

OFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF LITTLE FERRY
May 23, 2006

“MAYOR FOR A DAY PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION: Mayor Thomas Quirico

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Quirico called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Quirico

ROLL CALL: Present: Councilwoman Roberta Henriquez, Councilman George Muller, Councilwoman Patricia Navarro, Councilman Mauro Raguseo, Councilman Thomas Sarlo, Councilwoman Sue Schuck

Absent: None

SUNSHINE STATEMENT:

Meeting authorization was called by the Governing Body of the Borough of Little Ferry, with notification of said meeting transmitted to The Record and Star Ledger giving notice that a Special Meeting has been scheduled for May 23, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 215-217 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, New Jersey at which time formal action may or may not be taken as provided by the Open Public Meeting’s Act. A copy of said meeting notice and agenda were filed in the Borough Clerk’s Office and have been posted on the bulletin board outside of the Borough Clerk’s Office.

Borough Attorney Joseph Monaghan swore in Brianna Giannotte as Borough Attorney in the “Mayor For A Day Program”.

SWEARING IN OF CANDIDATES BY ATTORNEY:

Mayor: Thomas Quirico – Karissa Rivera
Council President: Mauro Raguseo – Raul Reinoso
Council Members: Roberta Henriquez – Christina Pan
George Muller – Yun Ah Baek
Patricia Navarro – Alisha Lee
Thomas Sarlo – Chelsea Rodriguez
Sue Schuck – Megan Dwyer
Borough Attorney: Joseph Monaghan – Brianna Giannotte
Borough Clerk: Barbara Maldonado – Nerjada Maksutaj
Police Chief: Ralph Verdi – Valentina Martinez
DPW Superintendent: William Holley – Danielle Monforte
Borough Engineer: Kenneth Job - Erin Green
Municipal Judge: Michael Shuhala – Jesse Kurtz
Prosecutor: Michael Purvin – Marc Soojian
Public Defender: Mark Musella – Mirahnda Johnson
Tax Collector: Sara Abo-Zed
Fire Chief: Frank Giordano, Jr.
Tax Assessor: Michelle Alen
Building Inspector: Jamie Corio Kurtz
Police Captain: Nicole Sabangan

PRESENTATIONS

Senator Coniglio and Assemblywoman Voss came forward. They both commended and congratulated all the students, parents and the school district for

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doing such a great job with the “Mayor For A Day” Program. Assemblywoman Voss said she hopes the students would continue to take an active roll in Government.

CORRESPONDENCE: Memo for Susan Gerber, Building Department Technical Assistant, dated May 15, 2006, Re: Real Estate Sign Permit Fees.

REPORTS:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAURO RAGUSEO reported that the Family Fun Day Committee has met several times in the last few months to plan for the annual event. Family Fun Day will take place at Lakeview field on August 26th with a rain date of August 27th. The theme this year will be a Hawaiian Luau. The Fundraising Committee has already surpassed last year’s total of \$16,000. Besides the usual rides, games, free snacks, fireworks and musical entertainment, this year the popular dunk tank will be brought back. The Personnel Committee has met several times since March to interview candidates for the position of Borough Administrator. The position has been vacant since January 1st. The Borough has conducted a State wide search for an excellent candidate. At last week’s meeting the Governing Body interviewed the (5) semi finalists. Two finalists were chosen from that group. Council President Raguseo said the Borough is hoping to pick Little Ferry’s new Borough Administrator in the coming days. A few weeks ago, New Jersey Transit delivered to the Borough a new 16 passenger Senior Citizen mini bus. The Borough applied for and received the bus without any cost. The bus will be used for Senior Citizens programs and functions only. A program is being created to bring seniors to the supermarket, the mall and maybe even visits to the doctor. More information will be available to seniors very soon. Finally, the Borough’s annual Memorial Day ceremony will take place this Saturday, May 27th at 11:00 a.m. outside of Memorial and Washington Schools to honor all those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the Armed Forces. In a special way, this year we will honor Little Ferry’s fallen hero, Sgt. Matthew Fenton, who died on May 5th. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

COUNCILWOMAN ROBERTA HENRIQUEZ gave the Fire Commissioner’s Report. The Mayor and Council have approved a cost of living increase on the Firemen’s LOSAP Program. LOSAP stands for Length of Service Award Program. In order for fire fighters or first aid corp. members to receive this stipend, they must earn points each year to qualify for this service award. Voters of Little Ferry approved this award program approximately five years ago. Councilwoman Henriquez gave the Finance Committee Report. The Borough of Little Ferry is still on a temporary budget. Each year the Borough applies for aid from the State of New Jersey and has been very successful. Once the Borough hears from the State on how much they will or will not receive, the budget will then be finalized. The Finance Committee has reviewed all the bills for this month and find them all in order for processing and payment.

