
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD OCTOBER 15, 2007**

PRESENT: Mayor Caruso, Council Members FitzPatrick, Murray, Savarese, Raia, Re, Borough Clerk Macari, Administrator Cuccia, & Attorney Harry Norton

ABSENT: Council President Burke

PRESIDING: Mayor Caruso 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 CARUSO:

FAA: Mayor Caruso stated that he received a call from the Mayor of Woodcliff Lake asking that the Borough of Saddle River join in an appeal which would also include the Borough of Upper Saddle River. Mayor Caruso asked Administrator Cuccia to explain this in detail to the Council. Administrator Cuccia stated that he spoke with Mr. Robert Belzer, an advocate for keeping FAA policies to a minimum. He informed Administrator Cuccia that if the Borough of Saddle River is not getting any new routes at this time, there should not be any involvement. The monitoring of decibels is an option and, should they exceed three to five, then some action should be taken. Attorney Norton stated that if there has been no change in the flight pattern, there should be no increase in the noise level. He further suggested that if decibel monitoring was going to be an option that the Borough wanted to pursue, it should be done quickly, while the leaves are still on the trees as the sound will be somewhat lessened. Mayor Caruso further stated that the cost to join this appeal would be \$5000.00

Bishop House Lease: Mayor Caruso stated that Council Member Savarese had written a memo regarding the current status of the lease. In addition to the items listed in the lease, Mayor Caruso stated that the refinishing of the floors, the refurbishing of the kitchen and the repair of the back stoop should be added. Council Member Raia asked about a restoration report and stated that he feels this is necessary in addition to a list of the expenses that are being currently being paid by the Borough, proof of insurance, an activity report as well as the compensation that these activities generate.

Non-Conforming Uses and Structures: Mayor Caruso stated that the committee that was formed to assess this area, had not had an opportunity to get together to date. Mayor Caruso further stated that he distributed a memo summarizing his thoughts to the Council tonight regarding this topic and after it has been reviewed, it will be discussed at the next meeting of the Mayor and Council, November 12, 2007.

Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund: Mayor Caruso stated that the Borough would be eligible for a \$250 deduction in premium per elected official if each official attends a training session. This training session is taking place on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 3:45 at the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey and Mayor Caruso encouraged Council members to attend.

ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:

Update on Water Projects: Administrator Cuccia stated that the County Road water line project will be completed this week and there was a bid awarded for the Burning Hollow water line project, which is currently being reviewed by Attorney Norton. He further stated that the East and West Saddle River Road water line projects will be completed by 2009. Six residents on the County Road line are working with Borough Engineer Spence to orchestrate connecting to the line.

Proposal for Wireless facility at the Saddle River Police Department: Administrator Cuccia stated that he distributed a proposal to the Mayor and Council regarding a wireless facility at the Police Department and he has been speaking with Chief McWilliams about improving the pre-existing tower at no cost to the Borough. The Mayor and Council were in agreement.

CERT: Administrator Cuccia stated that the recent Saddle River CERT graduates attended an all-day training session on Saturday, October 13, 2007 in Sussex, New Jersey and gained hands on experience with search and rescue drills.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member FitzPatrick stated that the tree lighting will be on December 2, 2007 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in conjunction with the Valley Club Open House. She further stated that last year there was an activity for the children, which was charitable in nature and she suggested that perhaps they would decorate boxes and fill them with toiletries for the troops overseas. Council Member Murray suggested that they should consider offering a project that will benefit the families of the troops as they are in great need as well. Administrator Cuccia suggested that this project could be in conjunction with the Toys for Tot's program.

Council Member Savarese stated that there were no Planning Board resolutions this month. He also asked about the status of the Villa Marie Claire and this was discussed. Additionally, he asked about the two Northern Highlands students that have contacted local municipalities in a fund raising effort, to hold another Electronic Waste Recycling Day on November 17, 2007. Attorney Norton suggested that anyone who wished to use this disposal sight, make a donation at the time of drop off.

