

Borough of Hasbrouck Heights – 9/25/2012

BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

MINUTES

September 25, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 8:03 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, 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: Councilman Dingertopadre gave the Invocation as follows:

“THINGS CHANGE” Friendships fade, Money is spent. Glory is forgotten. Power is lost. Pain is eased. Rules are broken. Promises forgotten. Trust betrayed. Seasons change. So do people. Day turns into dark. Sorrow to joy. Life ends. Love cools. Hate dies. Stars fall. But God is our God forever.”

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Proclamation from Governor Chris Christie proclaiming September 11, 2012 as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance
- 2) Letter from Tina Louise Dowd, Vice President of the Board of Health seeking permission to host the First Annual Hasbrouck Heights Board of Health 5 K Run and One Mile Fun Walk in conjunction with the annual Health Fair on Sunday, April 28, 2013.

At this point Mayor Heck requested confirmation of this request from the Council, a

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COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

motion made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Lipari and unanimously carried.

- 3) Release from the NJ DEP advising public to be alert for New Jersey deer that may have EHD virus; disease cannot be transmitted to people
- 4) Letter from Governor Chris Christie to Mayor Heck advising of four new approved contracts to assist in purchasing equipment more easily and cost effective: Police and Homeland Security, Firefighter Protective Clothing and Equipment, Parks and Playground Equipment and Sporting Goods
- 5) Notice from NJLM in support of National Hunger Action Month from Sept. 17 through Oct. 14 whereby residents can purchase select, participating products available in Walmart stores and following instructions on the packaging to generate meals to feed the hungry in communities nationwide: www.walmart.com/hunger

Mayor Heck asked if anyone wished to have any item read into the record. Items #2 and #4 were requested. (Copies attached) Mayor Heck asked for a motion to approve the correspondence which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Lipari and unanimously carried.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(August 28, 2012 Regular Meeting, September 11, 2012 Regular Meeting and Work Session)*

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

BILLS:

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$157,019.41 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;

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BILLS (cont'd):

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
Deputy Commissioner of Finance

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

REPORTS:

POLICE: Under Police, Commissioner DiPisa read a report submitted by Chief Colaneri which stated schools are open and school crossing guards/walking bus guards are on post with many children using the walking school bus this year. Motorists are reminded to obey the directions of the guards for the safety of our children. Chief Colaneri and DARE officer Sgt. Rinke attended the Meet and Greet lunch with new BOE staff. The Police Honor Guard attended the 9-11 ceremony. Chief Colaneri spoke and reflected on the loss of police officers on that day. Capt. Jackie DeLorenzo has indicated his plans to retire on November 1, 2012. He will be missed, and wish him the best in this new chapter of his life. Regarding stats, Parking 2012, 1663 vs 2011, 2700. moving violations 1237 up from 975, for a total of 2900 as compared to 3675 in 2011.

RECREATION: Commissioner Buckman gave the following report as submitted by Director of Recreation Robert Brady: Town Day once again will be sponsored by the recreation department, town day will be held Saturday 9/29/12 10:30 am-3:30 pm at Woodland Park. There will be free food & drinks, inflatable rides, music, games for the children, and a wealth of information on all of our great community organizations. If any town organization would like to reserve a table for town day they can email me at hhrec@aol.com. The rain date is Saturday 10/6/12. Halloween in the Park will be held on Tuesday 10/16/12 in the haunted Woodland Park, with a rain date of Thursday 10/18/12. There will be two wagon trips every 15 minutes starting at 6pm and ending at 9:30pm. From 6pm-6:45pm will be less scary and is suggested for younger riders. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the recreation table at Town Day. Recreation Youth Basketball will have registration Tuesday October 9th and Thursday October 11th 7pm-9pm in the recreation office. The program is open to boys and girls 1st-8th grade. Recreation Wrestling is having registration Wednesday October 3rd and Wednesday October 10th from 7pm-9pm in the recreation office. The program is open to boys in 2nd-8th grade. Wrestling will have registration on Wednesday October 3rd in the recreation office. The registration will be from 7pm-9pm for boys in the 1st grade. This program will meet once a week for one hour to teach the boys fundamentals of

