

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

January 10, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on January 10, 2012 at 8:02 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.

Mayor Heck declared the meeting in Session and Acting Borough Clerk Michael Kronyak 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, 2012 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 3, 2012.

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: The Invocation was given by Councilman DiPisa which was as follows:

He asked everyone to take a moment and think about one particular blessing they have had today and thank God for it, whether it be family, friends, health, etc. with the hope that those blessings continue, but more importantly we recognize that when we do have a blessing or a grace that comes into our day that we don't just take it for granted but that we are thankful for it. Amen.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Thank You Letter from Freeholder John Driscoll
- 2) Letter from Chief Giarratana regarding Resignation of Michael Ratkowski
- 3) Letter from Chief Giarratana regarding Resignation of

COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

Rebecca Ratkowski

4) Invitation to Euclid School PTA Annual Drug Free Rally on Friday, January 13, 2012 at 9 a.m.

5) Invitation to Lincoln School PTA Annual Drug Free Rally on Friday, January 13, 2012 at 10 a.m.

6) Notice of Six Public Hearings for the draft Final State Strategic State Plan: New Jersey's State Development and Redevelopment Plan

7) Reassessment Program dates for residents to discuss their reassessment with a representative from Appraisal Systems Inc.

Mayor Heck asked if anyone wished to have any item read into the record. Item #7 was requested to be read into the record (Copy attached). Mayor Heck requested a motion to accept the correspondence which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilman Dingertopadre, and unanimously carried.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *None*

BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$2,080,056.02 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.

/s/ Councilwoman Pamela J. Link
Commissioner of Finance

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
15. Authorizing an Agreement with the County of Bergen for Animal Control Services for 2012
 16. Authorizing Certain Professional Contracts Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and 19:44A-20.5 et seq.
 17. Marriage/Civil Union Licenses - Payment of Fees to State
 18. Payroll
 19. Burial Permits - Payment of Fees to State
 20. Construction - Payment of Fees to State
 21. Approving and Adopting Standard Tort Claim Notice Claim Forms Required by the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund
 22. Awarding an Agreement with Valley Health Medical Group for Alcohol and Drug Testing Services
 23. Authorizing a Professional Contract with Joseph J. Rotolo, Esq. As Planning Board Attorney Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and 19:44A-20.5 et seq.
 24. Authorizing a Professional Contract with James Fordham as Planning Board Engineer Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and 19:44A-20.5 et seq.
 25. Appointing Joseph Jones as Municipal Court Judge

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

RESOLUTIONS: None

APPOINTMENTS: Emergency Management Council (Local Emergency Planning Committee) - 1 Year:
Rose Heck, Mayor/Chairperson
Michael Colaneri, Police Chief-EM Coord./Co-Chair

APPOINTMENTS (cont'd):

Dr. Roger J. Szanto-Deputy EM Coord.
Councilman David Gonzalez, Fire Commissioner
Richard Giarratana, Fire Chief
Arthur Jackson, Fire Official
William Spindler, DPW Superintendent
Laura French, Board of Health Registrar
Nicholas Melfi, Construction Official/Building Inspector
Michael Kronyak, CFO/Administrator
Robert Brady, Recreation Director
Ralph Chandless, Jr., Borough Attorney
Dr. Mark Porto, Superintendent of Schools
Constance Doheny, Editor, The Observer
Mimi Hui, Library Director

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing Appointments, which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

Correcting Appointment of Tina-Louise Dowd as Board of Health Member from three years to four years

Correcting Appointment of Charlotte Sodora as Board of Health Alt. 1 from three years to two years

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the foregoing Appointments which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Dingertopadre, and unanimously carried.

RESIGNATIONS: Michael Ratkowski from Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department Engine Company 2

Rebecca Ratkowski from Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department Junior Ambulance Squad

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

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Heck requested a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

Dragan Blanusa, 127 Division Avenue, congratulated Mayor Heck on her victory and was looking forward to working with her this year. He questioned Ordinance No. 2271, \$75,000 for refurbishing the (fire) truck and what happened with that truck and where is it for so long and why it takes so much time to be fixed. Mr. Kronyak gave the financial aspect. He said the truck had originally gone out about 14 months ago for non-engine type work. In the process of it being at that dealer, he was delivering it down to the Borough, the engine blew and his insurance carrier paid for an engine rebuild. Mr. Blanusa questioned if unauthorized personnel used the truck, and was told that only authorized highly trained personnel use the truck. Mayor Heck said Mr. Kronyak could give the financial background, there are circumstances given by the Fire Department, this hook and ladder is 22 years old. A new truck would cost over \$1 million. The truck is scheduled to be delivered by January 20. After the work was done, the ladder had to be tested and needed repair. Mayor Heck asked former Fire Chief Kevin Todd if he had any information on how the pump broke. He said a lot of safety devices on the ladder needed repair. Mr. Blanusa was interested if the pump was broken and why. He was told wear and tear, also safety relays, wiring to the ladder. The pump was not cracked.

Mr. Blanusa asked when the Minutes on the website were updated. Mayor Heck said there is an OPRA law where they can request copies. The website will be checked. He then referred to his street and that there is no curb in front of his house and when it would be fixed. Mayor Heck said there is a curb program that will cost millions of dollars, and programs are being set up to do it piecemeal. Mayor Heck asked Borough Engineer Job to report on the curb program. He said because of the income level we are not eligible for grants from Community Development or other agencies. Streets like Division Avenue are not eligible for State funding for repairs. The only way is with tax dollars. The cost right now is over \$25 per foot. Mr. Blanusa asked the schedule for street cleaning. He was told it is sporadic and then asked if it was two weeks.

Richard Robitaille, 148 Roosevelt Avenue, regarding the assessment letter, were we looking at reduced taxes. Mayor Heck asked Mr. Kronyak to explain, who said the adjustment in the values for the reassessment will just redistribute the way that money is raised. The reassessment tries to get the assessed values more in line with market values. There were 120 tax appeals last year. Commercial values should be known by the end of January. Mayor Heck noted that at the Finance Committee meeting held this morning that the appraiser be present at the next work session to answer questions. This reassessment will impact 2012 budget. Mr. Robitaille was invited to come on the dates the appraiser would be available.

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

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Heck asked if no one objected, the meeting would go right into Work Session. There were no objections.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be conducted by the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Buckman, seconded by Councilwoman Link 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 Mayor and Council Meeting held on January 10, 2012.

Rose Marie Sees
Borough Clerk