COUNCILMAN GEORGE MULLER reported that he presently serves as the Chairperson of the Insurance Committee. This past year, through the work of the Department Heads, the Borough received an award of excellence at the April meeting of the Bergen Insurance Carrier Awards Breakfast. Of the 27 towns in the group, the Borough of Little Ferry came out number one for the second consecutive year with a 100% rating, which no other town has accomplished. Along with a trophy, the Borough received a monetary award of \$3,000 which was distributed to the various departments for safety equipment. Insurance premiums are one of the Borough’s largest expenditures. This past year the Borough has worked diligently in keeping the premiums low. In today’s market this is no easy task. With the help of the other members of the Committee, the

Borough changed insurance carriers and thus saved the well over \$200,000 in premiums. This savings is a direct impact on the residents tax dollar. Members of all departments continually attend safety training sessions and various seminars to be educated on safety issues. By learning proper safety procedures, the Borough can help Employees from becoming injured. Councilman Muller also reported that he works on the Finance Committee, trying to keep expenses within the Borough's operating budget. He said this is the second year he has been in the position of Police Commissioner. This position is a liaison between the Police Chief and the Mayor and Council. The most important position is that of helping to keep Little Ferry a safe community for all residents to live in.

COUNCILWOMAN PATRICIA NAVARRO reported that she is pleased to announce that the Building Department is back up to full staff with the addition of a temporary code official, a part-time plumbing official and two property maintenance inspectors. The property maintenance inspectors will be handling resident complaints as well as checking the town for violations. Residents may contact the Building Department with any complaints. In celebration of Arbor Day the Borough has received 10 black locust trees from the Meadowlands Commission. These trees are native to our area and have been planted in our parks and public grounds by the Department of Public Works. They replaced dead trees or trees that had been knocked down by several winter storms. During the summer the DPW will be trimming dead branches and pruning the trees in the Borough parks. Councilwoman Navarro thanked the Port Authority for their generous donation of \$2,000 to the First Aid Corps. The donation will allow the First Aid Corps. to host CPR for friends and family training in June. The Port Authority has always been very supportive of our efforts and this donation will make very necessary training possible.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS SARLO gave the following reports:

Redneck Avenue: At the Borough's request, the County of Bergen undertook a series of measures to increase traffic safety along Redneck Avenue after we experienced an increase in motor vehicle accidents last year. After a site inspection, the County's Department of Public Works recommended that the signage along Redneck Avenue be improved. This was accomplished last year. The County also recommended Redneck Avenue be repaved due to the heavy traffic volume. The County has advised that they intend to repave Redneck Avenue in its entirety from Moonachie Avenue to Liberty Street. Repaving should be completed within the next couple of months. The County also intends on repaving Hudson Street and Creek Place from Essex Street to Bergen Turnpike. **Romanko Drive and Jackson Street:** After an inspection of the Borough's Roads, Romanko Drive and Jackson Street have been selected to be repaved as part of the Borough's 2006 Street Repavement Program. At this time, the Finance Committee should take the appropriate steps to secure the funding so that we can begin the bidding process. **Grants: 2007 New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid:** The DPW along with our Borough Engineer, has recommended that funding be requested for improvements to the area of Memorial and Washington Schools. The project would include new curb cuts, sidewalks and other safety features. The application needs to be submitted by June 30, 2006. The Council should prepare the necessary resolution authorizing the submission of the grant application. **2006 Bergen County Municipal Park Improvement Grant:** The application for this grant is due by July 7, 2006. The eligible projects under the program include the acquisition of land for outdoor recreation activities or the development and redevelopment of land to improve outdoor activities. The grant reimburses 50% of the total cost of the project. The Council needs to decide as to whether there is a need to pursue this grant at the present time. **Mehrhof Road Park Project:** Councilman Sarlo reported that he is awaiting a proposal from Boswell Engineering so that his project can be prepared for the bidding process. Boswell Engineering recently completed similar projects

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in other communities. He said he anticipates receiving a proposal prior to the next council meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN SUE SCHUCK gave the Recreation Report. On May 4th, she, along with her fellow Council Members, attended the awards dinner for the Little Ferry Blazers Roller Hockey Program. The annual fishing derby for this year has been canceled due to the unavailability to receive any more stockings of the lake to accommodate the intended dates. The Recreation Department is planning a bigger and better program next year where the children will be educated on the fish and will actually be able to place the fish in the lake before the onset of the fishing derby next spring. The summer recreation sign-ups were held on May 18th. There was a great turnout. Applications will be taken up until June 9th at Borough Hall. This program is open to all Little Ferry children from 1st through 8th grades. Councilwoman Schuck congratulated the ladies at Borough Hall who completed their CERT program.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY JOSEPH MONAGHAN reported that there were currently three lawsuits involving the Borough. One lawsuit deals with Mount Laurel issues and is in the discovery phase of litigation. In that case, the plaintiff served deposition notices for the depositions of a number of witnesses and members of the Governing Body. Attorney Monaghan filed a motion to quash the deposition notices and received a letter on Tuesday of this week advising him that the plaintiff has withdrawn the requests for depositions. Therefore, the Mayor and Council will not have to appear for the depositions. A second case deals with the certificate of Continuing Occupancy Ordinance we recently enacted. He anticipated that the case will be dismissed this coming week. A third case deals with the Losen Slote Pump Station. That case has a settlement conference scheduled in the near future. He said he would advise when he had more information. He said with the great help of the Borough Engineer, the Borough is up to date regarding the new federal stormwater regulations. He said he anticipated the closing on the Mehrhof Road property in the immediate future. A contract for the purchase has been signed.