RECREATION (cont'd):

wrestling movements. The Recreation Center will reopen in September on Friday September 28th you can register your child at the center when it is open. The center is open on most Friday and Saturday evenings 7pm-10pm. The cost is \$40 for the school year, and is available for children in 6th, 7th, & 8th grades. The Senior Halloween Party, sponsored by the recreation department will be held Thursday October 25th 12pm-3pm in the senior center. All town seniors are invited to enjoy an afternoon of eating, dancing, and music all free of charge. Costumes are optional but encouraged. The Recreation Department also has a list of senior activities, such as line dancing, fun bingo, aerobics, yoga, Mah Jongg, assorted table games, and more are offered on a monthly senior activities calendar. Recreation adult basketball and adult coed volleyball resumed play at the high school new gym in September. Basketball will continue to play on Monday nights 7pm-9pm and adult coed volleyball will continue to play on Wednesday nights 7pm-9pm in the new gym. For more information on current or upcoming recreation programs feel free to email the Recreation Office hhrec@aol.com, or you can find us on Facebook at "Hasbrouck Heights Recreation Department" and follow us on Twitter @HHrecreation. As Library Liaison, she reported for the month of June, July and August, 35,417 items were circulated, 166 new cards issued, 121 adult and 45 children. Total library card holders is 5,817, 333 students signed up for children's summer reading program and 21 teens registered for the young adult book discussion group. She memorialized Thomas Shackley, a long time library visitor and friend who passed away recently.

FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION: Under **Fire**, Commissioner Gonzalez gave the following productivity report as submitted by EMS Coordinator Elizabeth Waring for the period of 8/15 to 9/15/ 2012. There were 25 fire calls, 10 non-fire emergency calls and 105 EMS calls. The Fire Department Honor Guard was present at the 9/11 ceremony. The HHFD/EMS have been on standby at Depken Field during the football games and will be on hand for Town Day on September 29, Halloween in the Park October 16 (raindate Oct. 18) and the Ragamuffin Parade October 27. The month of October kicks off with Fire Prevention Week October 7 through 13. Please refer to the following websites for tips about Fire Safety. <http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-resources-by-risk-area/fire-burn-and-scalds/fire-prevention-tips-1.html>, and [http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1429&itemID+34426&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week/About%20Prevention%20Week&cookie test=1](http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1429&itemID+34426&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week/About%20Prevention%20Week&cookie%20test=1). Please check all smoke/carbon monoxide detectors in your home, install new batteries now that the Fall is here, and replace any detectors over 5 years old. He reminded residents that the Satellite Recycling Center on Central Avenue would be open October 6.

Under **Streets & Sanitation**, Commissioner Gonzalez reported funding from a State grant has allowed the Borough to mill and resurface Collins Avenue from Rt. 46 East to Williams Avenue and Burton Avenue from Rt. 46 E to Williams Avenue. **FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION (cont;d):**

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crosswalks and stop bars have been applied at all locations on these roadways under the inspection of Ken Job, Borough Engineer. The DPW will continue to paint yellow traffic curb areas throughout the town as weather will permit. Bill Spindler, DPW Superintendent, submitted a claim with PSE&G stating that their Gas Division had excavated areas throughout the Boulevard where brick pavers needed to be reset. The claim was approved and a contractor completed the work in all areas. Also, a list was sent to PSE&G by the DPW addressing areas of excavation that have settled and need asphalt repair. PSE&G responded and the repairs were completed. In conjunction with the DPW, the PSE&G Tree Division has removed trees from the high voltage wires that were on a hazard list. The hazard list is ongoing and PSE&G Tree Division will notify the Borough of the next scheduled dates they will be returning to town. The DPW has received quotes for the removal of all trees along Coolidge Avenue in preparation for the total reconstruction of the block. The quotes will be forwarded to Michael Kronyak, Borough Administrator, and Ken Job, Borough Engineer for their review.

