

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights - 3/22/2011

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

March 22, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 8:10 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 3, 2011 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 3, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Rose Heck, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman, Councilman David Gonzalez, Councilwoman Pamela J. Link, Councilman John Dingertopadre, Councilman Russell A. Lipari

Absent: None

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

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Buckman gave the Invocation as follows:

“Prayer for Kindness. Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be fair in thy judgment and guarded in they speech. Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be a breath of life to the body of humankind, a dew to the soil of the human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility .”

PRESENTATION: Certificate of Accomplishment to Emily Wallace

Mayor Heck, President of the Council Pamela Link and Councilman Lipari presented a Certificate of Accomplishment for Exemplary Volunteerism to Emily Wallace for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award by collecting and donating over 2,000 early-reader books to two inner city schools in Paterson and Newark, for participating in a service mission trip to Jamaica during freshman and junior years at college and for serving as

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PRESENTATION (cont'd):

a Primary School Teacher at Gonzaga Primary School in Tanzania with the Jesuit Volunteer Corp from December 2008 through December 2010, teaching the poor population who would not otherwise be able to attend school.

- COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 1) Invitation to Mayor's Committee on Community Celebrations Annual Easter Egg Hunt April 16, 2011
 - 2) Response Document to comments received at the Dec. 7, 2010 Public Hearing regarding the proposed AnythingIT, Inc., Class D Recycling Facility, Bergen County District Solid Waste Plan Amendment
 - 3) Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed 2011-2012 Board of Education Budget on March 23, 2011 at 7 p.m.
 - 4) Request from Cubmaster Cynthia Capozzi to hold Cub Scout Pack 17 Camping Night at Woodland Park on Friday, June 3, 2011.

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

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(March 8, 2011 Regular Meeting, Work Session and Closed Session)*

On a motion by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilwoman Link, with Councilman Dingertopadre abstaining as he was absent on that night, and otherwise unanimously carried, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$5,531,070.40 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.

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BILLS (cont'd):

Signed Pamela J. Link

Commissioner of Finance

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

REPORTS:

POLICE AND LAND USE: Under Police, Commissioner DiPisa reported the Police Department lost three members during the past month, former Chief Bruce Werner, a 30 year veteran; Genevieve Babula, wife of retired Lieutenant Hank Babula as well as Barbara Seidel, wife of retired Captain Herman Seidel. Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino was thanked for sending the inmates to help at headquarters by shampooing the carpeting, waxing floors and painting the walls at no cost to the Borough. He thanked all the departments and officers who participated in making Chief Werner's fitting tribute for such a wonderful and dedicated man. Under summonses, he reported year to date parking summonses are 752 compared to 2010, 455. Moving violations were 171, compared to 2010, 177 for a total increase of 923 compared to 652 in 2010.

RECREATION & PARKS: Under Parks, Commissioner Buckman reported the snow in the rear of Woodland Park that was stockpiled during the winter has been washed away. However, the DPW yard still has quite a bit of snow accumulated there as the yard was the main deposit area for snow removal. The DPW opened the bathrooms at Woodland Park last week to find that repairs were needed to the plumbing that supplied the water to the Mens & Ladies Rooms. The plumbing was between the masonry walls and the DPW removed some of the cinder blocks, repaired the pipes and installed access panels in the building. A Blow-out valve was installed to prevent this in the future. The Comfort Station is closed during the winter months due to the fact that there is no heating system. It is that time of year when an inventory of supplies will be taken of seed and fertilizer products need for the borough parks. The DPW will purchase and apply pesticide free organic products on Polifly Park this spring. Last year, Jack Stavash and Bill Spindler, met and discussed the need for an environment for children that is pesticide free. Polifly Park will be used as a test area to see how effective the new products are and also how cost effective they will be in preventing weed growth and promoting healthy grass. These organic products are very expensive and the experts have stated that twice as much is needed to be applied compared to other products already used.

