

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD JUNE 16, 2014**

PRESENT: Mayor Raia, Council President Toomey, Council Members: DeCrosta, Gray, Kerner, Kurpis, Walenczyk, Acting Borough Administrator Shenkler, Borough Clerk Macari, Borough Attorney Huntington, Youth Mayor Chinwe Okezie

ABSENT:

PRESIDING: Youth Mayor Okezie 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, 2013, the Borough website and also via E-Notify.

NOTIFICATION OF FIRE EXITS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

AWARDS AND CEREMONIES: Mayor Raia presented Youth Mayor Chinwe Okezie a Proclamation proclaiming June 16, 2014 Chinwe Okezie Day in the Borough of Saddle River.

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution # 86-14 Offered by Council President Toomey
Second by Council Member Kurpis
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

Mayor Raia stated that the Public Safety Committee has put in over 100 hours working on future plans for the Fire Department. He further stated that, due to the emergency situation that currently exists in Saddle River, two former members of the Saddle River Fire Department have stepped up to replace the current Chief, who resigned. Jake Kossowsky and Brian Yates will be the Chief and the Assistant to the Chief, respectively.

An emergency motion to appoint Jake Kossowsky as Chief and Brian Yates as Assistant to the Chief was offered by Council Member Kerner. Seconded by Council Member Kurpis
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Oath of Office: At this time, Jake Kossowsky and Brian Yates were sworn in by Mayor Raia.

Jake Kossowsky thanked the Mayor and Council for this appointment and stated that he looks forward to assisting in the reorganization of the Fire Department.

WORK SESSION:

MAYOR RAI:

League of Municipalities Legislative Committee Meeting: Mayor Raia stated that he attended this meeting in Princeton, NJ and the committee reviewed many bills presented by both the Senate and the Assembly, with the most critical one being the 2% cap on interest arbitration. The Governor is expected to sign this bill shortly.

Public Safety Committee Appointment: Mayor Raia stated that he is appointing Council Member Ron Gray to be a member of the Public Safety Committee, specifically for the Fire Department.

Planning Board Appointment: Mayor Raia stated that the Council is in receipt of Adam Grossman's resume; he will be appointed to the Planning Board as Alternate II, with the term to expire 12/31/14.

Northwest Bergen Mayor's Meeting: Mayor Raia stated that he has reached out to local Mayors for mutual aid with the Fire Department while Saddle River reorganizes their department. Shared services also continues to be a major focus among Mayors.

ACTING ADMINISTRATOR SHENKLER:

Mr. Shenkler stated that he has been working with the Mayor and the Fire Department to resolve existing issues as well as reviewing the trash bids. Additionally, he has procured a piece of steel from the World Trade Center for display in the Borough. Mayor Raia discussed possible locations for this artifact and a formal dedication on September 11th will be planned.

ENGINEERING UPDATE:

Borough Engineer Martin Spence gave the engineering report as follows:

- **Saddle River Grand:** The 68 town home development is nearing completion and close out documents will be addressed with the Borough Attorney.
- **Rindlaub Pavilion Project:** Construction is continuing on this project.
- **Streetscape Project:** A pre-construction meeting was held and work is expected to start in the next two weeks. The section in front of Wandell School will begin when school is out for the summer and will include new curbing, lighting and the expansion of sidewalks. To date, a total of \$314,000 in grant monies has been received for this project. Mr. Spence further stated that road closures will be necessary on East Allendale for approximately 10 days in the westbound direction.
- **Raceway/Boom Area:** The DPW has been monitoring this area for any debris build up in the Saddle River under the Hardware Store and it appears clear at this time.
- **Annual Road Re-surfacing Project:** This project will take place in June and July and road lists are currently being compiled.
- **Rindlaub Pavilion Restroom Renovation:** Mr. Spence is in receipt of the proposals for his review.
- **Lightning Detectors:** The lightning detectors in both Rindlaub Park and at Wandell School are now working and Mayor Raia stressed the importance of understanding the protocol should the detector alert. The Board of Ed will be notified and asked to insure that children understand the appropriate action to be taken.
- **Demarest Farm:** The County is going to implement Farmland Preservation for this piece of property, 17 acres of which are located in Saddle River. They will be asking that the Mayor and Council adopt a resolution authorizing this action.

BOROUGH CLERK:

Borough Clerk Macari reminded the Mayor and Council that Financial Disclosure Forms were due on June 13, 2014 and encouraged anyone who has not yet filed to do so to avoid any fines.

Borough Clerk Macari stated that two bids were received on June 12, 2014 for solid waste removal and a spread sheet was compiled and submitted to the Borough Attorney for review. Suburban Disposal, the current contractor for Saddle River, will continue their contract until the matter is resolved. Mayor Raia suggested that the Finance Committee also evaluate this issue so a decision can be made shortly. Council Member Kerner stated that she has reviewed the garbage bid for Upper Saddle River and feels that it offers more services than Saddle River's and at a lower rate.

Council Member DeCrosta stated that Saddle River utilizes small truck pickup, which is a specialized service not all contractors are equipped to provide.

Mayor Raia reiterated that the Finance Committee needs to review the bid and the specs and asked Council Member Kerner to provide the information she obtained from Upper Saddle River's bidding process so a comparison can be made.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council President Toomey briefly outlined the four ordinances to be introduced at this time.

Council Member Gray stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission held a special meeting in order to address permitting dogs in Rindlaub Park. He further stated that the meeting was well attended, with residents and Board members offering their views on this issue. The final recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission is that dogs will be permitted in the park on a leash only, owners must pick up after their dogs in the provided receptacles and the signs currently in the park will be modified to indicate this. Residents that live near the park have offered their assistance to insure compliance with this rule.

He further stated that there will be a celebration in the fall to commemorate the new field house pavilion in Rindlaub Park. The Commission will work to secure local entertainment to perform at the band shell either at no charge or for a nominal fee.

Council Member Kerner stated that she is in receipt of response rates for Valley Hospital EMS and she is monitoring them against other ambulance services. She further stated that maintaining the Valley Hospital ambulance service is the most viable option and secondary coverage needs to be reviewed and obtained.

She further stated that she has spent significant time on the bill list process and feels confident moving forward that, when members of the Council receive their individual bill list, they can be confident that she has reviewed them and they are accurate.

Council Member Walenczyk stated that Ordinance 14-902 "An Ordinance to Repeal Chapter 52 entitled Police Department" will be introduced and he explained this in detail at this time. Police Department accreditation and by-laws in the current ordinance will be amended. The selection process and rules and regulations will be incorporated into a separate document, significantly reducing the existing ordinance.

Council Member Walencyk stated that the Mayor and Council are in receipt of a letter from NJ Housing and Finance regarding 13 Perrin Place, an affordable housing unit. The owner has not been able to sell it and there is an option for the Borough to purchase it or utilize it as a rental unit. Attorney Huntington stated that purchasing it would not be beneficial to the COAH obligation as it is already considered part of a past obligation that was fulfilled. Council Member Kurpis suggested that the unit be utilized for rental purposes to a night duty fire fighter.

Council Member Walencyk stated that he is in receipt of a letter regarding Rohslers Nursery regarding property lines; Attorney Huntington stated that he will be looking into this issue.

Council Member DeCrosta stated that he attended the Wandell School Board of Education meeting regarding the budget, which was passed.

Council Member Kurpis stated that the Board of Health held a special meeting on June 11, 2014 in order to interview for the position of Health Officer. The Board of Health also addressed the deer population, which is a potential health hazard. The Board is looking for direction from the Mayor and Council on this issue and he suggested addressing this at a regular meeting and encourage residents to attend to obtain their feedback.

Council Member Kurpis stated that the Landmarks Commission has finalized interior plans for the Saddle River Museum and museum curator, Jonathan Kurpis will be giving a presentation explaining this plan.

Council Member Kurpis stated that the Public Safety Committee has worked diligently to reorganize the Fire Department, and he feels confident with the plan moving forward. He stressed that residents are in no danger, the Fire Department is responding to calls as well as utilizing mutual aid as a back-up.

Council President Toomey reiterated that the ordinances currently being introduced are all consistent with the Master Plan.

Council Member Kurpis asked about the rationale of allowing places of worship in the R-1 Zone and Attorney Huntington explained this in detail, stressing that places of worship have certain protective rights.

Council Member Kerner asked about specific information regarding Ordinance 14-900-C; the permitted use of churches and schools in residential zones and how this is written in the code. Council President Toomey addressed this in detail stating that he has confirmed this with the Borough Planner Mayor Raia asked Mr. Shenkler to insure that this information is accurate in the Borough code. He further stated that he feels that the code book should be brought to all Mayor and Council meetings moving forward.

SADDLE RIVER MUSEUM PRESENTATION

Jon Kurpis, Saddle River Museum curator outlined his credentials and addressed the objective of the Saddle River Museum. He detailed the history of the structure and stressed the importance of preserving Saddle River's rich history and insuring that Wandell School students are educated about this history. Mr. Kurpis detailed the restoration process involved in both the structure as well as the artifacts which will be on display upon completion. A proposed interior design was distributed to the Mayor and Council at this time and Mr. Kurpis explained this plan in detail as well as reading the museum's mission statement. Mr. Kurpis looked for monetary direction from the Mayor and Council and this was discussed in detail as well as the criteria for fund raising.

Mayor Raia suggested that Mr. Kurpis present an itemized quote for the proposed work, evaluate any grant monies which may be available and also outline monies already spent on the museum.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 14-900-C

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 210 OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER

Resolution # 87-14 Offered by Council President Toomey
Seconded by Council Member Walenczyk
Roll Call Vote: AYES: DeCrosta, Gray, Kurpis, Walenczyk, Toomey
NAYES: Kerner

ORDINANCE NO. 14-886-C

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 175 SIGNS OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER

Resolution #88-14 Offered by Council President Toomey
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

ORDINANCE NO. 14-901-C

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 29 BOARD OF HEALTH, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING THAT TATTOOING IS PROHIBITED IN THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER

Resolution #89-14 Offered by Council Member Kurpis
Seconded by Council Member Gray
Roll Call Vote: AYES Unanimous

ORDINANCE NO. 14-902-C

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 52 ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, AND ESTABLISH A NEW CODE SECTION

Resolution #90-14 Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council President Toomey
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

ORDINANCE 14-895-C- VACATION OF LANDS

A motion to continue the Public Hearing on this ordinance at the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council on July 21, 2014 was offered by Council Member Gray
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

ORDINANCE NO. 14-896-M

**AN ORDINANCE FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER; COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, IN ACCORANCE WITH N.J.S.A.40A:4-53 ENTITLED 'PREPARATION
OF AN APPROVED TAX MAP**

Resolution #91-14 Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Gray

Motion to Open to the Public Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Gray
Voice Vote: All AYES

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

Motion to Close to the Public Offered by Council President Toomey
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis
Voice Vote: All AYES

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Resolution # 92-14 Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis
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 Toomey
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis

Explanation of Consent Agenda Items

At this time, Borough Clerk Macari briefly explained the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Council Member Kerner asked if the Compensation Resolution could be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration; all were in agreement.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

- A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting: 5/19/14**
Special Meetings: 4/29/14 & 6/4/14

B. Resolutions:

- R# 93-14 Authorizing inclusion in the Bergen County Community Dev. Plan**
- R# 94-14 2014-2016 Agreement for Snow Plowing Program between the County of Bergen and the Borough of Saddle River**
- R# 95-14 Appointment to Planning Board – Adam Grossman**
- R# 96-14 Approval of estimated tax bills for the 3rd quarter**
- R# 97-14 Revised bid amount for Downtown Street Scape**
- R# 98-14 Authorizing agreement with Sterling Information Systems**
- R# 99-14 Support Code Requirement for Residential fire sprinklers**
- R#100-14 Appointment of Ron Gray to Public Safety Committee/Fire Dept.**

Compensation Resolution

Council Member Walencyk stated that there are some discrepancies in this resolution and more time is needed to review and evaluate this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Const. & Zoning Enforcemt. Council President Toomey gave the report for May 2014.

Environmental Committee: Council Member DeCrosta gave the report for May 2014.

Fire Report: There was no report at this time.

Police Report: Council Member Walencyk gave the report for May 2014.

EMS Report: Council Member Kerner gave the report for May 2014.

Finance Report: Council Member Walencyk gave the report for May 2014.

Landmarks Committee: Council Member Kurpis gave the report for May 2014.

Public Works: Council Member DeCrosta gave the report for May 2014.

Parks and Recreation: No report at this time.

Planning Board: No report at this time.

Zoning Board: There was no report at this time.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Edward Holiat 85 East Saddle River Road asked about permitting dogs in Rindlaub Park and Council Member Gray addressed this issue. He stated that dogs must be on leash at all times and owners must clean up after their dogs; the current signage in the park will be changed to reflect this law.

Mr. Holiat also inquired about 14-895-C and Attorney Huntington explained the property involved in this vacation of land.

Irena Holiat, 85 East Saddle River Road suggested that a contribution be made to either the Fire Department or the Museum by the property owner of the above-referenced property.

Eric Jensen, 131 Mill Road stated that he is encouraged that Jake Kossowsky and Brian Yates will once again be affiliated with the Saddle River Fire Department.

He also requested copies of ordinances that are being introduced. Borough Clerk Macari stated that these ordinances are posted in the Municipal Building, advertised in the newspaper and can also be picked up at the Municipal Building.

Patty Nazzaro, 3 Westwind Court stated that she is encouraged that Jake Kossowsky and Brian Yates will once again be affiliated with the Saddle River Fire Department. She further stated that June is Hurricane Awareness Month and encouraged residents to be prepared in advance of these emergencies. Ms. Nazzaro also reiterated that the deer problem is a health hazard that must be addressed.

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution # 101-14 Offered by Council President Toomey
Second by Council Member Kurpis
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Elena Macari
Borough Clerk