Environmental News: The Hasbrouck Heights Environmental Commission along with the Hasbrouck Heights Recycling Program and the combined efforts of the New Jersey Clean Community Council and Bergen County Utilities Authority has organized several items to give away at Town Day on September 29 at Woodland Park. Some of the give away items are grocery bags, clips, key chains, coloring books, pencils and leaf bags. This year twomulching movers will be raffled off for free as part of the Recycling Program to bring awareness to mulching your grass. Please look for our display "Mulch the Mover" who says, "Cut it and Leave it." The raffle is for Hasbrouck Heights residents only. ID is required.

FINANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES & WELFARE: Under **Finance**, Commissioner Link read the following report: the Current Fund cash balance at August 31, 2012 was \$4,394,611.15 and at July 31, 2012 was \$1,075,013.08 which represents an increase of \$3,319,598.07. The entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.25%. Cash receipts for the month of August totaled \$7,702,435.04 of which \$6,938,188.73 was for Current Taxes, \$67,661.23 was for Delinquent Taxes, \$466,663.05 was for State Aid, \$89,427.79 was for FEMA reimbursements and \$140,494.24 was Miscellaneous Revenues. Cash disbursements for the month of August totaled \$4,382,836.97 of which \$2,296,100.00 was for Local School Taxes, \$865,003.23 was for County Taxes, \$570,702.26 was for Salaries, \$176,206.88 was for Interfunds and \$474,824.60 was for Other Expenses. Final 2012 tax bills have been mailed. Included on this final bill is the fourth quarter payment, which is due November 1, 2012, as well as the first and second quarter payments due in 2013. In addition to its usual business hours, the Tax Collector's Office, located at 320 Boulevard, will be open on Saturday, October 27, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. until noon for your convenience.

Under **Social Services**, Commissioner Link reported the food pantry is open on Monday mornings from 9am-11am for Hasbrouck Heights residents in need. Anyone in **FINANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES & WELFARE (cont'd):**

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need that has to register can do so with Robert Brady by calling (201) 288-4143. From Aug. 27 through Sept. 23, there were 130 visitors to the Food Pantry. Thank you to the generous volunteers who helped stock and supervise the food pantry during this time period: Dolores Jones, Dorothy Petroulas, Elsie Sternbach, Ethel Ball, Elaine Ruroede, Joyce Belbo, Andy, Maria Wojciechowski, Al Kinsley, Jeff Leidenfrost, as well as to the following donors: Bill O'Shea's Flowers Good Neighbor Day, Corpus Christi Church , Bible Baptist Church, United Methodist Women, First Reformed Church, Cindy Palmieri, Henry's Deli, Madeleine Leddy, Jean Kucera, Karen McDowell, Mrs. Battaglia, Debbie Weiner, Josephine McClean, Mr. Warner, Vicki Grunski, David MacPherson, Joan Sentipal/ReMax, Pat Manis, Michael Denichilo, Kathy Van Jura, Ed Raymond, Jane Gay, John Rizzo, Mary Gil, Mrs. Behr, Karen Janowski, Paul Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Rensch, Nora Abraham, Mrs. Trippodi, Mrs. Rista, Corum Family, Janet Pincus, Arlene Carreau, Rozum Family The response for donations has been most generous and very much appreciated!! The shelves empty quickly and donations are most welcome. If anyone is interested in donating items here are some ideas: canned fruit, juices, beans, rice, pasta, paper products, all kinds of soaps and cleaning products, shampoo, toiletries, jelly, coffee, tea, powdered milk, and snacks. Please call the Recreation office at (201) 288 4143 or the Borough Clerk's office at (201) 288-0195 if you have any questions.

PARKS, PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION: Commissioner Dingertopadre reported in preparation of the 9/11 Ceremony the DPW performed the following tasks: Set two new Memorial benches in concrete footings, planted flowers throughout the 9/11 and Firemen's Memorial Park, put mulch in beds, installed new Memorial plaque, Arranged chairs and set up audio equipment for presentation and set up barricades and cones for traffic control. The DPW is acquiring quotes for a new irrigation system at the 9/11 and Firemen's Memorial Parks. When all quotes are received they will be submitted to Michael Kronyak, Borough Administrator, for his review. At Depkin Field the tree stumps have been ground down in order for the new fence to be installed along the Franklin Avenue side of the field. Public Facilities: the DPW has been replacing light ballasts throughout the Library. They have also been addressing other maintenance issues at all the Borough facilities such as replacing a thermostat in Courtroom and placing several concrete parking stops in all municipal lots. At the Public Safety Building, the front door of the Police Department was repaired and all quarterly elevator maintenance inspections were performed.