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RECREATION AND PARKS (cont'd):

Under Recreation, Commissioner Buckman reported on Spring events including Summer Camp registration is April 14 and April 21 from 7-9 p.m. in the recreation office. The Recreation Center is open on most Friday nights from 7-10 p.m. for all boys and girls 6-8th grades. The traveling teams have had a very successful season with 7th and 8th grade girls finished fourth out of 12 teams and 5th and 6th grade boys, fourth out of 11 teams, 5th and 6th grade girls finished with a winning record and 7 and 8th grade boys are playing in the South Bergen championship game this Sunday. Wrestling Awards banquet is April 5 at the Graycliff. Track and Field registration was held with over 75 boys and girls in grades 5-8. Softball has over 110 girls playing in three different divisions. There are three 3rd-4th grade teams, three 5th-6th and two 7th-8th grade teams. The teams will play a traveling schedule. A new pitching machine has been ordered. Adult basketball and volleyball programs are ongoing as are senior programs in the Senior Center. As Library liaison, she reported for the month of February there were 9,011 items circulated, 41 new patrons, card holders to date is 4,973. In preparation for the new system changeover on 12/12/12, BCCLS deleted patron records not active for over three years. The staff discharged 7,663 items and the number of people who walked through the doors was 6,390.

STREETS, SANITATION & TRANSPORTATION: As Commissioner, Councilman Gonzalez reported every day this past month, the Department of Public Works has been repairing pot holes throughout town except on days with inclement weather. Total asphalt used for the repairs is 30 tons equaling 60,000 lbs. The harsh winter took its toll on our local roads as well as the five (5) miles of Bergen County roads that are within our borders. Our DPW has informed the County of pot holes in need of repair and so far the County has been through town once. Our crew has also patched bad areas located on the county roads. The DPW is collecting quite a bit of grit from the Street Sweeping Program that is performed every night during the no parking time limit that is enforced overnight. The grit was part of a mix used during the salting process throughout the winter snow storms. We have repaired two stormwater catch basins that were damaged over the winter during snow plowing. Stormwater catch basins cleaning will begin next month as part of the DEP Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. During the heavy rain storms of Thursday, March 10 and Friday, March, 11, the Franklin Avenue Sanitary Sewer Pumping Station went into "Flood Mode" as a result of local sump pumps that are illegally connected into the sanitary sewer system. This is a well known fact that during every heavy rain event the system is overloaded. The Mayor and Council have an ordinance in place whereas the Building Department must inspect those connections when any new plumbing permits are taken out. Repairs were made as follows:

Three snow blowers were repaired.

New separators installed on street sweeper.

Due to erosion Dump Truck # 205 rec'd a new fuel tank & a complete exhaust system.

A new radiator was Installed on the John Deere Loader 444G.

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STREETS, SANITATION & TRANSPORTATION (cont'd):

Replaced electronic fuel monitor on John Deere Loader 544J.

Replaced turn signal assembly on Garbage Truck # 101.

As a result of erosion, the hydraulic lift piston and entire exhaust system was replaced on the Mason Dump.

For the street sweeper, Steven Daus, DPW mechanic, manufactured an entirely new steel containment hopper as the old one was unusable due to rust and erosion.

With regard to recycling, Councilman Gonzalez reported on the BCUA Tire, E-Waste and Household Hazardous Waste Collection dates which can be accessed by calling the BCUA Environmental Program Hotline at 201-807-5825 or online at www.bcu.org. He reported that on April 2, a free Shredding Event will be held in the Central Avenue parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It coincides with the Recycling Container which will also be there from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. He noted that he had committed, weather permitting, if 5,000 lbs in shredded material is achieved, he will get in the Dunk Tank at the Street Fair.

FINANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Finance, Commissioner Link reported the Current Fund cash balance at February 28, 2011 was \$4,987,130.35 and at January 31, 2011 was \$3,204,318.26 which represents an increase of \$1,782,812.09. The entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.50%. Cash receipts for the month of February totaled \$6,102,420.46 of which \$5,851,266.32 was for Current Taxes, \$56,662.46 was Delinquent Taxes and \$194,491.68 was Miscellaneous Revenues. Cash disbursements for the month of February totaled \$4,317,016.20 of which \$2,198,435.25 was for Local School Taxes, \$946,814.57 was for County Taxes, \$600,654.49 was for Salaries and \$571,111.89 was for Other Expenses. She continued that the 2011 Municipal Budget was being introduced tonight with the public hearing scheduled for April 26, 2011. Copies will be available in the Borough Clerk's office and it will be posted on the Borough's web site. As introduced, the budget will result in an increase in the Local Purpose Tax from \$13,890,150.89 in 2010 to \$14,569,290.78 in 2011, an increase of \$589,139.89. This is the result of increases in appropriations in the amount of \$368,428.39 (2%), and loss of revenues in the amount of \$220,711.50 (5.4%). The combination of increase in appropriations and loss in revenues represents an increase of 3.5 points in the Local Tax Rate. Each tax point represents approximately \$43.68 in taxes, 3.5 points would equate to approximately \$152.88 on the average house assessed at \$436,800.00. Final numbers on the school and county tax requirements were not available at this time.

