

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD JUNE 18, 2012**

PRESENT: Mayor Raia, Council President Walenczyk, Council Members: Boardman, Mastriano, Murray, Mutter, Toomey, Borough Clerk Macari, Administrator Cuccia, Attorney Russell Huntington

ABSENT:

PRESIDING: Mayor Raia called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.; Borough Clerk Macari read the following statement:

PUBLIC NOTICE: "Notice of this meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231 of the laws of 1975, has been given by posting a notice of the scheduled dates of all regular meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Saddle River on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and in the office of the Borough Clerk and by emailing a notice thereof to the Ridgewood Newspapers and The Record on December 23, 2011, and also via E-Notify.

NOTIFICATION OF FIRE EXITS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AWARDS AND CEREMONIES: At this time, Mayor Raia presented retiree Pat Boubli with a plaque in honor of her many years of dedicated service as an employee of the Saddle River Police Department.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Cindy Martins, 58 Twin Brooks Road Saddle River, stated that she was concerned about a recent article in the Town Journal regarding the utilization of County Police to assist the Saddle River Police Department throughout the Borough. She further stated that she understands that many municipalities are moving toward implementing shared services but does not feel that this is in the best interest of the Borough, as the current Police Department does an outstanding job. Residents are entitled to a dedicated police force and if additional man power is needed, retirees should be replaced.

Regina Weissman, 3 Tall Trees Lane, Saddle River stated that she has seen a lot of changes in the Borough over the last 15 years, with many decisions made behind closed doors. She further stated that she does not want to see a change in the current Police Department.

Corrine Kerner, 229 West Saddle River Rd. Saddle River stated that the Borough has lost the Saddle River Valley Rescue Squad as well as the Allendale Ambulance Corps to date and asked the Mayor and Council to insure that first responders will be available in the Borough when a need arises.

Mayor Raia asked Council Member Mutter to address the issue of first responders at this time.

Council Member Mutter stated that Saddle River Fire Department has been trained as first responders, with a rig on site containing all of the necessary equipment for serious emergencies. The Valley Hospital provides ambulance services in Saddle River, with trucks stationed at the Saddle River Fire Department for immediate response.

Mayor Raia reiterated that the level of emergency service that the Borough is committed to continues to increase and the Police Department is one of the best in the County. He further stated that, while it is always prudent to investigate alternative ways of operating with shared services, a relationship with the Bergen County Police Department is not in the best interest of Saddle River at this time.

Mayor Raia further stated that communication with residents is also of paramount importance to the Mayor and Council and assured the public that decisions involving all aspects of the Borough, with several legal exceptions, are always addressed publicly. He stated that it is the Mayor and Council's fiduciary responsibility to find the most economical way to serve the town. Shared services and consolidation could be mandated moving forward and Mayor Raia said it is in the best interest of Saddle River to address many of these issues preemptively. He further stated that Saddle River is working well with neighboring communities and hopes to continue to do so.

Mayor Raia thanked the public for attending and assured them that the Mayor and Council only operates with full transparency and the best interest of its residents in mind.

Regina Weissman asked if the two retiring police officers will be replaced and Mayor Raia informed her that this will be addressed in Executive Session as contract negotiations are exempt from public discussion.

She also asked about ambulance dispatching and Council Member Mutter explained this in detail at this time. Mayor Raia reiterated that having an ambulance and paramedics stationed right in the Borough significantly reduces response time.

Patty Nazzaro, 3 Westwind Court commended the Mayor and Council for their diligent work, highlighting the Borough's keeping within the Governor's mandated 2% budget cap for 2012. She further stated that the Saddle River Police Department is an invaluable asset to the community.

Dane Funsch, 14 Denison Drive stated that he was member of both the Saddle River Rescue and Saddle River Fire Departments. He further stated that the Borough's decision to have several firefighters on call all night at the fire house dramatically reduces response times and has already saved several structures during working fires. He further stated Allendale Ambulance's response times had started to lag due to membership issues while Valley Hospital's ambulance service is fully staffed around the clock, providing a much quicker and safer response time to emergencies.

Mayor Raia reiterated that the Borough will always investigate alternative ways to reduce costs to insure that these vehicles are in place before they are mandated.

At this time, the Mayor and Council took a short recess.

WORK SESSION:

MAYOR RAIA

Northwest Bergen Mayor's Report: Mayor Raia stated that he attended this meeting and shared services for fire equipment was addressed.

Bergen County Mayor's Meeting: Mayor Raia stated he attended this meeting and changes in COAH were addressed.

COAH: Mayor Raia stated that this will be addressed in Executive Session.

Litigation: Mayor Raia stated that this will be addressed in Executive Session.

Mayor Raia stated that there is currently a vacancy on the Saddle River Planning Board and asked the Council to consider Jerry DeCrosta for this position.

Mayor Raia stated that there is currently a vacancy on the Saddle River Landmarks Commission and asked the Council to consider Jack LaViano for this position.

ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:

Request from Environmental Commission to send letters to residents along the Saddle River regarding dumping: Administrator Cuccia stated that he feels that this letter should be sent from the Borough and all were in agreement.

Proposed easement for access to Blk. 1301 Lot 3, 35 West Wildwood Road: Administrator Cuccia stated that the resident had asked for driveway access and it was pushed into the 25 foot non-disturbance zone so that emergency vehicles can gain access if necessary. Attorney Huntington stated that he is waiting for further documentation in order to draft a resolution.

Sustainable Jersey Recertification: Administrator Cuccia stated that this is being reviewed, with several items in need of being addressed.

2012 Salary Resolution: Administrator Cuccia stated that this is part of the Consent Agenda and Council President Walencyk stated that he has reviewed this and it is in order.

Tax Rate Certification: Administrator Cuccia stated that the County has not provided the tax rates to date and a resolution in order to send out estimated tax bills is part of the Consent Agenda.

Borough Engineer Martin Spence was not in attendance; Administrator Cuccia addressed the following engineering projects: The Saddle River channel clearing project will begin on or about June 19, 2012, beginning on Upper Cross Road. The Municipal Building renovation work is still in the architectural phase and the Wandell School ball field improvements will begin the week of June 25, 2012. Additional grant money is going to be applied for to fund the necessary improvements to the Rindlaub Park Field House and the Saddle River Grand construction is progressing on schedule. The annual road re-surfacing project is complete and the water and utilities projects are also in progress.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Toomey stated that the Ordinance Review Committee met and continues to work on amendments regarding schools and churches.

Council Member Mastriano stated that she attended the retirement party for Superintendent Dr. Goldblatt of Wandell School and a proclamation was read on behalf of the Mayor and Council.

She further stated that she attended the Wandell Home and School meeting, where they are requesting a new playground. They would like the town to remove the existing wooden structure and Administrator Cuccia stated that, once it is marked out, the DPW will remove it.

She attended the Board of Education meeting, where they welcomed the new Superintendent of Schools, Margaret Contaldi, effective July 1, 2012. She looks forward to building a strong relationship with the Mayor and Council.

Council Member Mastriano reiterated that the Wandell School ball field improvements will commence shortly. She further stated that an unofficial poll was taken and it was unanimously decided that dogs could be permitted on leash only and perhaps consider providing bags for owner clean up. She stated that the leash law be strictly enforced moving forward and modify the signage in the park to reflect this.

Mayor Raia stated that the roof on the snack shack in Rindlaub Park is going to be extended in order to provide shelter during a storm.

Council Member Mastriano stated that she is working on the Sustainable Jersey project in order to obtain the second round of the designation.

Council Member Boardman gave a report on the dead tree issue in Saddle River, outlining a survey conducted by members of the Environmental Commission. They travelled through several major thoroughfares in the Borough identifying hazardous or dead trees in need of attention and generated a list in order to contact home owners.

Council Member Mutter stated that a FEMA grant has become available with the deadline on July 5, 2012. He further stated that the grant consultant retained by the Borough will be assisting in this process.

Council Member Murray stated that the budget is in good order.

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Municipal Clerk Macari stated that the League of Municipalities Conference will be held November 13-16, 2012 and asked Council Members to advise if they will be attending.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

ORDINANCE NO. 12-868-C

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 210-10, ACCESSORY USES, AS SET FORTH IN THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, NEW JERSEY

Resolution # 86-12

Introduced by Council Member Boardman
Second by Council Member Mutter

Motion to Open to the Public by Council Member Toomey.
Second by Council President Walenczyk
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion to Close to the Public by Council Member Boardman
Second by Council President Walenczyk
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S): There were none.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Resolution # 87-12

Introduced Council Member Murray
Seconded by Council President Walenczyk
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

RESOLUTIONS

All matters listed hereunder are considered routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any Council Member may request that an item be removed for separate consideration. Considering approval of minutes, a yes vote will indicate a vote in favor of approval of the minutes of each meeting at which the Council Member was present and abstention with respect to the minutes of meetings at which such Council Member was not present.

Resolution Introduced by Council President Walenczyk
Second by Council Member Mastriano

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: No one wished to be heard.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Explanation of Consent Agenda Items

At this time, Administrator Cuccia briefly explained the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of 5/21/12

B. Resolutions:

- R# 88-12** Approving April 27, 2013 Memorial Run Friends of Susan Zabransky Hughes
- R# 89-12** Soil movement application for Edward Russo Blk. 1201 Lot 30
- R# 90-12** Memorandum of Agreement between Mayor and Council and Chief McWilliams
- R# 91-12** Appointing Peter Canavan p/t administrative assistant
- R# 92-12** Authorization for Grant Agreement in the amount of \$30,000. with Bergen County for Wandell School Ball Field Improvements
- R# 93-12** Approval of 2012 salaries for non-bargaining unit employees
- R# 94-12** Refund overpayment of taxes due to reduced assessment Blk 1401 Lot 11
- R# 95-12** Refund overpayment of taxes due to reduced assessment Blk 1606 Lot 43 & Blk 1701 Lot 41.02
- R# 96-12** Authorization of 2012-2014 Snow Plowing Agreement with Bergen County
- R# 97-12** Towers List
- R# 98-12** Authorization to Send Estimated Tax Bills

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report: Council Member Murray gave the report for May 2012.

Fire Report: There was no report at this time.

Police Report: Council Member Mutter gave the report for May 2012.

Public Works: Council President Walenczyk gave the report for May 2012.

Parks and Recreation: Council Member Mastriano gave the report for June 2012.

Board of Health: Council Member Mutter gave the report for June 2012.

Const. & Zoning Enforcemnt. Council Member Boardman gave the report for April 2012.

Environmental Committee: Council Member Boardman gave the report for May 2012.

Zoning Board: There was no report at this time.

Landmarks Committee: Council Member Toomey gave the report for May 2012.

Planning Board: Council President Walenczyk gave the report for June 2012.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Patty Nazzaro, 3 Westwind Court stated that both Saddle River Day School and Wandell School conducted the Youth Leadership Program Graduation and they were both very well attended. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their support with this program. Mayor Raia commended Ms. Nazzaro and Sgt. Gerrity for their diligent work with this endeavor.

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

At this time, a resolution was read to go into Closed Session.

Resolution # 99-12 Offered by Council Member Mastriano
Second by Council President Walenczyk
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

A motion to adjourn the Closed Session and return to the Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was made and seconded.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Elena Macari
Borough Clerk