HEALTH & LAND USE: Under **Land Use**, Commissioner Lipari reported during the month this department issued 50 permits with income totaling \$22,450. One new home was started during this month. 12 Certificates of Occupancy were issued on the sale of homes. As we have noted in the past all retail spaces on the Boulevard are occupied. Two long time occupants are in various stages of remodeling: The gas station at the corner of the Boulevard and Madison will be appearing before the Zoning Board this

HEALTH & LAND USE (cont'd):

week and Rite Aid has just picked up the permit on that project. We are also happy to report that all retail spaces located at 155 Route 17 South are now filled. The two latest additions were Sidekick Karate School and Harvey's Hot Bagels which is still under construction. 61 initial UCC inspections were done during the past month with a passing rate of 95%. A reminder that when electrical panels are changed, the building The Building Inspector continues to work with the contractors on the rehabilitation of 501 Route 17 South where the water damage from extinguishing the fire has been extensive. The property maintenance inspector made 13 inspections. He followed up 39 times and one summons was issued. Once again we must remind the public that no warning must be given for grass that exceeds 10 inches in either the front or back yard. Shrubs and flowers must be kept trimmed and cannot grow over onto a neighboring property or the public sidewalk.

Under **Health**, Commissioner Lipari read a report prepared by Board of Health Secretary Lori French **Senior Wellness Luncheon:** This years Senior Wellness Luncheon on Thursday, September 20th was a big success. There were over 80 seniors who enjoyed the complimentary lunch donated by Care One of Wellington of Hackensack. Public Health Nurse, Carol Brush spoke about Senior Immunizations. **Free Vision Screening:** The Board of Health's first "Free Vision Screening Program" was very successful. The N.J. Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired provided these services on Tuesday, September 11th in the community room from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The nurses from H.A.R.P. also offered free blood pressure screening. About 34 participants, children and adults were tested for glaucoma, blurred vision and muscle coordination. Out of the 34 participants 6 were given significant referrals. The Commission for the Blind also assisted families in determining whether they qualify for "NJ Family Care" and other service providers. The NJ Commission for the Blind offers multiple fixed vision screening sites throughout New Jersey and is looking for a fixed site here in Bergen County. With so many families without health insurance or limited insurance a quarterly standing clinic in Bergen County would be a great asset to the community. **Senior Flu Program:** This years Senior Flu Program will be held on Thursday, September 27th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Senior Center. The Nurses from H.A.R.P. will be administrating the vaccine. **Feral Cat Problem:** During the last Board of Health meeting on Wednesday, September 12th, the Board Members discussed an on going problem with the domestic and feral cat population in Hasbrouck Heights. The Health Department has been receiving many calls from residents complaining about cats defecating on their property, whether feral or domestic. One of reason the large population of cats in a specific area is when residents feed animals on their property. In 2009 the Board of Health passed an ordinance "Prohibiting the Feeding of Wild or Stray Animals" on any public or private property. The Sanitary Code Ord., Ch. 4, Sect. 5 has proven to be an effective tool in controlling this practice. Once an animal loses its food source it moves on. Still with so many complaints the Board Members are inviting the public to attend the next Board of Health meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 7:30 pm to come and give their opinion on possible solutions.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

My report is very brief this month and I will begin by thanking the Police Dept., Ambulance Squad and all Borough Employees who came to my aid on August 17th. I was taken by ambulance that Friday afternoon in considerable distress for what I termed: "Severe Indigestion." After days of extensive tests and opinions given by a series of physicians and surgeons it was determined that I need surgery for a long standing Hiatal Hernia that had gotten much worse over the years. If any one out there wants a complete description, I would caution them the answer would take some time. A two and a half hour surgery on Wednesday, August 22nd, turned into a seven hour surgery. It was a successful operation with a recuperation time requiring care and patience.

