

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**MINUTES**

**January 27, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 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 5, 2015 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 5, 2015.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor Rose Heck, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman, Councilman David Gonzalez, Councilwoman Pamela J. Link, Councilman Christian Semencz

Absent: Councilman Russell A. Lipari

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

**INVOCATION:**

Councilman Semencz gave the Invocation as follows: "Mohawk Prayer. O Great Spirit creator of all things, human beings, trees, grass, berries, help us, be kind to us, let us be happy on earth, let us lead our children to a good life and old age. These are our people, give them good minds to love one another. O Great Spirit, be kind to us, give these people a favor to see the green trees, green grass, flowers and berries this next Spring."

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- 1) Copy of Groundwater Remedial Action Permit for BP Service Station, 426 Blvd. & Williams Ave

Mayor Heck asked if any member of the Council wished to have any item read into the record. There was none. Mayor Heck then requested a motion to accept the Communications which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Semencz, and unanimously carried.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**       *(January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting and Work Session)*

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

**BILLS:**

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$126,439.72, 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 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:** Under **Police**, Commissioner DiPisa reported the Department participated in the Anti-Drug Rallies at Euclid and Lincoln Schools. Chief Colaneri and Sgt. Baker spoke to the children about staying drug free. Capt. Rinke, Lts. Colaneri, Robertson, Sgts. Werner, Kroncke, Det. Behr, Ofcs. D’Amico, Cooke, Dussault, Woodbridge, Brunetti, Olivo, Marino, Condal and Renna also attended and met with the kids in their classrooms.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade DARE graduation was held on January 15, 2015. Mayor Heck and Chief Colaneri spoke to graduates and their parents and families. Sgt. Baker was thanked for a job well done with this year’s class. Certificates were presented by Asst. Supt. of Schools Dr. Helfant, Principals Sickels and Colangelo, Mayor Heck, Councilwoman Link, Chief Colaneri, Capt Rinke and Sgt. Baker. A party with refreshments and DJ was held following the graduation.

We would like to thank the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for their assistance all year and both Euclid and Lincoln PTAs for their assistance.

January 14, 2015, D/Lt. Colaneri spoke to the members of the Leisure Club about

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**POLICE (cont'd):** recent trends in scams.

At the request of Mayor Heck we will be doing new “Baseball” cards for the Department. Anyone interested in sponsoring an officer can contact Joanne Inglesby at 201-288-6019.

At the request of the NJ Attorney General’s Officer our Police Department is working on a program called “RX for Prescription Drop” where there will be a drop box in the vestibule of the Police Headquarters, where people can bring their expired, unused drugs and the Police Department will get rid of them. He, Mayor Heck, Chief Colarneri and Lt. Alan Baker are working on this project.

Under Statistics, he reported parking summons for: December 2014 Year to date parking were 4242 versus 3386 in 2013. Total moving violations: Year to date are 3956 from 2428 in 2013. Totals for December to date are 8198 versus 5814 in 2013. He commended the Police Department on doing a great job.

**RECREATION AND PARKS:** Under **Parks**, Commissioner Buckman gave a report supplied by DPW Supt. William Spindler: after all streets were cleared of leaves, the DPW removed all remaining leaves throughout Woodland, Miers, Polify, and Veterans Parks. They then turned their attention to cleaning up our other Borough properties such as Municipal Building, Public Safety Building, the Circle and adjacent areas. All holiday decorations have been removed from the 911 Memorial and the Fireman’s Bell as well as the Circle. PSE & G has installed and energized the new lamp posts at Veterans Memorial Park.

Under **Recreation**, Commissioner Buckman gave a report supplied by Recreation Director Robert Brady. Recreation Youth Basketball season is well underway with three groups of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boys and girls clinics, 32 recreation basketball teams in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> boys and girls, and 5 traveling teams as well. We have over 390 children playing basketball this year.

Recreation Wrestling will host our first home match of the season this Saturday 1/31/15 8:30am in the new gym, and on Sunday 2/8/15 we will be hosting our Heights Recreation tournament with 8 different towns competing against each other for medals. Wrestlastics was cancelled on Monday 1/26/15 due to the snow, and that class will be made up at the end of season.

