

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

PRESENT: Mayor Raia, Council President Toomey, Council Members: Gray, Kerner, Kurpis, Walenczyk, Borough Clerk Macari, Administrator Cuccia, Attorney Russell Huntington

ABSENT: Council Member DeCrosta

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, 2013, the Borough website and also via E-Notify.

NOTIFICATION OF FIRE EXITS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AWARDS AND CEREMONIES

WORK SESSION:

MAYOR RAI:

Water Runoff Issues: Mayor Raia stated that the Council is in receipt of an article that recently appeared in the Record newspaper regarding the implementation of stronger regulations regarding water runoff. He further stated that Saddle River has been addressing this issue for the last five years and thanked the Council as well as the Planning Board and Zoning Boards for their support.

ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA

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

- The Rindlaub Parking lot expansion project has begun but work has ceased due to weather. The permit application for the culvert is in the process of being completed.
- The Saddle River Grand construction is continuing, with final completion scheduled for May 2014.
- The Rindlaub Field House/Pavilion design is complete and 8 bids were received on February 6, 2014, with bid results still pending. This pavilion is being funded by an Open Space Grant, which only funds exterior spaces. Any interior improvements, such as restrooms, must be funded by alternative sources.
- The 2014 road resurfacing program will take place in the spring of 2014, with the list generated by the Borough.
- The Zoning and Tax Maps are going to be revised in 2014.
- The Streetscape project is a NJDOT funded project in the amount of \$157,000 to provide

- pedestrian improvements along East Allendale Road from West Saddle River Road to East Saddle River Road. The replacement of sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping will be part of this project.
- The location of the boom in the Saddle River adjacent to Barnstable Court is being observed and its efficiency will be evaluated.

Cell Tower Lease Bid Spec: Administrator Cuccia stated that the Cell Tower Committee will meet on February 19, 2014 at 8:00am to review the bid spec submitted.

2014 Budget Presentation: Administrator Cuccia provided a Power Point Presentation outlining the 2014 Municipal Budget; it is attached for review. The Council decided to use the alternate capital budget which was presented with the budget workbook. Council questions were addressed in detail at this time.

Post Budget Presentation Discussion: Council Member Kerner stated that the Finance Committee met to address the budget and it was determined that there would be a zero increase in the budget within the cap appropriations. She addressed the tax rate and stated that the rate is low in Saddle River due to the enormity of the home values. She further stated that spending should be reduced in order to come up with a zero increase. Administrator Cuccia outlined specific budgetary changes included in the 2014 Budget in detail at this time. Council Member Kerner reiterated that the governing body must be more disciplined in working toward a zero based budget and distributed cuts which was reviewed in detail at this time. The presented budget cuts were not approved by the Council.

Mayor Raia stated that he would like the Finance Committee to meet monthly to monitor expenses moving forward in order to keep expenses in check but was not in favor of making the proposed budget cuts.

Council Member Kurpis stated that he feels the Borough's objective should be to keep the tax rate low and, with the responsible decisions that the Council has made in the past, the ratables are maintained, and debt is pre-paid responsibly to be in a position to keep taxes low moving forward.

Mayor Raia addressed the reviewing of bills on a monthly basis and stated that in the past, each Council Member reviewed only those bills pertaining to their specific committee. He further stated that he would like to see the Borough continue to pay down debt rapidly and commit to no tax increases.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council President Toomey stated that the Ordinance Review Committee is continuing to work on amending several ordinances and the Mayor and Council is in receipt of a memo outlining their work on ordinances regarding the downtown area as well as the tree ordinance. He outlined the amendments at this time stressing, that the objective is to bring our ordinances into line with what is currently represented in the Borough Code. A summary document was distributed to the Mayor and Council regarding the tree ordinance. This document is a comparison of the original tree ordinance adopted in 1993, the subsequent tree ordinance adopted in 2012, and the proposed ordinance, slated for introduction at the March 17, 2014 meeting of the Mayor and Council. Mayor Raia stated that he would like the Council to review this and address any questions or comments with Council President Toomey.

Council Member Gray stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on February 12, 2014. Council Member Kerner stated that the Planning Board met on February 4, 2014 and outlined details of the meeting at this time. She made an inquiry about deeds received at the Planning Board meeting and asked what their responsibility was relative to these deeds. This information may be used for a revised tax map as well as addressing sub-divisions and assessments. Borough Attorney Huntington explained this in detail.

Council Member Kerner stated that the Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing all bills prior to Council Meetings and to date, this has not been possible. She further stated that she would like to review all bills in advance of Council Meetings so she can learn how the town runs and Council Member Kurpis was in agreement with this process. Administrator Cuccia stated that the Borough Code does not provide for this practice in the current code and, if this will be the protocol moving forward, the code must be amended.

Administrator Cuccia stated that he will re-draft an amendment to the ordinance to reflect this protocol, which would include that any council member is free to come and review all bills, seven days prior to the Council meeting. The amended ordinance will be presented at the next meeting.

Council Member Kurpis stated that the Board of Health did not meet this month. He further stated that the Landmarks Commission met, granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for temporary signage at the Union Center National Bank as well as address correspondence regarding the cell tower. The Commission would like to review a rendering of the proposed work by AT&T, as the cell tower is located within the historic district. The Bishop House was also addressed and it was decided that the Chairman of the Bishop House attend all Landmarks Commission meetings in order to keep the Borough updated. The Saddle River Museum was also addressed and Council Member Kurpis stated that interior work as well as landscaping still needs to be completed.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY:

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Municipal Clerk Macari stated that resolution # 31-14, the authorization for the renewal of the Saddle River Municipal Alliance, adopted at the January 20, 2014 meeting, needed to be amended as the figures provided from the Municipal Alliance were incorrect. There is a resolution with the correct figures as part of the Consent Agenda. The new resolution was distributed at this time; the figures were lower than previously presented.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 14-890-M

An Ordinance to Exceed Index Rate for the Year 2014 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Resolution #34-14 Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution #35-14 Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council President Toomey

Council Members Gray and Kerner stated that they are only willing to support a zero based budget at this time.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Kurpis, Toomey, Walenczyk, **NAYS:** Gray, Kerner

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

ORDINANCE NO. 14-888-M

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE 2014 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 \$125,000 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 # 36-14 Offered by Council Member Toomey
Seconded by Council Member Walenczyk

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No one wished to be heard

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

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

ORDINANCE NO. 14-889-M

CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE UNDERTAKING OF STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE EAST ALLENDALE ROAD CORRIDOR IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$157,491 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM A STATE GRANT.

Resolution # 37-14 Offered by Council President Toomey
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Eric Jensen, 131 Mill Road asked for more details on the Streetscape project; Borough Engineer Spence explained this in detail at this time. The project includes the replacement of sidewalks, curbing, lighting, paving and landscaping in order to provide pedestrian safety along East Allendale Road. This project is in conjunction with a DOT grant procured by the Borough.

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

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Resolution # 38-14 Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Gray, Kurpis, Walenczyk, Toomey NAYS: Kerner

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 Walenczyk

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:

- A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, 1/20/14**
- B. Resolutions:**

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

- R# 39-14 Soil Movement Blk 1901 Lot 31, 6 Beechwood**
- R# 40-14 Self-Examination of the Budget**
- R# 41-14 Appointment of Andrew Epstein to Environmental Commission**
- R# 42-14 Authorizing Annual Renewal of Saddle River Municipal Alliance
(Amended from Resolution # 31-14)**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

Environmental Committee: There was no report at this time.

Fire Report: Council Member Kurpis gave the report for December 2013 & January 2014.

Police Report: There was no report at this time.

Finance Report: There was no report at this time.

Landmarks Committee: There was no report at this time, previously presented.

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, previously presented.

Zoning Board: There was no report at this time.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Patty Nazzaro, 3 Westwind Court stated that she has been a resident for over 30 years and thanked the Mayor and Council for their work in getting fire hydrants installed within the Borough and encouraged this practice to continue.

Marilyn Goldfisher 124 West Saddle River Road stated that she has a problem with the invasive bamboo planted in the Borough.

Eric Jensen, 131 Mill Road stated that the water line project was never intended to reach every residence within the Borough and he asked how much completing this project would cost per household. He further stated that he feels that the Borough should focus on taxes rather than tax rates; he is not in favor of increasing the 2014 municipal budget.

Paul Schulstadt, 20 Eckert Farm Road stated that he was in agreement with Eric Jensen's comments and was disappointed with the index rate. He further stated that, the Borough's spending is much higher than it should be on a per capita basis and this mindset needs to be changed. He stated that every bill should be reviewed by all Council members, not just committee liaisons. He further stated that he is not in favor of mandating fire suppression systems in new construction.

Mayor Raia clarified that fire suppression systems are encouraged in new construction but are not mandatory at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Elena Macari
Borough Clerk