BOROUGH CLERK BARBARA MALDONADO reported that the Borough Clerk's Office is presently receiving renewal applications for liquor licenses in the Borough for the 2006-2007 license term. Fees charged for the renewal of a liquor license were again increased bringing additional revenues to the Borough. If each license holder is in good standing and provides the necessary paperwork, all licenses shall be renewed by resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at the June 13, 2006 meeting. There are presently five Pocket Licenses, licenses which have been issued but are inactive. A total of twenty wreaths have been ordered to be placed at various locations throughout the Borough in observance of Memorial Day. The Borough Clerk's Office was open late on Tuesday, May 16th until 9:00 p.m. for any resident wishing to register to vote in the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, June 6th. The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Borough Clerk's Office will again be open late on Tuesday, October 17th until 9:00 p.m. for any resident wishing to vote in the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 7th. Bids will be received for a 2006 Ford van ambulance on June 16, 2006 at 11:00 a.m in the Council Chambers.

POLICE CHIEF RALPH VERDI gave the police report for the month of April. The Little Ferry Police Department answered 2,014 calls. The department assisted at 70 first aid calls and 7 fire calls. A total of 40 accident reports were taken on the street. The department issued a total of 430 summons. There were 214 parking summons, 289 moving summons, 7 radar summons and 20 other summons were issued. The Department responded to a total of 7 domestic violence calls. A total of 55 (9-1-1) calls were answered by the department. A total of 53 calls for service were received for Teterboro. A total of 8 adults were

arrested by the department. A total of 2 juveniles were arrested by the department.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT WILIAM HOLLEY reported that during the last month all of the Borough's parks and public grounds were given a spring cleanup. All of our landscaping equipment has been serviced and the DPW has begun the grass cutting season. The Borough's streets are being swept at least two times a month and the removal of several hundred tons of debris has begun. The overall mild winter weather has allowed the DPW to get a head start on our yearly catch basin cleaning and this task will be completed in the early summer. The DPW is currently working on several projects that will repair and improve the drainage system. One pickup truck and one mason dump truck has been ordered and should be delivered to the DPW some time in July. Both trucks will be four wheel drives and outfitted with snow plows. These trucks will replace DPW#1 and DPW#12 which are each over nine years old. New mulch and flowers were planted at Borough Hall, The Firemen's Monument and Senior Citizens Building. In addition, the Borough Hall and the DPW garage each received a new roof this month. Frederick Street will also be paved this month.

BOROUGH ENGINEER KENNETH JOB was not present but gave a status report for the following projects: State Aid Improvement of Mehrhof Road: The office is currently in the process of preparing the plans and specifications for the project with construction anticipated for late summer of this year. He said his office will be meeting with representatives of the New Jersey Department of Transportation at their offices in Newark to discuss specific design issues with this project. State Aid Improvement of Frederick Street: With the execution of the project's contracts by both the contractor and the Governing Body, his office has authorized the project's contractor that he is now authorized to proceed with construction. Although construction was originally scheduled to begin the week of May 8th due to "mobilization" issues, the project's contractor indicated that they would "push" the construction start date to the week of May 19, 2006. Department of Public Works Garage Re-Roofing: An onsite pre-construction meeting for the project was held on Monday, May 8, 2006 at which time the specifics of the project's construction were discussed in detail. Based on comments made at the meeting, they were able to finalize a construction schedule for the re-roofing project, pending of course weather conditions. Depeyster Creek Stormwater Pump Station: With Construction on the project complete and the facility in full operation, his office has prepared and forwarded to the Borough, the project's final payment certificate to release the remaining retainage currently being held by the Borough. State Aid Improvement of Pickens Street: After the Borough has put in place the funding ordinance for the project; his office will begin preparation of the construction plans and specifications.