Recreation Center has an open registration for boys and girls in 6<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup> grades, if you would like to register your child you can do so by bringing them to the center when it is open on a Friday or Saturday night and fill out a registration form.

Adult Coed Volleyball meets on Wednesday evenings from 8pm-9:30pm at the Hasbrouck Heights High School’s new gym. The program is open to men and women 18 years and older.

Adult Basketball meets on Monday evenings from 8pm-9:30pm in the Hasbrouck Heights High School’s new gym. The program is open to town residents and HH alumni

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**RECREATION (cont'd):** 18 years and older.

Registration for the recreation drama classes for children and adults will be held in early February, look for more info coming soon.

As Library Liaison, she reported ending with the month of December was the highest circulation up 3.8% for a total of 127,000 items, 6,937 people walked through the doors, 14 new library cards, 11 adult and 2 juvenile bringing the total library cards to date at 6,899. The Library has been in this building for 10 years.

**FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION:** Under **Fire**, Commissioner Gonzalez reported in the period covering 12/15 to 1/15, there were 28 Fire and 121 EMS calls.

He continued that on January 1<sup>st</sup>, The Fire Chiefs and Department Officers took their oath of office administered by Mayor Rose Heck.

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assist Chief Robert Knoblach along with Engine Company One (615) handled a mutual aid request to standby in Passaic. Lodi and Rutherford were also called to standby as the Passaic Fire Department battled a working fire.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, the HHFD held its annual Installation Dinner at the Graycliff in Moonachie.

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, Fire Chief Pat Hayes, Second Assist Robert Knoblach and Engine Company Two (616) were on standby at Hamilton and Blvd for an underground transformer fire. PSE&G responded as well.

This day also began with numerous 911 calls for falls and mva's due to severe icing conditions all over town as well as the tri boro area.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 60, 62 and 615 responded to Edgewater (Avalon Fire).

At first the mutual aid request was for one engine to standby at the Cliffside Park Fire House. Upon arrival, they were immediately requested to be on scene. Engine 615 flowed the deck over the cliff on to the fire and used 3 headlines to put out the fire from ambers raining down. At 11pm the engine company went to refuel and went back to the Cliffside Park firehouse and was on standby until 6am.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 60, 614 and EMS 603 responded to a multiple vehicle accident at Rt17 and Williams Ave. The accident involved 2 salt brine trucks. Mutual Aid was called to assist at the scene. One person needed to be extricated from the truck. BCPD also assisted in closing the highway until everything was cleared.

During the blizzard that started on January 26<sup>th</sup>, the HHFD checked and fueled all apparatus and many members stationed at the firehouse from 5pm to 11am this morning.

Under **Streets & Sanitation**, Commissioner Gonzalez reported on November 26, 2014, our salt trucks were called out as a mixture of snow and ice fell in the amount of two inches. The plows pushed off the slush in the center of all roads as leaves were still piled along the curbs throughout the town.

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**STREETS AND SANITATION (cont'd):** During the third week of December, the DPW set up for the Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting event and completed leaf collection on all the streets.

Salt brining was applied to our streets in anticipation of a snow storm that came on January 6. All salt trucks were out serving our town.

Freezing rain fell on January 18 and black ice blanked the entire town. All salters were dispatched and that evening the trucks reapplied more salt as the temperatures dropped. The DPW requested their salt allowance from Bergen County Road Department as we salt all of the county roads.

In preparation for another predicted snow storm for January 23, salt brine was applied and all salt trucks were operational.

Six tons of cold patch (winter mix asphalt) was used to repair potholes throughout the town.

Three sanitary sewer manholes were rebuilt in town as they were starting to deteriorate.

REPAIRS:

444G Front end loader – Replaced all hoses.

Garbage Truck 101– Replaced air valve control & blower motor.

Garbage Truck 102 – Replace bearing and assembly.

Dump Truck 203 – Replace air tank caused by erosion.

Tree Truck – Annual State boom inspection and repairs.

JetVac – Replace batteries.

Emergency Management Vehicle – Replace batteries.

**FINANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Under **Finance**, Commissioner Link gave the following report: the Current Fund cash balance at December 31<sup>st</sup> was \$3,271,768.81 and at November 30<sup>th</sup> was \$5,459,728.45 which represents a decrease of \$2,187,959.64, the entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.25%.

Cash receipts for the month of December totaled \$1,144,792.97 of which \$364,639.70 was for Current Taxes, \$93,223.93 was for Pre-paid 2015 taxes, \$50,957.80 was for State Aid, \$145,037.94 was Interfunds and \$490,933.60 was Miscellaneous Revenues.

Cash disbursements for the month of December totaled \$3,332,752.61 of which \$2,200,609.50 was for Local School Taxes, \$662,795.67 was for Salaries and \$469,347.44 was for Other Expenses.

The formulation of the 2015 budget continues. The date for introduction of the 2015

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**FINANCE (cont'd):** municipal budget has been extended from February 10<sup>th</sup> until March 13<sup>th</sup> in order to accommodate the presentation of the Governor's budget scheduled for late in February. The Finance Committee met tonight prior to this meeting and is scheduled to meet again Thursday at 11:00, regular meetings will continue right through the adoption of the 2015 budget.

The Chief Financial Officer has completed and submitted the Annual Debt Statement which is due by January 31, 2015. The Debt Statement indicates that the Borough's net debt at 12/31/14 was \$9,390,498.00 and at 12/31/13 was \$8,811,818.00. This represents an increase in the amount of \$578,680.00. The Percent of Net Debt to Equalized Valuations is 0.549% which is well below the 3.5% permitted by statute. The CFO is working on the Annual Financial Statement which is due by February 10, 2015.

The Tax Collector's Office, located at 320 Boulevard, will be open this Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon for the collection of first quarter taxes due on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Under **Social Services**, Commissioner Link gave the following report: there were 120 visitors to the Food Pantry who came on December 29 through January 20. The pantry is operational only because of the generous donations received on a continuing basis from the local churches, civic organizations, Scout troops, School and PTA food drives and the many, many generous residents.

We are also most thankful to the volunteers who supervise the food pantry on a rotating basis. Those who volunteered their time during these past four weeks are Joyce Belbo, Andy Rastocky, Madeleine Leddy, Colleen Sarden, Al Kinsley, Jeff Liedenfrost, Marge Heeren, Rosemary Willard, Helen O'Shea, Ethel Ball, Audrey Gall; and Denise Betts who helps out each week. Thank you all!

We sincerely thank the following for their generosity: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church Women, Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday, First Reformed Church, Bible Baptist Church, Meals with a Mission, HHHS Gay Straight Alliance, Middle School Student Council, Salon Azaro of Hawthorne, Joe Messeri, Carena Han, Joe Inero, Cricco Family, Elizabeth Carnisare, Annette Agostino, Kathy Van Jura, Brittany Monohan, Phylis Burman, Heights Specialty Pharmacy, John Rizzo, Lori Piasto, Josephine McClean, Ron Ellis, Barbara Juliano, Masonic Lodge and Evelyn.

For those of you who ask what is needed, we have prepared a weekly schedule of items to donate:

Week of January 26:	Laundry detergent, dish detergent, cleaning products
Week of February 2:	Cereal, Coffee, tea, hot cocoa, powdered milk
Week of February 9:	Tomato sauce, canned gravies, instant mashed potatoes

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**SOCIAL SERVICES (cont'd):**

Week of February 16: Canned or bottled juice, canned fruit, snacks  
Week of February 23: Tuna fish, canned soup, peanut butter, jelly  
Week of March 2: Paper products (tissues, toilet paper, paper towels)  
Week of March 9: Toiletries (shampoo, soap, lotion, etc.)

We have a small freezer and will accept a limited amount of frozen items.

To accommodate the many donations, new shelving has been purchased and installed by DPW employees. All donations are very much appreciated and accepted in the Borough Clerk's office from 9 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**HEALTH AND LAND USE:** No reports were given.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION:** Commissioner Semenez reported The roof over the front entrance of Police Headquarters was repaired by patching rubber membrane in that area. Also the lamp fixture at the rear door was rewired and new ballast was installed at the Police Desk.