I thank the Borough Administrator Michael Kronyak, Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees and Borough Attorney Ralph W. Chandless for all of their extra work and kindnesses. They allowed me the input I needed and I thank Council President Russell Lipari for covering the August 28th meeting for me.

Ro Sees and I had already planned and worked on the September 11th Memorial and Borough Administrator Kronyak and Borough Attorney Ralph Chandless and I went over the Council Agenda for the 11th. Most of my time has been spent recuperating with the help of my family and the next outing after the Council Meeting I attended was the traditional Good Neighbor Day held at Bill O'Shea's Florist. Recipient of all the food, and donations was our own Food Pantry. Thank you to all who supported the event and especially to John K. the owner of O'Shea's who is busy planning for the Halloween Window Painting Contest.

On Monday Cindy Randazzo brought together a group of DEP and Rutgers University Personnel to give the Mayors and Councils in this area a look at what is new in handling flood issues. It was quite informative and a number of the towns that attended availed themselves of much need information, including grants that might be available. Hasbrouck Heights hosted the meeting.

Just as an FYI: The Borough is in the midst of contract negotiations with both the DPW and the Police Dept. I invite all to attend Town Day this Saturday. There is a Rain Date, but I am hoping for sunny skies.

Again my thanks to all for the many, many get well cards and e-mails. My thanks to Euclid School children who sent me individually -beautifully designed Get Well Cards. I will announce soon when my doctors will release me back to my full schedule of duties, so till then, if you need to see me, please make individual appointments through Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees. So till then I will not be at my regular spot in the Library on Saturday Mornings. Thanks to all for your prayers and good thoughts. That concludes my report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
145. Payroll
 146. Authorizing Application for Hasbrouck Heights Municipal Alliance Grant for 2013
 147. Authorizing Grant Agreement with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using \$59,950.00 in 2012 Community Development Block Grant Funds for the Construction of Handicapped Accessible Curb Ramps
 148. Raffle Licenses for Concerned Parents of Corpus Christi
 149. Raffle License for Hasbrouck Heights Junior Football League
 150. Authorizing Submission of a Bergen County Community Development Grant for Barrier Free Curb Ramps Along Burton Avenue and Summit Avenue

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

UPDATE ON CY 2012/SY 2013 BEST PRACTICE INVENTORY:

CFO/Administrator Michael Kronyak reported that beginning in 2011 the Division of Local Government Services at the direction of the Governor's office came out with the Best Practice checklist, about 50 questions that every municipality has to answer and based on your score, determines whether or not State Aid will be turned over from the State to the Municipality. Last year we lost nothing and this year he answered the 50 questions and distributed a copy to the Mayor and Council and again we are in the position of not losing any State Aid. Our score was 88% which put us in the 100% category. The one requirement is that it is discussed at a public meeting in general terms that it was processed and going to Trenton and if there were any questions. There being none, he said the clerk would prepare the certification and it would be sent out tomorrow.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:

Mayor Heck requested a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by

MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):

Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried. Mayor Heck invited anyone from the public wishing to speak to please come forward.

Donna Caroccia, 455 Collins Avenue, asked that the tree in front of her home be removed as it was dead. She said she had been calling the DPW since January. She presented two pictures which were reviewed by the Mayor and Council. Mayor Heck asked DPW Supt. Bill Spindler to handle this asap. From looking at the pictures, Mr. Spindler said PSEG would have to be notified as wires were involved. He would look into this the next day.

Tina Dowd, 70 Madison Avenue, as vice-president of the Board of Health thanked the Mayor and Council for their approval of holding the 5K Run and hoped to be working together to make it work. Mayor Heck said she hoped they make it a big success.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE: 151. Pending Litigation

Mayor Heck requested a motion to close the meeting to the public at 8:47 p.m. to discuss a matter of pending litigation which was made by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman Lipari and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck announced that the meeting would now go into Executive Session.

At 9:06 p.m. Mayor Heck requested a motion to close the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

ADJOURN:

At 9:07 p.m. Mayor Heck requested a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, 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 Regular Meeting held on September 25, 2012.

Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk