

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD AUGUST 19, 2013**

Revised

PRESENT: Mayor Raia, Council President Mastriano, Council Members: Boardman, Kurpis, Mutter, Toomey, Walenczyk, 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 20, 2012, the Borough website and also via E-Notify.

NOTIFICATION OF FIRE EXITS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AWARDS AND CEREMONIES: Appointment and promotion of Police Officers

APPOINTMENT OF DIANA GOLONEK AS PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER

Resolution #80A-13 Offered by Council Member Mutter

Seconded by Council Member Kurpis

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL STRASSER AS PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER

Resolution #81-13 Offered by Council Member Mutter

Seconded by Council Member Walenczyk

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

PROMOTION OF SGT. JASON COSGRIFF TO RANK OF CAPTAIN

Resolution #82-13 Offered by Council Member Mutter

Seconded by Council Member Walenczyk

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

At this time, Police Officers Golonek and Strasser, and Captain Cosgriff were sworn in by Mayor Raia.

WORK SESSION:

At this time, Mr. Joe Ingrassia gave a presentation regarding the proposed Saddle River Community Garden. He explained that he is requesting 2025 square feet of space in order to provide local food banks with fresh fruits and vegetable to augment packaged food donations. Additionally, he hopes to encourage residents to grow these gardens and supplement fresh produce for these food banks. Council President Mastriano commended Mr. Ingrassia for this vision and was in full support of this project.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief McWilliams stated that, recently there have been several burglaries in Saddle River and neighboring communities. He further stated that these incidents are currently under investigation and encouraged residents to activate their alarms, especially on the second floor of their homes. Information has been posted on the Borough website regarding burglary prevention and an email and a reverse 911 message has been sent to residents as well.

MAYOR RAI

Meeting with Board of Education – Wandell School: Mayor Raia stated that he attended a meeting with the Wandell Board of Education to discuss the replacement of the HVAC system. He further stated that it was decided that a mechanical engineer be retained to determine the HVAC requirements for the Wandell School. **Original estimates to completely replace the current system were excessive and Mayor Raia would like the Board of Education, with help from the municipality, to explore alternative options.**

Mayor Raia stated that he will be moderating a meeting at the League of Municipalities Conference in November. He further stated that he is on both the Resolution and Legislative Committees of the League of Municipalities and encouraged the Council to bring forth any resolutions they would like considered.

ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:

Division of Wildlife: Administrator Cuccia stated that a representative from the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be attending the September 16, 2013 meeting of the Mayor and Council to address the deer problem in the area.

Engineering Update: At this time Mr. Spence gave the engineering update as follows:

- The Lower Cross Road Bridge repair, a County project, is complete and the bridge is now open.
- The Ackerman Road improvements are continuing with the drainage, water lines and curbing completely installed. The road is scheduled for paving in late September. The County will be repairing the culvert and replacing the catch basin on the corner of East Saddle River Road and Ackerman Rd.
- The Saddle River Museum stabilization project is nearing completion, with some final punch list items outstanding and scheduled to be completed within the next two weeks.
- The Borough is in the process of procuring two grants, one for the modifications to the ingress/egress to Rindlaub Park and the other non-matching grant for streetscape; improvements to the East Allendale corridor.
- The Rindlaub Park Field House improvement, which will be funded with an Open Space Grant, is in the process of being evaluated and designed.
- The boom in the Saddle River has been evaluated and prices to replace the existing boom have been submitted to Administrator Cuccia. He further stated that the current boom may need to be relocated in order to avoid the collection of debris, which will clog the Saddle River and could cause flooding during heavy storms.

Discussion of Plan for Rindlaub Park Ingress/Egress: Borough Engineer Spence reviewed a concept plan for the new entry way and parking lot for Rindlaub Park at this time. He stated that the Borough will be applying for a grant in the amount of \$125,000 for this project. The existing barn will be retained on the property to store field equipment. Administrator Cuccia stated that, if all are in agreement, a bond ordinance could be introduced authorizing the improvements to Rindlaub Park.

Council Member Mutter asked about access for emergency vehicles and Borough Engineer Spence stated that the final design will indicate the appropriate radiuses for these vehicles to gain access when necessary. **The concept plan was presented to the Parks and Recreations Commission and it was unanimously approved.**

Purchase of DPW and Fire Equipment: Administrator Cuccia stated that the Fire Department is requesting new equipment to include 15 sets of replacement gear, the upgrading of radio communications, emergency extraction equipment, hose replacement, a thermal imaging camera and an emergency Zodiac boat. These items total approximately \$160,000 and Administrator Cuccia asked the Mayor and Council for direction on this issue. Council Member Walenczyk asked for more information regarding the boat and Chief Ken Warr stated that in the past Saddle River has had to wait for neighboring communities to provide a boat for any necessary river rescues, which is time consuming and impractical. The boat will be an inflatable, flat bottom boat with a small motor.

Council Member Kurpis suggested that the Fire Department consider selling some of their existing equipment as well as consider buying a used Zodiac boat for the Borough. The cost of the boat and related equipment and training is approximately \$25,000. Mayor Raia suggested that Council Member Walenczyk meet with the Chief Warr and Fire Prevention Officer Rich Silvia to further address this issue.

The DPW has requested that the F4-350 pick-up truck, which is currently 14 years old, be replaced with an F-250. Additionally, the salt shed must be expanded to accommodate an increased amount of salt necessary for roadways in the winter. Mayor Raia suggested that perhaps Borough Engineer Spence design a plan to renovate the existing shed. Administrator Cuccia stated that the DPW is requesting adding additional space by expanding the barn approximately 12 feet to accommodate a larger lunch room and bathroom facilities. Administrator Cuccia stated that there are now female firefighters as well as a police officer and there are no facilities for their utilization; he would like the Mayor and Council to consider the addition of these facilities.

Resignation of Dorothy Giesenhaus: Administrator Cuccia stated that, after 25 years of service, Dorothy Giesenhaus, Control Person/Construction Code Secretary, has submitted her request for retirement.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Toomey stated that the Ordinance Review Committee is continuing to meet to address the tree ordinance, several zoning board of adjustment ordinances and reviewing other ordinances that may be antiquated. He further stated that the Zoning Board of Adjustment recently heard an application to re-build the St. Gabriel's Church rectory and neighbors on West Church Road were extremely concerned about the traffic and on street parking issues. He requested that the police patrol that street, especially during regular church hours in order to insure all parking is done legally.

Council Member Mutter stated that, with the new promotion of Jason Cosgriff to Captain of the Police Department, the leadership on the current force is an invaluable asset to the Borough. Mayor Raia was in agreement and stated that the mission moving forward is to make Saddle River an even safer community.

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

BOROUGH ATTORNEY: Attorney Huntington stated that he was asked to review the current ordinances governing the piling or storing of debris on properties along the Saddle River. He stated that letters should be sent to these residents asking for voluntary cooperation. In instances where there continues to be violations, summons should be issued.

Additionally, he researched whether or not one can prohibit the distribution of unsolicited newspapers in the Borough; under Constitutional grounds, this may not be done.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES –

ORDINANCE NO. 13-879-M

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO RINDLAUB PARK IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$250,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Resolution # 83-13 Offered by Council Member Boardman
Seconded by Council President Mastriano
ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES, Unanimous

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S): There were none.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Resolution # 84-13 Offered Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Toomey
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 Offered by Council President Mastriano
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis

Explanation of Consent Agenda Items

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

- A. Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting of July 15, 2013
- B. Resolutions:**

- R# 85-13 Authorization to enter into a Shared Service Agreement for Drainage Improvements**
- R# 86-13 Accepting Retirement Request from Dorothy Giesenhaus**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Health: There was no report at this time.

Const. & Zoning Enforcemt. Council Member Boardman gave the report for July 2013.

Environmental Committee: There was no report at this time.

Fire Report: Council Member Walencyk gave the report for July 2013.

Police Report: Council Member Mutter gave the report for July 2013.

Finance Report: Council Member Walencyk gave the report for July 2013.

Landmarks Committee: There was no report at this time.

Public Works: There was no report at this time.

Parks and Recreation: There was no report at this time.

Planning Board: There was no report at this time.

Zoning Board: Council Member Toomey gave the report for June & July 2013.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Corrine Kerner, 229 West Saddle River Road stated that Ordinance 13-879-M was not on the agenda and asked how the public would have known it was going to be introduced tonight. Mayor Raia stated that, by statute, this was the ordinance introduction; the public will have ample time at the public hearing which will take place at the Mayor and Council Meeting on September 16, 2013 to voice their opinions prior to adoption. He further stated that this issue, regarding the Marker property, has been discussed at several meetings in the past. Mrs. Kerner expressed her concerns that residents will only have one chance to comment on this issue as many people are away on summer vacation. She also asked if the design plan is available for the public review and she also asked what the structure on the Marker property was going to be used for. Council Member Toomey stated that the original plan was to demolish the home on the property but, due to public opposition, it was decided that the home would remain on the property. Mrs. Kerner stated that she feels it is important to make the public aware of what this home is going to be used for. Attorney Huntington stated that the home cannot be sold as it is under the restrictions of Open Space and recreational land.

Mrs. Kerner further stated that the several residents did not receive the Reverse 911 regarding recent

burglaries and she encouraged the police department to consider using more detailed messages as well as send out a written notice to all residents.

Mrs. Kerner inquired if there was any recourse regarding the distribution of unsolicited newspapers to all residents in the Borough as it is an indication, when not retrieved, that the home owner may be out of town. She further stated that with increased concerns about burglaries, this is an issue that should be addressed.

Police Chief McWilliams stated that, in an effort to keep residents informed about the recent burglaries, a letter will be sent out encouraging all residents to participate in the Swiftreach program as well as obtain a Borough sticker for their cars.

Marilyn Goldfisher, 124 West Saddle River stated that the Hazardous Tree Program seems to have stalled and, with hurricane season ahead, these trees must be removed. Borough Engineer Spence stated that letters have been sent to home owners responsible for removing dead or hazardous trees and there will be a follow-up letter for those who have not been compliant. Mrs. Goldfisher further stated that many of the storm drains are clogged and need to be dealt with to avoid flooding of Borough roadways. Borough Engineer stated that several of the storm drains that she is referring to are located on County roads.

Mrs. Goldfisher stated that, while walking along the Saddle River, there are still residents allowing debris to fall into the river. She further encouraged the Mayor and Council to strongly consider purchasing a new boom, to alleviate the collection of debris and flooding. She also asked about the status of the "NO FISHING" signs she has requested for the pond behind Waterford Gardens.

Tom Fox, 16 Woodfield Lane requested to see copies of the Marker property design plan and Borough Engineer Spence stated that he would make copies available.

Ron Gray, 3 Country Squire Road stated that he was pleased that one of the suspects in the recent burglaries was apprehended. He further stated that sending a letter to all residents is a very good idea, as are the decals for resident's cars but he would like to hold a public meeting, headed by the police in order to obtain more information on crime prevention.

Mayor Raia stated that communications will be kept open with residents, all suggestions are very sound and hopefully these individuals will be apprehended shortly.

Paul Schulstad, 20 Eckert Farm Road stated that there is much frustration regarding the Marker property as our hands are now tied based on Open Space statute.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Elena Macari
Borough Clerk

F/Nwwp/f/min/M&C08-2013