MAYOR THOMAS QUIRICO said he would first like to congratulate all the newly elected officials and thank them for their participation in this program. He thanked Superintendent Scarafile, Prinicpal Brennan and Mr. Harry Lagerman for all their hard work. He said he would also like to thank all the parents of the students that have participated in this program. He said that without their support, understanding and encouragement we could not accomplished what was accomplished and would be looking at a bleak future. He said there is a lot that goes into running a municipality, but tonight I just want to point out something special. A municipality is only as good as its residents want it to be. The residents set the tone and dictate what is and is not important. The elected officials merely react to the residents wishes. He said the officials are the tools of the community and work towards goals that they feel the people want. He said he was very proud two weeks ago when the Borough turned out for the funeral of Sgt. Matthew Fenton. The officials can only do so much towards an event of that

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nature. It was the outpouring of support by the entire community, businesses, students and residents that sent the real message. He said that a community working together can accomplish anything. Mayor Quirico wished all the participants good luck in the future and thanked everyone for being here tonight .

CITIZENS HEARING:

Mayor Quirico entertained a motion to open Citizens Hearing.

Motion by: C/W Navarro

Second by: C/M Muller

All ayes

Kathy Brennan, Principal of Memorial School, came forward to speak. On behalf of the Board of Education, she thanked the Mayor and Council for tonight’s “Mayor For A Day” Program. She thanked Mr. Harry Lagerman, the advisor for this program. Mr. Lagreman has spent many years working on this program. She said he would be sorely missed. She also thanked all the students for the wonderful job they are doing.

Wendy Johnson, 17 Indian Lake Drive., came forward to speak. She wanted to know when the gas stations between Grand Street and Route 46 will fix the broken pavement sidewalk.

Ms. Johnson was told this problem would be brought to the attention of property maintenance.

Since no one else wished to speak, Mayor Quirico entertained a motion to close Citizens Hearing:

Motion by: C/W Navarro

Second by: C/M Muller

All ayes

Mayor Quirico entertained a motion to vote on Resolutions 183 – 190.

Motion by: C/M Raguseo

Second by: C/W Schuck

Roll Call: Ayes: Henriquez, Muller, Navarro, Raguseo, Sarlo, Schuck

Nays: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS:

183. “Declaring Mayor For a Day” Program a Legal Meeting

184. Authorizing Redemption of Certificate No. 99-4 Robert Rothman

185. Supporting A-895 and S-972 – Authorizes Assessment of Impact Fees

186. Authorizing the Execution of a Contract between the Borough of Little Ferry and Johnny Zeppoli Concessions, Inc.

187. Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Agreement between the Borough of Little Ferry and Garden State Fireworks, Inc.

188. Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Agreement between the Borough Of Little Ferry and Zientek International Inc., d/b/a New Jersey Partyworks and Sammy’s Amusements

189. Claims List

190. Release of Escrow – Thomas O’Rourke D/B/A TWM Enterprises

Meeting was turned back over to the Mayor and Council.

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Mayor Quirico presented Mayor Karissa Rivera with the nameplate which adds her name to the previous Mayors in this program since 1982.

Council President Mauro Raguseo presented plaques from the Mayor and Council to participants in the “Mayor For a Day” Program.

Council President Mauro Raguseo gave a presentation to Harry M. Lagerman.

Mr. Lagerman thanked everyone who has worked on this program over the years.

Mayor Quirico ended by congratulating all the newly elected officials and thanking them for their participation in the program. He also thanked Superintendent Scarafile, Principal Kathy Brennan and Mr. Lagerman. Mayor Quirico thanked all the parents of the students.

Mayor Quirico entertained a motion to go into Private Session.

Motion by: C/M Muller

Second by: C/W Henriquez

All ayes

PRIVATE SESSION:

Return from Private Session:

Roll Call: Present: Henriquez, Muller, Navarro, Raguseo, Sarlo, Schuck

Absent: None

Mayor Quirico entertained a motion to add two Resolutions on tonight’s agenda.

Motion by: C/M Muller

Second by: C/W Navarro

All ayes

Mayor Quirico entertained a motion to vote on Resolutions 191 and 192.

Motion by: C/W Navarro

Second by: C/M Muller

Roll Call: Ayes: Henriquez, Muller, Navarro, Raguseo, Sarlo, Schuck

Nays: None

Absent: None

Attorney Monaghan said the record should reflect that Resolution No. 192 is contingent upon Councilwoman Henriquez checking and making sure the money is in place.

RESOLUTIONS:

191. Executive Closed Session

192. Authorizing Agreement with Cedar Contracting Co. for Streetscape Improvements for Various Parks Improvements Project

Since there was no other business to be conducted, Mayor Quirico entertained a motion to adjourn:

Motion by: C/M Muller

Second by: C/W Henriquez

All ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia Lazzaro and respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Barbara Maldonado. I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true account of the “Mayor For a Day” Program held May 23, 2006.

 Barbara Maldonado, Borough Clerk

