9 THEREOF WHICH DEFINES COMPLIANCE WITH THE PERMITTED FLOOR AREA RATIO OF ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS IN THE R-1, R-2, R-3 AND R-4 ZONES**” 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 Record, a newspaper circulating in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2181:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2181, which was made by Councilwoman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2181 which was made by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: “**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SCHEDULE 2 ENTITLED "AREA, BULK AND YARD REQUIREMENTS FOR PRINCIPAL USES" OF CHAPTER 275 ENTITLED "ZONING" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS IN RESPECT TO THE MAXIMUM IMPROVED LOT COVERAGE PERMITTED FOR A TWO-FAMILY DWELLING IN AN R-3 ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONE** ” 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 Record, a newspaper circulating in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

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

REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Finance Commissioner DiPisa read a report from the Finance Committee into the record as follows:

The Finance Committee was charged with the very tough job of putting together the 2008 Municipal Budget in difficult times. Most of the increases we deal with in our own lives impact the municipal budget as well, but on a much larger scale.

The Finance Committee takes a very conservative approach in formulating the budget. Salaries are budgeted at actual levels based on contracts and overtime is estimated based on averages over the past few years. Other expenses are based on historic costs while taking into consideration the requests of department heads.

Many appropriations are not within the control of the Mayor and Council such as; Pension Contributions which increased by \$399,000.00 this year; Sanitary Landfill Costs which has increased by \$47,000.00 this year; and Bergen County Utilities Authority Sewer Charges which increased by \$81,750.00 this year. These amounted to \$527,750.00 of the \$893,806.00 increase in the 2008 budget. The largest increase, the \$399,000.00 in pension contributions, is based on calculations prepared by the State of New Jersey, we simply get a bill and must budget for it. There were some savings this year such as \$86,000.00 in Health Benefits Costs but other insurance premiums increased by \$32,000.00.

On the revenue side of the budget declining interest rates have caused our estimated earnings to be decreased by \$22,500.00 when compared to last years budget. Surplus utilized as a revenue has been decreased by \$75,000.00 but the Local Hotel Occupancy Fee has been increased by \$50,000.00.

The biggest surprise came when were notified just prior to introduction of the budget that our State Aid was to be cut by \$161,250.00. The Finance Committee had to include this new cut into the budget. All of this resulted in the budget as introduced which indicated a 6.4 point increase in the Local Tax Rate.

The Finance Committee has continued to meet regularly, the last meeting was this morning, in an effort to identify any line item that could be amended. We are also waiting for word on the Extraordinary Aid Application which was submitted by the March 24th deadline, we received \$150,000.00 under this program last year. Until the awards are made on this program we cannot adopt the budget.

In the interim, in order to meet the obligations of the Borough, estimated third quarter tax bills were prepared and mailed. These bills were based on the Municipal Budget as introduced , the School Taxes as certified and the Estimated County Taxes.

REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE (cont'd):

It is important to note that your total 2008 taxes will not be equal to the third quarter estimated tax bill multiplied by four, this would overstate your total 2008 taxes. Also, any reduction in the Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Municipal Purposes would be reflected in the final tax bill resulting in a fourth quarter tax bill in an amount lower than the third quarter estimated tax bill.

EXTRAORDINARY AID ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mayor Heck made a special announcement that Senator Gordon's office had called her at home this evening to report on Extraordinary Aid and that of the 13 towns in District 38 only two towns will receive aid, one of them being Hasbrouck Heights in the amount of \$200,000. Senator Joseph Doria had told Senator Gordon that Hasbrouck Heights' cost efficiencies were evident in the application and they have a history of being frugal and careful with the taxpayer's money. The other town receiving aid was Little Ferry with \$125,000.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

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

Dorothy Petroulis, 215 Central Avenue, asked when delivery of the playground equipment would come. Borough Engineer Ken Job reported it has been delivered to the DPW and proposals were solicited for installation, as the DPW felt it was beyond their capabilities. The proposals will be received on Friday, July 11.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing which was made by Councilwoman Saccomano, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

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 recessed to Work Session.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiNanno, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:29 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 July 8, 2008.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC
Borough Clerk