The DPW responded to a sewer blockage at the Public Safety Building. A toilet was removed to allow for the clearing process. All bathroom facilities are operational.

Repairs at the DPW facility are as follows:

- Repair automatic garage door in east bay.
- Replace heating duct, blower motor, thermostat, & circuit board.
- Replace starter motor & repair wiring on air compressor in diesel shop.
- Replace card reader on fuel pumps.

At the Library, a new heat exchanger was order. Temporary space heaters were purchased and placed in the area where needed until the equipment is delivered and installed.

Shelves were purchased and assembled for use in the Food Pantry at the Borough Hall.

All elevators had their quarterly inspection performed by the State.

Schedule of Meeting: (for the months of December & January)

Community Room	28
Caucus Room	10
Council Chamber	11
Senior Center	12 (not including Senior Activities)
Hallway	4
Recreation Center	2

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**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Jan. 1st, Thursday, Noon, I swore in Pamela Link for her new term in office as her dad former longtime Councilman Andrew Link III witnessed the occasion and the I congratulated Justin DiPisa as he was sworn in by his son Attorney Mark DiPisa.

I also swore in the Chiefs and Officers of the Fire Department. Complete minutes can be found on our web site [www.hasbrouck-heights.nj.us](http://www.hasbrouck-heights.nj.us).

Jan. 7th, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. I attended the Reorganization of the Planning Board. I was pleased to recommend that Henry P. Dobbelaar again become Chair. He has done an outstanding job and continues to do so. We are fortunate to have a man of his stature in that position. A short business meeting was held.

Jan. 9th Friday, 1:30 p.m. I had an informal lunch at Fisher's Café with our Library Director Mimi Hui and BCCLS Director Robert White, a longtime friend. We discussed, among other things, his coming retirement and all that he has accomplished in his years as Director. Mimi has played and continues to play an important role with BCCLS. I am proud of her accomplishments.

Jan. 13th, Tuesday, 7 p.m.: I attended the Finance Committee meeting along with Chair Pamela Link, Deputy Justin DiPisa and Finance Officer Michael Kronyak. Numerous matters were discussed including the 2015 budget and the 22% increase in Health Benefit costs.

8 pm, Council Meeting where Police Awards for 2014 were given. Please see the Minutes of the meeting in full on our Web Site [Hasbrouck-Heights.nj.us](http://Hasbrouck-Heights.nj.us).

Jan. 14th, Thursday, 10 a.m.: I met with Library Board Finance Chair Ron Ellis and Hasbrouck Heights Finance Officer Michael Kronyak for two hours. We discussed the needs of the Hasbrouck Heights Library and the new Certified Staff that is being sought, as well as the rise in cost for Library Health Benefits of \$16,000.

6:30 p.m. Councilwoman Pamela Link and I attended the DARE Graduation along with Chief Michael Colaneri. Both the Chief and I spoke of the importance of this ongoing work that was started 26 years ago and its benefits to the children. We congratulated the 180 boys and girls from both Euclid and Lincoln Schools graduated the course led by Sgt. Alan Baker, our Juvenile and DARE Officer. We commended him for his leadership role in the DARE program. The Teachers of both schools along with the Principals of both schools were thanked for their participation in this valuable program.

Jan. 15th, Friday, 9 a.m. I attended and spoke at the Lincoln School DARE Rally. The entire Student body participated. Both Police Chief Michael Colaneri and I spoke of the importance of the lessons learned and how the children must take care of themselves in

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**MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):**

order to grow up strong and healthy so they can follow whatever career path they desired after completing their education.

At 10:30 a.m., I attended and spoke at the Euclid School DARE Rally. It was wonderful to again address the entire Student body who had participated in the week-long programs arranged by each school's Parent Teacher Association. Principals Colangelo of Lincoln and Sickels of Euclid did a wonderful job of leading the students in appropriate school cheers.

The Lincoln School Leopard and the Euclid School Eagle also came to visit their respective schools as did the Giant DARE Lion, always a popular addition to the day's events.

