

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD JUNE 17, 2013**

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

**ABSENT:**

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**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** Led By Youth Mayor Matthew Black

At this time, Mayor Raia proclaimed June 17, 2013 as Matthew Black Day in the Borough of Saddle River.

**AWARDS AND CEREMONIES:** Mayor Raia appointed the Saddle River Fire Department Chaplains: Msg. Frank Del Prete and Rev. Wesley W. Smith II. Msg. Frank Del Prete was presented with an authentic Fire Department jacket and cap. (Rev. Wesley W. Smith II was not in attendance)

At this time, Youth Mayor Matthew Black read a list of rules he would like to see implemented:

- Respect the property of others
- Be smart with our choices
- Be appropriate with your behavior and clothing
- Get a sense of humor
- Be happy with what you have

**WORK SESSION:**

**MAYOR RAI**

**Northwest Bergen Mayor's Meeting:** Mayor Raia stated that he attended this meeting on June 8, 2013 and the interest arbitration issue for negotiated contracts was discussed. The PBA contract was also addressed amongst the Mayors. The next meeting will address shared services and include each municipality's administrators. The Borough of Saddle River will host this meeting on September 21, 2013; several U.S. Senators will be in attendance and the public was encouraged to attend.

## **ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:**

**The Marker Property/Rindlaub Park:** Administrator Cuccia asked for authorization to obtain conceptual plans from Borough Engineer Martin Spence for the Marker property and the ingress and egress to Rindlaub Park.

**Saddle River Community Garden:** Administrator Cuccia stated that he is in receipt of a letter from resident Joe Ingrassia who would like to spear head this project in conjunction with the St. Michael's Food Bank. He further stated that he would like to see this garden on the Marker property and this will be included in any conceptual drawings that would be drafted. The issue of removing the home on the property was discussed in detail at this time. Council Member Kurpis stated that it is important to keep this project as transparent as possible from inception to completion. Mayor Raia clarified this project and stated that the conceptual plan would be drawn up absent the existing home on the property and to also insure that there is adequate access for emergency vehicles to gain access to Rindlaub Park. Council Member Kurpis stated he would like to see the historic Perillo house moved, at the expense of the current owner, to this property and utilized as a gate house.

At this time, Administrator Cuccia asked Borough Engineer Martin Spence to give the Borough Engineering update:

### **Engineering Update:**

- The Ackerman Road improvements are underway and are currently installing new drainage, a water main and will continue with curbing and paving in the spring of 2014. Residents will be asked to limit car traffic on this roadway as much as possible so that the work can be completed expediently. All residents in this area will be sent letters outlining the scope of the work and the related work schedule. This work should take approximately seven to ten days.
- The Lower Cross Road Bridge repair, a County project, is continuing with the paving now complete. The guard rails are to be installed shortly; upon completion, the bridge will be re-opened. The DEP guidelines for re-construction and the river flow under the bridge were addressed at this time.
- The hazardous tree removal project is ongoing and letters will be sent to property owners that have dangerous trees on their properties. The County will be notified of trees that are hazardous and located on County roadways so they can be trimmed as well.
- The Saddle River Grand town home development will be ongoing into the spring of 2014; CO's have started to be issued.
- The Saddle River Museum stabilization project has begun and should be completed by the end of June. The new roof has been installed and window replacement and trim is currently underway.

**RFQ to ADA Study:** Administrator Cuccia stated that the RFQ has gone out for the ADA Study for the Municipal Building. The RFQ's will then be presented to the Council for their consideration.

**OSHA Compliance Acceptance:** Administrator Cuccia stated that OSHA has begun inspections county wide, to insure proper protocol in both Police and Fire Departments. Saddle River was reviewed and found only minor violations that need to be addressed. The Mayor and Council were in receipt of the final OSHA report for their review.

**Community Garden:** This discussion continued and Council President Mastriano asked who would be responsible for the maintenance of a community garden. The size of the garden was addressed and it was determined that Mr. Ingrassia would be asked to provide a more in depth proposal. Expenses, insurance and maintenance would have to be more definitively outlined, if the idea is acceptable to the Council.

**Carnival fund raiser for Wandell Home and School – Sept. 13-14, 2013:** Administrator Cuccia stated that he has been contacted by Wandell School for assistance from the Police Department during carnival hours. He further stated that he will provide more information as it becomes available.

**United Water Revised Agreement:** Administrator Cuccia distributed copies of the revised agreement to the Mayor and Council at this time and it was discussed in detail. The formula being used was not correct and the numbers were recalculated and the water allocation for the Borough was reduced. The Borough is currently investigating whether they are entitled to a refund.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Council Member Toomey stated that the Ordinance Review Committee met in early June and addressed the zoning issues, previously discussed. The tree ordinance is also going to be reviewed as there is some confusion amongst home owners when obtaining the necessary permitting. Mayor Raia stated that special attention should be paid to property owners on undersized lots.

Council President Mastriano stated that the County pot hole machine will be in the Borough shortly and Mayor Raia asked to be notified so he can be present. She further stated that the Lower Cross Bridge is almost complete and a ceremony will be planned for the re-dedication of the plaque. She further stated that the Saddle River Museum should be rededicated as well, so the community is made aware of its historical contents. The Wandell School has requested that a tree be removed on their property as it is hazardous; the Wandell School Field Day will be June 20, 2013. The re-painting of street signs was discussed and Mayor Raia suggested that a survey be conducted and replace those signs that are not readable.

The first summer concert series was held in the municipal building on June 13, 2013 due to rain. Bucky Pizzarelli performed for a small group of attendees.

Council Member Boardman asked about security cameras at Wandell School being connected to the Police Department. Mayor Raia suggested this be looked into further.

Council Member Mutter suggested that a diagram be available to home owners in conjunction with the tree ordinance, in order to avoid any confusion particularly related to undersized lots.

Council Member Kurpis stated that the Landmarks Commission met on May 22, 2013 in order to address the construction at 71 East Allendale Road. The bank has changed ownership and the new owner is amending some of the plans, which would require another Letter of Appropriateness from the Landmarks Commission. Attorney Huntington suggested that the new owners be made aware that, if the plans are changed, the applicant would have to go before the Landmarks Commission.

He further stated that the Environmental Commission submitted an insert in the Summer 2013 Borough Newsletter and outlined the topics presented. The coyote and deer population was addressed in detail at this time. The Waterford Gardens property has continuing violations with the DEP and this was discussed in detail. The Environmental Commission is going to be drafting a letter, for approval by the Mayor and Council and the Borough Attorney, to be sent to the owner of Waterford Gardens regarding the unresolved DEP issues.

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:** Municipal Clerk Macari reminded the Mayor and Council to file their Financial Disclosure Forms online. Additionally, June 19, 2013 is the deadline for the changing party affiliation and July 23, 2013 is the deadline to register to vote in the Special Primary on August 13, 2013.

### **BOROUGH ATTORNEY:**

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S)**: There were none.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**ORD. NO: 13-878-C**

**AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO PERSONAL GROOMING ESTABLISHMENTS**

**Resolution # 68-13** Offered by Council Member Mutter  
Seconded by Council President Mastriano  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Resolution # 69-13** 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 May 20, 2013

**B. Resolutions:**

- R# 70-13 Estimated tax bills for the third quarter due to Bergen County Tax Board 2013 tax rate will not be released on a timely bases**
- R# 71-13 Issuance of tax refund due to NJ Tax Court Judgment**
- R# 72-13 Appointment of Seasonal DPW Worker Ryan Holdsworth**
- R# 73-13 Appointment of Seasonal DPW Worker Domenic Baratta**
- R# 74-13 Salary Adjustments for Non-Bargaining Unit employees**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

**Environmental Committee:** There was no report at this time.

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

**Police Report:** There was no report at this time.

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

**Landmarks Committee:** There was no report at this time.

**Public Works:** Council President Mastriano gave the report for May 2013.

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

**Planning Board:** Council Member Walencyk gave the report for May 2013.

**Zoning Board:** There was no report at this time.

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Marilyn Goldfisher, 124 West Saddle River Road stated she has concerns about the silt fencing adjacent to the Lower Cross Bridge and suggested that the County return and remove this silt to avoid future flooding. She further stated that there are grants available to aid in the cleaning of river and streams and she encouraged the Mayor and Council to research this further. Additionally, she suggested moving the boom to the north in order to better divert the debris in the Saddle River. Borough Engineer Spence addressed the dredging project, funded by the County as well as storm damage from Hurricane Sandy that impacted the Saddle River. Mayor Raia stated that he has spoken with the Mayor of Upper Saddle River, as they are planning to begin their dredging project shortly. He further stated that he wants to insure that no additional debris will impact the river as it flows downstream. Additionally, property owners along the Saddle River could be reminded to clean up their property to insure that landscape debris does not flow into the river.

Corinne Kerner, 220 West Saddle River Road encouraged the Mayor and Council to obtain public opinion on how best to proceed with the Marker property. She further stated that many residents are not in favor of changing the ingress or egress to Rindlaub or demolishing this home. She suggested adding this to the ballot as a public question in the November election. Ms. Kerner asked about the first school house, which was going to be moved to the Marker property and used as a gate house, and Dr. Kurpis explained this in detail at this time.

Ms. Kerner volunteered to be on the Budget Sub-committee. She further asked the Mayor and Council to refrain from holding any public meetings regarding the Marker property during the summer months as many residents are away.

Patty Nazzaro, 12 West Wind Court discussed the dedication of the Lower Cross Bridge. She also stated that she is a member of the Bergen County Animal Rescue Team, which collects donations for stray animals in Bergen County. She would like to collect donations twice a year in the Borough and asked

the Mayor and Council for their permission. She addressed the issue of bullying in schools and suggested that additional community involvement be considered through emails, the Borough Newsletter and the Borough website.

Bob LaViano, 59 Woodcliff Lake Road stated that he wants the free newspapers, thrown on resident's driveways, to be stopped. Mayor Raia stated that he will look into this. He further stated that East Allendale Road, east and west of the downtown area, is in need of being cleaned up. He also asked about the tree slated to be removed on the Wandell School property as he wants to insure it is not a historic tree.

Tom Fox, 16 Woodfield Lane stated that the water quality in the Saddle River is compromised and suggested contacting Upper Saddle River as they were involved in litigation with Rockland about water pollution. He addressed the installation of water lines within the Borough and asked about the current formula. Administrator Cuccia stated that the Borough of Saddle River owns the water utility and we purchase water from United Water, with water bills paid to the Borough of Saddle River.

Mr. Fox suggested that some of the boulders on the sides of Borough roadways be addressed as well as it is a safety hazard. Additionally, he inquired about the Marker property as well as the school house, which is slated to be moved there. He suggested moving the school house to the side of the existing driveway as well as making the existing driveway wider, rather than demolishing the Marker home.

Ron Gray, suggested altering the times for road closures on Ackerman Road so that school and camp buses can have access. Mayor Raia stated that he is aware of this situation and it will be accommodated. Mr. Gray stated that he would like to volunteer to be on a committee for the RFQ.

Paul Schulstad, 20 Eckert Farm Road stated that he feels that the increased deer population in the Borough is a significant problem. He also asked about the goal of the ADA study and the criteria that will be used to put out a RFQ, as it relates to the municipal building becoming compliant. Administrator Cuccia stated that this is solely a request to obtain qualifications for firms to conduct this study. Mayor Raia stated that he had no input in this request.

Marilyn Goldfisher agreed that the deer population is out of control and Mayor Raia suggested that the Fish and Wildlife Commission attend a Mayor and Council meeting to address these concerns.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Elena Macari  
Borough Clerk

F/Nwwp/f/min/M&C06-2013