Under Social Services, she reported the food pantry is open on Monday mornings from 9am-11am for Hasbrouck Heights residents in need. Anyone in need can register by calling Rob Brady at (201) 288-4143. Thank you to the generous volunteers that help stock and supervise the food pantry. From February 28 through March 21, there were

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FINANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC FACILITIES (cont'd):

104 visitors to the Food Pantry who received food and a food store gift card each week. We would like to especially thank the following for their most generous donations of food or gift cards: Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday and Meals with a Mission, St. John the Divine Church, Boy Scout Food Drive on March 19; Melchior Family, Frank Trent, Karen McDowell, the Gumbrecht Family, Kathy Van Jura, Louise Davenport, Ethel Ball, Gary Wilt, Lynn Taylor, Ms. Aubrey, Ann Jengo, BJ's Pharmacy Food Drive, Janice Trippodo, Robert Derco and Rosemarie Smith. The response from the residents and friends of Hasbrouck Heights continues to be outstanding and very much appreciated. If you would like to donate, the items most needed are all types of toiletries, paper products, detergents, rice, beans, coffee, tea, juices and jelly. Please no pasta or vegetables as these are in abundance. Donations may be dropped off at the Borough Clerk's office from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Link reported the Bergen County Work Release Program has completed several tasks at Police Headquarters in the Public Safety Building. The Department of Public Works supplied all painting, floor waxing, and rug cleaning products so that the workers could complete all the necessary duties throughout the building. The workers are under guard supervision at all times during and throughout the program. The quarterly elevator inspection was performed at the Municipal Complex and Public Safety Building as well as the fire sprinkler system inspection. All portable fire extinguishers throughout our facilities were inspected and serviced as part of our annual maintenance agreements. Twenty (20) broken chairs that had been taken out of the Library and stored in the basement of the Borough Hall were repaired. Rob Riordan, the maintenance mechanic for the DPW, transported them to our wood shop at the DPW facility and made the necessary repairs and returned them to the Borough Hall. The schedule of meetings was as follows: Community Room – 21, Caucus Room – 9, Council Chambers – 4 and Senior Center – 2 (other than senior activities)

FIRE: Under Fire, Commissioner Dingertopadre had no report.

HEALTH: Under Health, Commissioner Lipari reported during the months of January and February the Bergen County Animal Control reported 101 various incidents under the animal regulatory control service. The responses performed consist of animal pickup, D.O.A. removal and feral cat TNR program (Trap, Neuter & Release), along with patrolling areas throughout Hasbrouck Heights. The Board of Health collected during the month of February a total of \$6,060.00 in fees. The Environmental Health Specialist performed over 27 health inspections, spot checks and investigated complaints. The Boro Registrar reported 13 birth records during the month February and collected \$3,135.00 in certified copy fees. The Board of Health will be sponsoring their second annual Blood Screening Program on Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 7:00 am to 9:00

HEALTH (cont'd):

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am in the Senior Room at Boro Hall. The program is available to everyone and is an excellent opportunity to check on your body's internal wellness. To register please contact the Health Department at 201-288-1636. This year the Board of Health in conjunction with The Health Awareness Regional Program (H.A.R.P.) will be offering a free CPR & AED Heartsaver Course to all Hasbrouck Heights Coachs. The scheduled classes will be held on April 7th and 8th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in the Community Room. Participants must attend both classes to receive their certification and purchase a Heartsaver AED book for \$12.00. Pre-registration is required please call the Hasbrouck Heights Health Department at 201-288-1636.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

I ask for a moment's silence for Audrey Ryan who recently passed away. She was a long time resident who contributed so much to the community and her church. She also served the Borough and was a long time reporter for The Observer Newspaper as well as a very dear friend and colleague.

