

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 12/29/2009

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

December 29, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, December 29, 2009 at 8:00 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 October 28, 2009 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on October 28, 2009.

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

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 Stephen Altobelli gave the Invocation as follows: "Dear God we seek your help with our affairs today. Bless this meeting with your divine intelligence, and help us to make the best use of our own. We are of diverse opinion here. Yet we wish to mend our differences and reach agreement satisfactory to all. Please share a little of your wisdom with us to help us do right by all concerned. Thank you for your heavenly blessing today. Amen!"

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Application for License Agreement with NextG Networks for use of public rights-of-way
- 2) Memo from Chief-Elect Joseph Taylor, Jr. listing Fire Department Appointments for the year 2010
- 3) Letter from Borough Engineer Kenneth G. B. Job regarding emergency repair to Municipal Complex sanitary sewer lateral

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COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

4) Thank you from Elizabeth Kress on the celebration of her 100th birthday

5) Letter from Hasbrouck Heights Police Department which includes list of approved 2010 Towing Applications

Items #2, #3 and #5 were requested to be read into the record (copies attached).

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

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(December 15, 2009 Regular Meeting)*

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

BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$198,020.55 specified in the schedule hereto annexed, have been examined and approved by the Finance Commissioner, or his Deputy; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in the accounts listed for payment of the claims;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the claims be paid and checks be issued on the funds and accounts indicated on the attached schedule.

Signed Justin A. DiPisa
Commissioner of Finance

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

REPORTS:

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POLICE: Under Police, Mayor/Commissioner Heck reported as follows: Under Police Department News she reported that Chief Colaneri, Captains DeLorenzo and Cronin have been working on upgrading the department's record management software with a new

POLICE (cont'd):

server ordered and the old to be used for departmental and boro e-mail. Sgt. Rinke was commended for his actions off duty when he spotted the fire that occurred on December 11 on Washington Place, entered the residence and helped to get the occupants out. DARE Parents Night was held December 2, with Chief Colaneri and Lt. Mullins and 40 parents attending. Under the General Complaints December report, there were: 2 DWI accidents, 54 ambulance requests, 2 ambulance request-Teterboro, 9 ambulance w/paramedics, 9 animal complaints, 12 assisting other agencies, 13 Borough ordinance violations, 1 Borough ordinance complaint, 20 burglar alarm-commercial, 27 burglar alarm-residential, 2 carbon monoxide alarm, 75 cell phone 911, 1 criminal mischief - business, 14 disabled vehicles, 2 disorderly conduct, 2 disorderly conduct-fight, 8 domestic violence, 4 domestic violence orders, 2 DUI, 7 erratic driver, 4 family dispute, 9 fire, 18 fire alarm, 1 fireworks, 4 found property, 2 fraud, 2 gas leaks, 24 general calls, 3 general disputes, 3 harassment, 1 harassment-phone calls, 1 hold up alarm, 1 identity theft, 2 juvenile delinquency, 6 juvenile incidents, 1 landlord/tenant dispute, 9 lockout-mv, 3 lockout resident, 4 lost articles, 1 Megan's Law re-registration, 2 missing person, 1 neighbor dispute, 13 noise complaint, 2 notifications, 6 property damage, 2 sewer backup, 2 simple assault, 30 summonses, 26 suspicious incidents, 15 suspicious persons, 17 suspicious vehicles, 2 Teterboro 911 calls, 3 theft, 2 theft from auto, 1 theft shoplifting, 28 traffic accidents on county roads, 7 traffic accidents on Borough roads, 10 traffic accidents private, 39 traffic accidents State roads, 81 traffic enforcement, 45 traffic related services, 1 unattended death, 1 unwanted person, 1 warrant, 8 welfare checks, 41 Wood-Ridge 911 calls, totaling 887 for all general complaints. Under Summonses, the month of November included 251 Parking versus 307 in November 2008; YTD 2009, 3,667; YTD 2008, 4,248. 174 Moving violations, versus 92 in November 2008; YTD 2009, 1,923. Totals: November 2009 425, November 2008 399; YTD 2009 5,746, YTD 2008, 6171.

FINANCE & PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Finance, Commissioner Di Pisa read the following Finance Report: The Current Fund cash balance at November 30, 2009 was \$4,135,241.35 and at October 31, 2009 was \$1,910,643.62 which represents an increase of \$2,224,597.73. The entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.90%. Cash receipts for the month of November totaled \$6,084,354.64 of which \$5,709,106.37 was for Current Taxes, \$29,621.68 was for Prepaid Taxes, \$208,903.26 was for State Aid and \$136,723.33 was Miscellaneous Revenues. Cash disbursements for the month of November totaled \$3,857,386.17 of which \$1,785,879.00 was for Local School Taxes, \$989,603.00 was for County Taxes, \$646,103.56 was for Salaries and \$435,800.61 was for Other Expenses. The process of formulating the 2010 Municipal Budget is under way.

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The Chief Financial Officer is completing the Annual Debt Statement which must be submitted by January 31, 2010 and he is working on the Annual Financial Statement which is due by February 10, 2010.. Under Public Facilities, he reported the Department of Public Works has had all the sprinkler systems at all Borough facilities shut done and winterized for the season. Also, the DPW completed all the set-up for a successful Tree Lighting ceremony at the Circle again this year. The schedule of meetings was as follows: Community Room - 21, Caucus Room – 5, Council Chambers – 5, Senior Center – 6(not including senior activities) and Lobby – 2.

PARKS: Under Parks, Commissioner DiNanno reported the Department of Public Works completed the removal of all the leaves from Woodland, Memorial, Polifly, and Miers Parks. They also removed leaves from 32 additional locations owned by the Borough.

TRANSPORTATION: Under Transportation, Commissioner Altobelli had no report.

LAND USE, RECREATION & SOCIAL SERVICES: Under Social Services, Commissioner Buckman reported on the Food Pantry which is open on Mondays from 9-11 a.m. Anyone in need can register with Rob Brady by calling 201-288-4143. During the month of December there were over 70 visitors in need. Thanks you to the generous volunteers who help stock and supervise the Food Pantry as well as the following donors: Ron Ellis, Ann Feltrin, Gateway Realtors and Marisol Ramirez, Yolanda Morrison, Mrs. Behr, St. John the Divine, High School National Honor Society, Joe LeConte, Lincoln School Staff who donated \$280 in memory of Chris Rau's brother, North Hudson Fire Company, Maria Morales, Joseph McClean, Lynn Bright, Diane Fantacione, Carolyn Stevens, Kathy Van Jura, Masonic Lodge who donated \$100, Elizabeth O'Keefe, the Rozum Family, Mr. White, Jean Curci who donated eight K-Mart gift cards, Joan Turner, Angie Hud, Janet Pincus, Rosemary Smith, Bertha Spada, Kathleen Clark, Connie Magagliano, the Leddy Family, Elsie Sternbach, the Caro Family, Gail Rossi, Pete Fiduccia, the LaForge Family, Dorothy Petroulas, the HH Jr. Girls Scouts Troop 526. The Pantry provided some families with gifts for children, Christmas trees and decorations, special gift cards for presents and gift cards for food. This could not have been accomplished without the many people and town organizations and Borough Clerk Ro Sees. Items needed included canned fruit, juices, paper products, all kinds of soaps, cleaning products, shampoo, toiletries, jelly, coffee, tea, powdered milk and snacks. Under Recreation, she reported sign ups for Girls Softball would be held on Wednesday, December 30. A hitting clinic will be held in January with practices in gyms during the colder months. Youth Basketball clinics will be held at 24Hr Fitness. The Recreation Center is open on weekends for all children 6-8th grades. Recreation Wrestling Team has finalized their competition with Recreation hosting five Passaic County Youth wrestling matches, two Twin County wrestling league matches, the Hasbrouck Heights Invitational Tournament and the Andy Feintuch District 5 Championship Tournament. Recreation Wrestlastics programs is in its third year. Recreation Basketball League dates are set including 135 games to be played. Adult Volleyball and Basketball

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programs are ongoing. She thanked Rob Brady and the adult and student volunteers who help with Recreation programs. As liaison to the Library, she reported there was a 20% increase in circulation totals over last year from 10,000 in November versus 7,000 last year. Year to date totals are 104,000, a new record. Under Land Use, she reported permit fees from 11/28/09 to 12/28/09 were \$8,693. Property Maintenance activity included 16 initial inspections, 35 reinspections, 9 warnings, 11 personal and phone contacts, 7 situations resolved, 1 summons issued and 5 miscellaneous situations.

FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION: Under Fire, Commissioner Gonzalez reported on December 11, 2009 at 9:30 p.m. there was a house fire on Washington Place with severe cold and windy weather conditions making it that much more difficult. The inhabitants were alerted by Sgt. Joseph Rinke who had to be transported to HUMC for smoke inhalation, who then returned to the scene. He commended the firemen on the scene who did their best to extinguish the fire and used their expertise in protecting the neighboring homes. The scene ended at 1:30 a.m. with the fire personnel cleaning the apparatus until 4 a.m. The Fire Department participated in the annual holiday parade and Santa Around Town. Under Streets & Sanitation he reported The DPW setup barricades, cones, and ropes for the annual Holiday parade that takes place on the Boulevard each year. On Saturday, December 5, snow fell in the amount of 1 ½ inches just enough that the town's salt trucks had to spread salt. On Saturday, December 19, the DPW dispatched its salt spreading trucks late that afternoon and called in the plow crews to clear the 8 inches of snow that fell overnight. The following Monday night, the DPW removed snow from the Boulevard business district, schools, and churches which was trucked to the DPW facility. Repairs: included tune up and new brakes to the DPW Bronco, welded broken pistons to the Tink Claw, new clutch to Garbage Truck 103, replace batteries in Fire 603, rebuild three snow plow blades and install a passenger side metal floor on two dump trucks used for snow plowing.

HEALTH: Under Health, Commissioner Link reported the Hasbrouck Heights Board of Health held its monthly meeting on December 5th. The next meeting is its Re-organization meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 7th at 7:15pm. All health inspections were completed for 2009 and all issues are being monitored and handled accordingly. Mid-Bergen Regional is keeping us informed as additional H1N1 vaccine becomes available and as to the locations where they will be administered. You may contact the Board of Health for these updates. Keep up maintaining good cough and hand hygiene and you'll reduce your chances of catching the Seasonal and H1N1 flues.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Heck began her report by saying here we are at the end of the year. My Annual Report will be given Jan. 1st which is only days away. It is my pleasure to invite everyone to attend that meeting. I will have the honor of swearing in two new Council Members John

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Dingertopadre and Russell Lipari. On that same day I will swear in the newly elected Chiefs and Officers of the Fire Department so I hope that many of our residents will join us on that day.

Nov. 27th, We had a wonderful Santa Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Circle. Our thanks to The Chamber of Commerce President Ray Vorisek who did a wonderful job organizing the Parade with his committee and to the Mayor's Celebrations Chair Pat Link and her Committee for the Tree Lighting. Special Thanks to the HHHS Choir for leading us in Holiday Songs. The DPW did a great job setting up all of the lights and decorations at the Circle again this year. And let us not forget Chief Colaneri and the Police Department who as always performed a heavy duty service closing off the Boulevard and keeping us safe as they diverted traffic and directed people and the Parade. Santa was in the Municipal Building next to the Tree greeting and taking pix with all the children who came to visit him. Everyone had a great time. It takes a lot of planning and work on the part of so many people to make the event a success each year.

Dec. 1st, 11:30 am attended a Finance Committee Meeting with Chairman Justin DiPisa, Councilwoman Pam Link and Finance Officer Michael Kronyak. Then at 2 pm attended a Police Contract Negotiating Committee Meeting.

Dec. 8th, 10 am Police Contract Negotiating Committee Meeting.

Then The Finance Committee held interviews with 2 candidates chosen by D.P.W. Supt. Bill Spindler. Both he and Boro Administrator Michael Kronyak participated in those interviews. That evening both Dep. Commissioner Justin DiPisa and I met with Police Chief Michael Colaneri to go over the Police Exam Results and met with the top 11 participants.

Dec. 12th Held my first Saturday morning in the Library for the first time since my fall.

Councilwomen Pam Link, Sonya Buckman and I participated in the Grand Opening of EZ Pizza on Route 17 at 12:30 pm that afternoon.

The weekend of Dec. 19th gave us 11 inches of snow and the Borough's DPW worked to clear our streets of all that heavy snow. They worked Monday and Tuesday nights to Pick Up snow to the curb in the business area, schools and church areas. This work was done to insure a safe passage for people to walk and make parking easier especially on the Boulevard.

Municipalities across the country are urged by the US Census Bureau to establish a Complete Count Committee to ensure that all residents are counted. Given the importance of census data for state and federal aid, legislative apportionment, and economic analysis, every municipality has a stake in ensuring that all its residents are

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counted. The Complete Count Committee (CCC) program consists of community and government leaders dedicated to building awareness of the 2010 Census. Complete Count Committee members can:

* Organize a team of local people who can provide the cultural and community insights necessary to build 2010 Census awareness efforts.

* Promote the value of accurate and complete census data.

* Have a positive impact on the questionnaire response rate.

On a personal note: My Physical Therapy continues on a three time a week basis. I am very happy to report very good progress thanks to all of my surgeons, doctors and therapists. I continue that routine in order to insure my positive progress in the use of both my right arm/shoulder and left knee. I thank God every day for all of the people, that included family and friends who made my recovery a reality.

My Special Thanks to Mike Kronyak and Ro Sees for working so closely with me on important Borough Business. Our many meetings in the Municipal Building, e-mails and phone calls have kept us all very busy. This is a time of closing out the Borough's business for 2009 and preparing for the New Year of 2010. Letters have gone out to all the local businesses to ask them to participate in sponsoring the Second Annual Street Fair. More on that will be reported as the Mayor's Business Community Committee and the Council meet on that event. I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday and I wish all a Happy New Year. See you on January 1st 2010. Except for snow and ice days, I will be at the Library on Saturday mornings between the hours of 10 and noon beginning Feb. 6th.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS: None

RESIGNATIONS: Glenn Link from Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department Engine Company One

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

CONSENT AGENDA: None

RESOLUTIONS: 213. Authorizing Contract with Delta Dental Plan of New Jersey for 2010

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

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214. Authorizing Contract with Bollinger Fowler Insurance Company for Prescription Drug Program for 2010

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

215. Authorizing 2010 Hotel Licenses

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

216. Authorizing Emergency Repair to Municipal Complex Sanitary Sewer Lateral

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

217. Opposing Pilot Program Whereby County Takes Over Tax Assessment and Valuation Duties Heretofore Performed by Municipal Tax Assessors

On a motion by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, with Councilman DiNanno and Councilman Altobelli voting Nay, the foregoing Resolution was approved (Copy attached).

218. 2009 Budget Appropriation Transfers

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

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION: None

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 2220:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2220 which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, and unanimously carried.

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There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2220 which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: “**AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2010**” 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.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to approve the foregoing Ordinance which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2221:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2221 which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Altobelli, and unanimously carried.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2221 which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: “**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AND TO APPROPRIATE THE TOTAL SUM OF \$175,000.00 THEREFOR, \$150,000.00 OF WHICH BEING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION “SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM” FOR THAT PURPOSE AND THE BALANCE THEREOF IN THE SUM OF \$25,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**” 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.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to approve the foregoing Ordinance which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2222 (cont'd):

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Mayor Heck asked for a motion open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2222 which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2222 which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiNanno and unanimously carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENCOURAGEMENT PROGRAM IN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS AS PART OF ITS LOCAL “SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM” AND TO APPROPRIATE THE TOTAL SUM OF \$25,000.00 THEREFOR, \$23,000.00 OF WHICH BEING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION “SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM” FOR THAT PURPOSE AND THE BALANCE THEREOF IN THE SUM OF \$2,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND”** 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.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to approve the foregoing Ordinance which was made by Councilman DiNanno, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

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 from the public wishing to speak to please come forward.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 219. Potential Litigation

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO SINE DIE:

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Mayor Heck asked for a motion to adjourn to Sine Die at 9:08 p.m. which was made by Councilwoman Buckman, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez and unanimously carried.

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 December 29, 2009.

Rose Marie Sees, RMC

Borough Clerk