
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

PRESENT: Mayor Raia, Council President Burke, Council Members FitzPatrick, Mastriano, Borough Clerk Macari, Administrator Cuccia, & Attorney Russell Huntington

ABSENT: Council Members Re & Murray

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

"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 faxing notice thereof to the Ridgewood Newspapers and The Record on January 2, 2007.

NOTIFICATION OF FIRE EXITS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

AWARDS AND CEREMONIES:

WORK SESSION:

MAYOR RAIA

Municipal Building Study: Mayor Raia stated that there is a space issue at the Municipal Building and that he plans to work with Administrator Cuccia to explore viable options.

Standing Committees: Mayor Raia stated that Council Member Mutter would be the new Council liaison to the Board of Health, replacing Council Member Murray. Additionally, Council Member Mutter would be replacing Council Member Re on both the Roads, Street Lighting and Drainage as well as the Environmental and Sanitation Committees.

Demolition Ordinance: Mayor Raia stressed to the Council that this ordinance be closely reviewed to insure that the language is clear in order to avoid discrepancies in interpretation between a renovation and a demolition.

Northwest Bergen Mayor's Meeting Report: Mayor Raia stated that he attended a recent meeting of the Northwest Bergen Mayor's Association and the consolidation of services was the focal point of the meeting. He further stated that all attendees have a common goal which is striving for the good of their community.

ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:

2008 Budget: Administrator Cuccia discussed the budget in detail and outlined specifics with a slide presentation.

The Ridge at Saddle River: Administrator Cuccia stated that Borough Attorney Huntington met with Borough Engineer Martin Spence to familiarize himself with the Ridge project from inception to date. Mr. Spence also explained the site plan for the Ridge which is to include 68 town homes to the Mayor and Council in detail. This project is expected to begin in late spring of 2008. The sanitary sewer hook-up through Woodcliff Lake is a pending issue.

Street Re-Surfacing: Administrator Cuccia stated that Ordinance 08-812-M was going to be introduced later in the meeting and it authorizes the 2008 road improvement program in the Borough of Saddle River.

Sustainable Energy Fund: Administrator Cuccia stated that the Mayor and Council was in receipt of information on this and a resolution is going to be adopted in March to authorize the JIF to bid on energy on behalf of the Borough of Saddle River.

Amendment to Water Utility Rate: Administrator Cuccia stated that Ordinance 08-813-C was going to be introduced later in the meeting and explained the amendment to the Mayor and Council.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member FitzPatrick stated that the Downtown Preservation Committee will be meeting at the Borough Hall on February 12, 2008 at 8:30am. Additionally, the full committee will meet in the evening at 7:30.

Council Member Mastriano stated that the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation is February 12, 2008.

In addition, she reported that the Saddle River Night Committee met on February 7, 2008 and progress for the celebration, scheduled for June 7, 2008, is going well.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S): Clerk to read the title of:

ORDINANCE 08-812-M

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE 2008 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$100,000 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 # 31-08 Offered by Council Member Burke
Seconded by Council Member FitzPatrick
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

ORDINANCE 08-813-C

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 208 ENTITLED WATER IN THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER ATTACHMENT I IS HEREBY AMENDED.

Resolution # 32-08 Offered by Council Member Mastriano
Seconded by Council Member Burke
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

ORDINANCE 08-814-M

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.14) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, NEW JERSEY

Resolution #33-08 Offered by Council President Burke
Seconded by Council FitzPatrick
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution #34-08 Offered by Council President Burke
Seconded by Council Member Mastriano
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S): Clerk to read the title of:

ORDINANCE 08-811-C

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 17, DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, NEW JERSEY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No one from the public wished to be heard.

Resolution #35-08 Offered by Council Member FitzPatrick
Seconded by Council Member Mutter
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Resolution # 36-08 Offered by Council President Burke
Seconded by Council Member FitzPatrick
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 by Council Member Burke
Seconded by Council Member FitzPatrick
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Explanation of Consent Agenda Items

A. Resolutions:

- R# 37-08 Soil Movement Blk. 1901 Lot 8 6 Winding Way**
- R# 38-08 Soil Movement Blk. 1402 Lot 38.01 9 Bayberry Dr.**
- R# 39-08 Auth. to sign Mun. Contract with West Bergen Mental Healthcare**
- R# 40-08 Approval for Raffle License 128 Wandell School Foundation**

Open to the Public for Consent Agenda Items Only:

Jim FitzPatrick, 60 Chestnut Ridge Road stated that 45 trees will have to be removed from the property at 6 Winding Way in order to complete the soil movement and urged the Mayor and Council to look at this situation closely. Both the water run-off and the defoliation is a big problem and should not be permitted. He further stated that this is a classic example of the changes taking place in and having a negative effect on the Borough of Saddle River.

Mayor Raia asked Borough Engineer Spence to discuss this application, which he did in detail. The proposed home is being built to the maximum allowable on the lot.

Council Member Mutter stated that, as a former member of the Planning Board, he wanted the Mayor and Council to be aware that he tried very hard to preserve as much of the property as possible.

Mayor Raia stated that, in part, due to the price of land in Saddle River, people that are buying property are maximizing the size of the homes.

Chairman FitzPatrick stated there should be no relation between the size of the home and what they have paid for it. He further stated that instituting the Floor Area Ratio is the only way to rectify this problem of building to the maximum allowable on a given lot.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report: There was no report at this time.

Fire Report: Council President Burke gave highlights of the report and stated that the report is on file with the Borough Clerk for January 2008.

Police Report: Council Member Burke gave highlights from the 2007 Annual Police Report.

Planning Board: Council President Burke gave the report for January 2008.

Zoning Board: Council Member FitzPatrick gave the report for January 2008.

Parks and Recreation: Council Member Mastriano stated that the Committee will meet on February 12, 2008. In addition she stated that she was approached by Wandell School about the installation of an LED sign for the school but advised them that there is an ordinance prohibiting such signs in the Borough at this time.

Construction Report: Council President Burke gave the report for January 2008.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Joe Pera, 16 Old Farms Road stated that he did not want to see the taxes increase in the Borough. In addition, he stated that if the Municipal Building is going to be renovated, it should be done with keeping the entire building in mind. He feels that the offices should be moved so they are above ground level and use the current office space for storage. Mayor Raia stated that it complies with ADA requirements in its current configuration and assured Mr. Pera that this project would not be done piece meal.

Jim FitzPatrick, 60 Chestnut Ridge Road stated that he was speaking with a resident of Atlantic City, where they utilize windmills for the production of energy and that the city now has a surplus as a result of how their efficiency. He suggested that this be further considered as the price of energy is increasing rapidly although he feels that they are noisy.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member FitzPatrick stated that she received a letter from the Bergen County Young Republicans and they would like feedback from the Council on many important issues. There is a breakfast on March 8, 2008 to discuss these issues and Council FitzPatrick urged all to attend.

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution # 41-08 was offered by Council Member FitzPatrick
Seconded by Council Member Burke
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

F/nwwp/MINMCfeb.07