Council Member Murray asked specific questions about the Burning Hollow Water Bid and a possible completion date. Borough Engineer Spence stated that it is scheduled to start in the beginning of November and be partially completed by the beginning of 2008, with additional work

necessary for hydrants and remaining connections. In total, it should take approximately three months. Council Member Murray also inquired about an updated on the water projects that have been completed through the end of 2007.

He further stated that the finances are in good order.

Council Member Raia stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission met this month and they are looking for an additional member. He further stated that the work to be done at Rindlaub will commence shortly and he also asked about lawn maintenance, which is currently done by the Department of Operations.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY: Attorney Norton stated that he was in receipt of the Interlocal Services Agreement regarding the St. Gabriel's culvert. He stated that the contract was fine but the County neglected to send the corresponding resolution, which was subsequently faxed to him and will be added to the Consent Agenda.

Borough Clerk Marie Macari stated that Tuesday, October 16, 2007 is the last day to register to vote for November 6, 2007. She also requested that anyone who will not be attending the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, should let her know as reservations have already been made.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S): Clerk to read the title of: There were none.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S): Clerk to read the title of: There were none.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Resolution # 113-07 Offered by Council Member Murray
Seconded by Council Member Savarese
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 Savarese
Seconded by Council Member Murray
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Explanation of Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of 9/17/07

B. Resolutions:

R# 114-07 Permission for AT&T to install communication facilities

R# 115-07 Award of Bid for Burning Hollow Water Main Extension

R# 116-07 Interlocal Services Agreement – Improvement for St. Gabriel’s Brook culvert

Open to the Public for Consent Agenda Items Only:

Joe Pera, 16 Old Farms Road stated that the public should have copies of resolutions that the Mayor and Council is acting on. He specifically requested information on the Burning Hollow water main line and Administrator Cuccia outlined the pertinent information in detail to Mr. Pera.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report: Council Member Murray stated that the financial reports for the month of September, 2007 are in good order.

Fire Report: Council Member Re stated that the report is on file with the Borough Clerk for September 2007.

Police Report: There was no report at this time.

Construction & Zoning Enforcement: Council Member Savarese gave the reports for September 2007.

Planning Board: Council Member Savarese gave the report for October 2007.

Zoning Board: Council Member FitzPatrick gave the report for September 2007.

Parks and Recreation: Council Member Raia gave the report for September 2007.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Alan Post, 15 Dogwood Drive asked what Council members were on the Bishop House and Mayor Caruso stated that the committee included Council Members Raia, Re and FitzPatrick. He further inquired about the voting practices involved with the Bishop House and Mayor Caruso stated that the committee will review the lease and make the changes they deem necessary. Mr. Post suggested that other residents who have been active at the Bishop House be present during these discussions. Mayor Caruso stated that he felt that this was a good idea.

Joe Pera, 16 Old Farms Road stated that he was very impressed by how quickly the water line work was completed on Chestnut Ridge Road. He commended Administrator Cuccia and Borough Engineer Spence for overseeing that this was completed on a timely basis. Mr. Pera also stated

that he does not like the railing in front of the municipal building and Mayor Caruso stated that he would look at it.

William Slayne, 57 East Saddle River Road asked about the stakes at the Exxon property and he expressed his concern. He asked for an update on any work in progress at this time and Attorney Norton stated that the Council is currently involved in litigation with this property and he was not at liberty to discuss this matter. The stakes show the existing four corners of where the gas station had been before it was demolished. Additionally, there are stakes at the area of ingress and egress. Council Member Raia stated that both the areas of R-1 and R-2 were also staked out accordingly.

Tim Egan, a resident for three years (did not give his address) also wanted to express his concern regarding the Exxon property. He further stated that he would like to see this property reserved as open space as it is in the center of town and he would like to see as much open space as possible here.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution # 117-07 was offered by Council Member FitzPatrick
Seconded by Council Member Re
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/MINMCoct.07