Feb. 28th, 5:30 pm I had the pleasure of attending Heart and Vascular Opening at HUMC Main Building Pavilion East.

March 1: CAAFA Meeting. Planned Special Event for April 30.

March 2, Wednesday I arrived at Lincoln School at 9 am and had the pleasure of visiting with Lisa Brinker the Principal of the school. We visited various classrooms where I was invited to speak about the importance of reading. The children were very receptive and I thoroughly enjoyed the interaction. I also had the pleasure of reading to the younger children after having enjoyed the visiting author in the School Library. It was a wonderful celebration of Read Across America Day.

Tuesdays Finance Committee Chair Pam Link, Deputy Chair Justin DiPisa, Borough Administrator Michael Kronyak and I have been meeting. These have been challenging times and even though the budget to be introduced tonight shows an increase we are determined to work hard to reduce it.

Various work by the Borough Clerk Ro Sees, Business Administrator Mike Kronyak and I have done a lot of work to prepare for this year's May 15 Street Fair. We have already received half of the sponsorship money needed to pay for that event. The Mayor's Business Community Committee is again working aggressively along with the contracted services of Cliffhanger Productions.

MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

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March 9, Wednesday, 7 p.m. I was re-elected Chair for the Southwest Community Development Block Grant Committee. The amount of grant money is not yet known and there appears to be some moves in Washington DC to eliminate or drastically reduce these HUD grant funds.

March 10, Thursday, attended The Lions Club 80 Anniversary Celebration Dinner and had the pleasure of presenting the group with a special Proclamation recognizing the community work done by the members, past and present, over the past years. They are a wonderful group of individuals who have done so much good for our town.

March 11, Friday, I attended the PTSA Tricky Tray. It was absolutely fantastic. These parents do an outstanding job of raising funds for our schools and 250 people were in attendance. I extend my congratulations to all who worked so diligently to put this event together.

I also wish to extend thanks to those who helped fill in for me this past week since I was out of commission having come down with a severe case of bronchitis. It is wonderful to have so many supportive friends who helped fill in for me. Thanks to all.

I will not be at the Library this Saturday and will resume my regular routine Saturday April 2nd, from 10 till noon. And Please do not forget the Free Shredding date of Saturday April 2nd. I am already putting things together to help bring the numbers up so our Commissioner Dave Gonzalez can make his goal of 5,000 lbs of shredded paper.

This completes my report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 54. Raffle License for Junior Woman's Club of Hasbrouck Heights
 - 55. Raffle Licenses for Corpus Christi Church
 - 56. Approval of 2011/2012 Licenses for Commercial Sale of Certain Motor Vehicles
 - 57. 2010 Appropriation Reserve Transfers

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

APPOINTMENTS: Edmund Carter Jr. To Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department Engine Company 1

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On a motion by Councilman Dingertopadre, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Appointments were approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2258:

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 “2011 RENT LEVELING ORDINANCE”** as 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 April 12, 2011.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2259:

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) CALENDAR YEAR 2011”** as 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 April 12, 2011.

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

RESOLUTION(S): 58. Introduction of 2011 Budget

On a motion by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, with Councilman Dingertopadre abstaining, and otherwise unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved.

ORDINANCE(S) ON PUBLIC HEARING:

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ORDINANCE NO. 2257:

Mayor Heck requested a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2257 which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

There being no one wishing to speak on this ordinance, Mayor Heck requested a motion to close the public hearing which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Lipari and unanimously carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled: **“AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT VESTA PALLAS 911 SYSTEM, TO APPROPRIATE THE TOTAL SUM OF \$150,000.00 THEREFOR AND TO APPLY TO THAT APPROPRIATION INSURANCE PROCEEDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$134,500.00 AND THE SUM OF \$15,500.00 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 Observer, a newspaper circulating and published in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights.

On a motion by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Ordinance on Public Hearing was approved.

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 DiPisa, 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 DiPisa, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to approve the request of Cub Scout Pack 17 for a Camping Night at Woodland Park on June, 3, 2011, which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

At 8:52 p.m. Mayor Heck asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez and unanimously carried.

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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 March 22, 2011.

Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk