

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
September 19, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Kurpis, Council Members: Acaster, Gray, Jensen, Kerner, Salazer, Schulstad, (arrived at 8:45pm) Borough Administrator Shenkler, Municipal Clerk Convertini, Borough Attorney Huntington

**ABSENT:**

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**PRESIDING:** Mayor Kurpis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; Borough Clerk Convertini 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 notice thereof to the Herald News and The Record on January 4, 2016." Also on the official Borough website and E-notify.

**NOTIFICATION OF FIRE EXITS**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AWARDS AND CEREMONIES:**

Mayor Kurpis read a letter of commendation regarding the members of the Fire Department that participated in a working house fire in Saddle River on September 7, 2016. He recognized the following members of the Fire Department specifically: Don Averno, Ken Konig, Ryan Holdsworth, Ed Cebulski, Nick Biondi, Greg Pink, Bruce Mautz, and Patrick Varsolona and stated that their quick and professional response kept the damage to the home as minimal as possible.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** (Saddle River Residents Only)

Gerry Bedrin, 166 Cortland Drive stated that he lives in Saddle River Grand and there are several open items in this development that must be addressed. The lack of water pressure is a problem for many residents (24 out of 68) living in the Grand and Mr. Bedrin asked the Mayor and Council for their assistance. Mayor Kurpis stated that he is well aware of this matter and he stated that the performance bond, in the amount of \$200,000 currently being held by the Borough, will not be released until all issues are resolved. Additionally, there are some open items regarding landscaping that must be addressed.

Borough Engineer Spence addressed the water agreement between the developer of the Saddle River Grand and the Borough in detail, stating that water would be provided but the developer was aware that booster pumps may be needed for particular units. Specific addresses with water pressure issues have been provided by the development and mapping has begun to determine the problem. The developer has been provided with this list and put on notice to address this matter. Additional testing on the water main will be performed however, there are no other water pressure issues in the Borough.

Mayor Kurpis stated that it will be a priority to insure that this matter is resolved for the residents of the Saddle River Grand.

Gary Pearl, 121 Cortland Drive stated that he too has very poor water pressure and would like this matter addressed.

Irena Holiat, 85 East Saddle River suggested that the contractor should provide information regarding the type of shutoff levers installed as this can often effect pressure.

### **WORK SESSION:**

#### **MAYOR KURPIS:**

**Resignation of Borough Administrator:** Mayor Kurpis stated that Les Shenkler, Borough Administrator will be retiring by March 31, 2017. The Borough will be hiring a new full time Borough Administrator.

**Deer Fencing:** Mayor Kurpis stated that an ordinance will be introduced in order to permit deer fencing, up to 8 ½ feet. The fencing will be permitted to be installed from the front face of the property to the side yard extensions, to the back of the property.

**Northwest Bergen Mayors Meeting:** Mayor Kurpis stated that the Mayors met and addressed issues effecting all of the neighboring municipalities.

**League of Municipalities Meeting:** Mayor Kurpis stated that many Mayors attended this meeting and the Criminal Justice Reform Policy was addressed in detail. The Mayor's Wellness Program was also addressed at this meeting and Mayor Kurpis stated that he would like to institute this program for the residents of Saddle River.

**Meeting with County Executive Tedesco:** Mayor Kurpis stated that he met with County Executive Tedesco in order to have the speed limit reduced on County Roads in Saddle River. The County conducted a traffic study and was not in favor of reducing the speed limits. Mayor Kurpis asked Mr. Tedesco to reconsider this decision and he was in agreement to re-access the request.

**Website Redesign:** Mayor Kurpis stated that a committee has been formed in order to work on the redesign of the website. Council Member Schulstad is currently working on revising the existing Site Map and the graphics.

#### **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR**

**Borough Hall Repairs:** Administrator Shenkler stated that a resident has offered to donate a dehumidifier for the Borough Hall. He further stated that the Borough is very appreciative of this gift but a central dehumidifier will be installed in the HVAC system. Mayor Kurpis stated that two bids were received for Borough Hall exterior repairs and the difference in the bids was \$100,000.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Borough Engineer Martin Spence gave the Engineering Report as follows:

- **DPW Salt Shed:** This project is underway, the foundation walls have been poured and the framing will begin shortly. The existing salt shed will be used on a temporary basis in the interim.
- **Streetscape III & IV:** These projects are on hold as the DOT has put a hold on all projects.

- **Barnstable Boom:** Locations for the new boom are being determined and installation will take place shortly.
- **Open Space Grant:** The application for this grant in order to fund the irrigation on Field C will be submitted by October 13, 2016.
- **County Road Speed Limits:** Additional information has been requested by the County in response to the Borough's request to have speed limits reduced on County roads in the Borough. This information will be provided to the County shortly, reinforcing the Borough's position on this matter.
- **DPW Conversion Project:** The existing salt shed will be converted into additional DPW space, with designs and bids going out in early 2017.
- **AT&T Construction:** Plans have been submitted for the structure that will house the AT&T equipment. The permitting process will begin shortly.
- **Fox Hedge Water Main Installation:** This project is complete.
- **Water Main Installation:** There are currently no other locations being addressed.

Mayor Kurpis stated that information is currently being obtained about the leasing of the Borough's high efficiency well.

Administrator Shenkler stated that the Borough will be receiving the last payment for Superstorm Sandy damage in the amount of approximately \$26,300.00

**BOROUGH ATTORNEY:**

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:** Municipal Clerk Convertini stated that the last day to register to vote in the General Election is October 18, 2016 and the last day to apply for a Vote By Mail Ballot is November 1, 2016.

Council President Jensen gave a report, written by Council Member Schulstad, regarding Ordinance No. 16-923-C to permit deer fencing in Saddle River. The Ordinance Review Committee worked diligently on this ordinance and it is extremely important in light of the deer problem in Saddle River. The next Ordinance Review Committee meeting is October 7, 2016 at 8:00 am.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**Ordinance No. 16-923-16**

**An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Chapter 105 "Fences"**

**Resolution # 161-16** was offered by Council President Jensen  
 Seconded by Council Member Kerner  
**Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous**

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Resolution #162-16** Offered by Council Member Kerner  
 Seconded by Council President Jensen  
**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 an abstention with respect to the minutes of meetings at which such Council Member was not present.

Resolution Offered by Council President Jensen  
Seconded by Council Member Kerner

The following two resolutions were requested to be removed for separate consideration:

- **Approving Retro Pay for Administrator and CFO**
- **Authorization to Retain JPM to Hire Administrator**

## **Explanation of Consent Agenda Items**

**A. Approval of Minutes:**                      **Regular Council Meeting:**                      **August 15, 2016**  
**Executive Session (Amended):**                      **August 15, 2016**

**B. Resolutions:**

**R# 163-16 Authorization to teleconference into Work Sessions**  
**R# 164-16 Appoint Vincent Blehl to Bishop House Committee**  
**R# 165-16 NJ Transit – Amended Bus Stop Designations**  
**R# 166-16 Amendment to Appointment of Professionals**  
**R# 167-16 Municipal Service Contract – Saddle River Grand**  
**R# 168-16 Petty Cash Fund – Rescinding Accounts**  
**R# 169-16 Petty Cash Fund – Establishing Account**  
**R# 170-16 Authorizing Susan Zabransky Memorial Run**  
**R# 171-16 Appointing a Municipal Housing Liaison**  
**R# 172-16 Award Contract for Borough Hall Repairs**  
**R# 173-16 Approving SRFD Pancake Breakfast/Open House**

## ***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:***

Marilyn Goldfischer, 124 West Saddle River Road asked about retro pay for the Administrator and the CFO. As this was a closed session item, it was not addressed.

**Roll Call Vote:** AYES, Unanimous

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Board of Health:** Council Member Salazer gave the report for September 2016

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

**COAH:** There was no report at this time.

**Planning Board:** Council President Jensen stated that there was a Special Meeting in August 2016.

**Const. & Zoning Enforcement:** Council Member Acaster gave the report for August 2016.

**Public Works:** Council Member Acaster gave the report for August 2016.

**Environmental Committee:** Council Member Gray gave the report for June 2016.

**Zoning Board:** There was no meeting in August 2016.

**Board of Education:** Council Member Kerner gave the report for August and September.

**Parks and Recreation:** Council Member Kerner gave the report for September 2016. The shortage of parking on game days and the water contamination problem in Rindlaub Park were discussed in detail.

**Ordinance Review Committee:** Council President Jensen gave the report for August 2016.

**Wildlife Management:** There was no report at this time.

**Department of Public Safety:**

**Fire Report:** Council Member Acaster gave the report for August 2016. He stated that there was a working house fire in Saddle River on September 7, 2016 and he commended all of the fire fighters on the scene for keeping the damage to a minimum. The Fire Department will hold a Pancake Breakfast and Open House on October 15, 2016.

**Police Report:** Council Member Gray gave the report for August 2016. He expressed his sympathies on behalf of the Borough to Chief Tim McWilliams for the recent loss of his father. The heroin epidemic in Bergen County was addressed in detail.

**EMS Report:** Council Member Kerner gave the report for August 2016. The floor of the EMS building was discussed as there is a water puddling problem which must be addressed prior to the winter.

**Finance Report:** Council Member Kerner gave the report for August 2016. She further stated that the Finance Committee meetings throughout the remainder of the year will be open to the public. They will be held on Friday mornings at 9:30 am. The 2017 Budget preparation will be the focus of the committee. She further stated the Borough is in the process of initiating paperless purchase orders. Marie Merolla, Tax Assessor is in favor of doing a revaluation of the entire Borough in 2018. The procurement of Bond Anticipation Notes (BANS) were addressed in detail. Additionally, the procurement of bonds was addressed in order to diversify the debt structure and this was discussed in detail. Council Member Kerner discussed a bond rating, which would cost approximately \$75,000 and take about four months to complete. Mayor Kurpis asked the Council to offer their feedback in order to expedite this process. Council Member Schulstad stated that he is in favor of this and would want to move forward quickly in order to take advantage of currently favorable rates.

Mayor Kurpis asked for a straw poll in order to authorize the appropriate personnel to take the necessary steps in order to begin this process. All were in agreement.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Marilyn Goldfischer, 124 West Saddle River Road asked about the new vehicle being purchased for the Construction Official. She was informed that a new vehicle has been purchased; she was not in agreement with this arrangement.

Alexandra Samouilidis, 4 Lookout Drive stated that she recently had seen several coyotes on Lookout Drive and is concerned for public safety.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Council Member Kerner asked that the Bishop House Advisory Committee, the Saddle River Museum Advisory Committee and the Information and Transparency Committee be added to the Agenda moving forward.

Administrator Shenkler reviewed proposals received for the proposed work on the Bishop House. Council Member Schulstad asked about the Committee’s input on the necessary repairs and Administrator Shenkler addressed this matter in detail. Council Member Acaster addressed the interior lighting in the Saddle River Museum as well as the artifacts and proposed displays. Council Member Kerner asked about the long range plan and schedule for the Museum and this was addressed.

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

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

**Resolution # 174-16** Offered by Council President Jensen  
Second by Council Member Gray  
**Roll Call Vote:** AYES: Unanimous

At this time, a motion was made and seconded to return to the Regular Session of the meeting.

**Resolution to Authorize Retroactive Salary Adjustment – Non-Bargaining Employees  
Leslie Shenkler and Michael Mariniello**

**Resolution # 175-16** Offered by Council President Jensen  
Second by Council Member Schulstad  
**Roll Call Vote:** AYES: Council Members: Acaster, Gray, Jensen, Salazer, Schulstad  
ABSTAIN: Council Member Kerner

**Resolution to Schedule a Work Session Meeting on October 7, 2016 at 9:30 am**

**Resolution # 176-16** Offered by Council President Jensen  
Seconded by Council Member Kerner  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini  
Municipal Clerk