Jan. 16th, Saturday, 10 till 1:30 p.m., I had a busy day at my regular Library availability morning. I had extended meetings with several people that morning.

7 p.m. I attended along, with some members of the Council, the Fire Department's Annual Dinner held at the Greycliffe in Moonachie. I personally congratulated Fire Chief Pat Hayes and First Asst. Chief Angelo Raccamo and Second Asst. Chief Robert Knoblock on their elections and I thanked the entire Fire Dept. on behalf of the community for their untiring volunteer service.

Jan. 20th, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: I attended the Library Board of Trustees Reorganization Meeting as did Library Liaison Councilwoman Sonya Buckman. It was a very interesting meeting (open to the public). Lisa Traina was re-elected President. I gave the Oath of Office to Trustees: Lisa Traina, Pat Link, Linda Mansfield, Ron Ellis, John Baratta and Rose Ellen Lorber-Termaat. Assignments were given and I volunteered to help with the new fundraising project that will kick-off in 2015.

Jan. 21st, Wednesday, 7 p.m., I attended the Reorganization meeting of the Mayor's Community Celebrations Committee. Dorothy Bernice was elected Chair, Dennis Nuzzo, Vice Chair and Pat Link, Secretary. There are now 30 volunteers involved who will work on the various programs for 2015. Chairs for the following are: Easter Egg Hunt - Michelle Sery; Town Wide Garage Sale - Juana Di Bisceglie; July 4th Children's Parade - Dennis Nevins; Rag-a-Muffin Parade - Lisa Quish; Tree Lighting - Patricia Link; Holiday Float Contest - June Raymond and Commercial and House Judging - Laura Baker.

Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 1:15 p.m., I attended the Fifth Anniversary Re-Grand Opening of Chip Dee's Music School located on the Boulevard. After that I enjoyed the Concert given by the children who had been taught at the school. It was varied including Piano, Saxophone, guitar and vocal. The children were enthusiastically applauded by family and friends in attendance. That was the first of three concerts given that day divided by

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**MAYOR’S REPORT (cont’d):** various age groups.

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday all day communications with Borough Administrator Michael Kronyak, and Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees regarding the impending storm. Preliminary plans turned into active closing of the Borough Hall at 3 p.m. It was determined that the Borough Administration Building in its entirety, including the Library would also be closed. Dept. of Public Works manpower would be working as the snowfall continued throughout the day.

Police and Fire personnel were on alert. Emergency Management Coordinator Police Chief Michael Colaneri had determined and prepared for action to be taken in the event of various emergencies.

I continue my meetings on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. till noon. No appointments are necessary.

My thanks to all the Department Heads for their hard work in preparing and taking care of everything during the storm.

That concludes my report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
29. Authorizing Agreement with Health Awareness Regional Program, Hackensack University Medical Center as Public Health Nurse for 2015
  30. Authorizing Agreement with Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission as Health Enforcement Agency for 2015
  31. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien #2014-0002, Block 77.05, Lot 23, owned by Romano, Oliviero, 10 Clark Court
  32. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien #2011-0001 and #2012-0003 for Block 77.05, Lot 23, owned by Romano, Oliviero, 10 Clark Court
  33. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien #2013-0011 and #2014-0008 for Block 202, Lot 1, owned by Romano & Son Tile Co., Inc., 499 Baldwin Avenue
  34. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien #2012-0007

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**CONSENT AGENDA (cont'd):**

for Block 202, Lot 1, owned by Romano & Son Tile Co. Inc., 499 Baldwin Avenue

35. Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien #2011-0007 for Block 202, Lot 1, owned by Romano & Son Tile Co., Inc., 499 Baldwin Avenue
36. Supporting B.C. Chief's Association Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which was made by Councilman Semencz, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried. (Copies attached)

**APPOINTMENTS:** Dennis Nevens to Mayor's Committee on Community Celebrations

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

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

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

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

**ADJOURN:**

There being no other business to come before the governing body, at 8:36 p.m., Mayor Heck requested a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman Semencz, 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 January 27, 2015.

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Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk