

OFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF LITTLE FERRY
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 12, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Raguseo called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council President Raguseo led the Pledge of Allegiance

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

Absent: Mayor Thomas Quirico

SUNSHINE STATEMENT:

Adequate notice of this meeting was approved by resolution adopted by the Governing Body on January 5, 2007, and published in The Record and Star Ledger in January, 2007, as provided by the Open Public Meeting's Act. A copy of meeting notice has been posted on the bulletin board outside of the Clerk's Office.

NEW BUSINESS: - Sign Ordinance – Planning Board's Recommendations

- Proposed Skateboard Ordinance – Borough Attorney will research whether Board of Education property can be included in the Borough's Skateboard Ordinance

REPORTS:

COUNCILWOMAN HENRIQUEZ reported that all bills have been reviewed by the Finance Committee and are ready for payment. She said there has been no word regarding any State Aid yet, therefore, the budget is still in temporary mode. The Finance Committee met and reviewed all capital ordinances, which will help the taxpayers. She reported progress in the Fire Department.

COUNCILWOMAN SCHUCK reported that the Summer Recreation Program will begin on July 9th and will last for six weeks. Enrollment will be closed by July 1st. She reported that the team which won the Hockey Championship will be honored at their hockey dinner. The team members and coaches will be receiving championship jackets the night of the dinner. Councilwoman Schuck said the search for a Summer Recreation Director is still on, but a decision should be made very shortly.

COUNCILWOMAN NAVARRO reported that the Building Department conducted 61 inspection in the month of May. Thirty six of the issues were resolved and 25 of the issues are still being addressed. Eight summonses were issued in May. Councilwoman Navarro advised the public that when complaint letters are sent to the Borough they are read and the property inspector is informed. She also explained that the Property Maintenance Department needs the help of the residents to make the town aware of any problems. She reported that there were no complaints in the month of April regarding Teterboro Airport. She said she has not received any number for the month of May. Councilwoman Navarro said she did not know whether people are just not calling or the airport noise has decreased. She said she is concerned if the residents have stopped calling to complain because if the airport is not told that the residents are unhappy, they will publish the fact that there were no complaints in their next report.

COUNCILMAN SARLO reported that he attended the Hackensack Meadowlands Municipal Commission last week. He said there are a few items that would affect the Borough. One issue is that the Borough is signed up to explore their solar panel initiative. They are suggesting that there would be significant savings if any of the Borough's buildings were converted to solar energy. He also mentioned that the Board of Public Utilities is introducing a project for school districts to do an energy audit free of charge. He said he will obtain the information and pass it along to the school. The Meadowlands Commission is looking into providing a \$50,000 grant to all municipalities who would address any greenhouse gas emissions issues they might have. Councilman Sarlo reported that there was a meeting for the Meadowlands District Transportation Plan. He said it is a Planning Board made up of the Meadowlands Commission to address transportation issues that may arise in the future and correct them. He said he also met with the Meadowlands Commission regarding the Mehrhof Road Project. They have increased their commitment from \$375,000 to \$500,000.

Councilwoman Henriquez said that a meeting should be held with the residents from the area around the park before any work is done. Councilman Sarlo said any residents can take a look at the plans at Borough Hall, but he has no problem having a meeting with the residents.

COUNCILMAN MULLER complimented Councilwoman Navarro, Property Maintenance Inspector Eric Gerber and Construction Code Official Richard Boland on the outstanding job they are doing on property maintenance around the Borough. He said a Municipal Safety Committee will be held this week with all department heads. Councilman Muller gave his Police Department Report for the month of May. He said a total of 2,100 calls were responded to in May. The Police Department assisted in 57 first aid calls and 16 fire calls. The department responded to 72 accidents. The department issued a total of 455 summonses. The department responded to a total of 6 domestic violence calls. A total of (22) 9-1-1- calls were answered. A total of 83 calls for service to Teterboro were answered. The Police Department has initiated a FIT Squad which is a Field Investigation Team that will clear up any outstanding warrants in the Borough.

KEN JOB, BOROUGH ENGINEER reported that the bids for Washington Ave. Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation were rejected and will be rebid on June 29th. He said he has been having a problem getting utility comments on the resurfacing plans. He said he will receive bids on June 29th for this also. Mr. Job said he met with the design engineers for the Route 46 project. These plans are in the final design stages. He said construction should begin in 2009.

COUNCILMAN RAGUSEO reported that the Family Fun Day planning process is almost complete. He said donations have surpassed last year's donations.

CITIZENS HEARING:

Council President Raguseo entertained a motion to Open Citizens Hearing:

Motion by: C/W Henriquez

Second by: C/W Schuck

All ayes

Louis DeMera, 73 Grove Street came forward to speak. He wanted to know the status of his complaint. Ken Gabbert, Administrator informed Mr. DeMera that the Construction Code Official and Property Maintenance Inspector have sent two official summons to the property owner who his complaint is about. Mr. Gabbert said the issue is now in the hands of the Court and will go before the Judge. Mr. Gabbert informed Mr. DeMera that the Mosquito Commission is monitoring the mosquito problem. Councilwoman Navarro informed Mr. DeMera that he is welcome to look at the file at Borough Hall but the matter is now in the hands of the Court and he can go to the hearing if he wants to.

Matthew Lozzian, 15 Marshall Ave., came forward to speak. He agreed with Mr. Demera about the smell and how bad it is coming from the house which Mr. DeMera is complaining about.

Eileen DeLeeuw, 11 Chapman Drive, came forward to speak. She wanted to know about the status of signs at park areas prohibiting the riding of motorized vehicles. Chief Verdi told Ms. DeLeeuw that the Police Department would be happy to have help with this issue. He told Ms. DeLeeuw that when she sees the motorized vehicles to call the Police Department and they will immediately send someone. Mr. Gabbert said that although signs were discussed at the last meeting, after an evaluation with the Police Department and the Superintendent of DPW, it was decided that the most effective way to resolve this type of problem is to call the police right away when these vehicles are heard or seen so they can be tracked down right away. Ms. DeLeeuw said she is still concerned about high risers being built at the Waterfront. Council President Raguseo informed Ms. DeLeeuw that these very same concerns were discussed at last month's meeting. The entire Governing Body stated that they wanted to stay away from high rises and wanted greenery and an aestically pleasing area with a marina. Council President Raguseo said even that being stated, it must be noted that these are private properties and with mixed uses, developers will come and give their opinions. He said there will be many public meetings with the public after the planner prepares her report. The public will be able to share their view and concerns. He said the planner took the Governing Body's ideas, hopes and fears and will then write her report. The planner will meet with the Planning Board even before the plan is drafted. Attorney Monaghan informed Ms. DeLeeuw that the public will be well advised of the plans. He said the public should come to the meetings and present their ideas.

Bernie Sobolewski, 153 Eckel Road, came forward to speak. He said the problem with motorized vehicles is not only in Little Ferry. He said an article should be placed in the Little Ferry Express newspaper and the Bergen Record Local Edition stating that this ordinance will be strictly enforced. He said once the signs are up the offense is inexcusable. Mr. Sobolewski said a lot of people have also asked him about the plans for the ballpark on Mehrhof Road. He said everyone in the vicinity should be informed of any public meeting pertaining to this project. He said he would help in trying to get as many residents as possible to attend. Mr. Sobolewski quoted newspaper articles regarding the Mehrhof Road Project. He also spoke about bonding in regards to this project. He said he is concerned with the final cost to the Borough regarding this project. Councilman Sarlo advised Mr. Sobolewski that he was confusing two projects. The first project was to demolish the house on Mehrhof Road to obtain concessions and restroom facilities for the children who play roller hockey at the existing facilities. A community development grant was given to build restroom facilities. He said there is now a commitment from the Meadowlands Commission in the amount of \$500,000. If this money is not used, the money will be pulled away from Little Ferry and given to another town. Mr. Kaiser from the BCUA has committed to

\$150,000. The Borough now has \$650,000. A grant in the amount of \$85,000 from Community Development has also been secured. The Borough is in the process of preparing a grant application to receive funding for the purchase of the house on Mehrhof Road. Councilman Sarlo explained to Mr. Sobolewski that there is approximately, \$800,000 in grant money for fields. One of the fields is for handicapped children. He said the Borough may be bonding, because the grants that will be received are grants which require the work to be done first, then the money will be available to pay back the cost of the project. Councilman Sarlo stated this is a state of the art project which will greatly improve that area of town. The project needs to begin before the money is lost. Mr. Sobolewski voiced his opinions on parking near Mehrhof Road Park.

Mary Carol Pizza, 53 Niehaus Ave, came forward to speak. She wanted to know if the Borough could pass an ordinance prohibiting compost. Attorney Monaghan said he would research this issue.

George Stauble, 9 Chapman Drive, came forward to speak. He thanked Chief Verdi for a video he showed pertaining to dikes at Losen Slote. He also thanked the DPW for the maintenance of the property behind the houses on Chapman Drive. He said the Hackensack Riverkeeper wants to do a cleanup of the Losen Slote Creek. He wanted to know if this had to be brought before the Mayor and Council for permission. Mr. Job said the only thing allowed to be removed is debris. The Mayor and Council would be in full support of this cleanup. Mr. Stauble also suggested the use of signs prohibiting motorized vehicles and advertising them in the newspaper.

Regina Coyle, 69 Grove Street, came forward to speak. She said she feels she has been harassed regarding her property. She said not once has the person who has come to complain about her property ever spoken to her directly about his problems. She said she does have a busy front yard. She said she wished this problem had not come to such public attention. She said she has never complained about the many violations which have taken place near her house. She said she feels badly that this problem could not have been solved in a more civil way. She also stated that she was sorry that this problem was mentioned at the "Mayor For A Day" Program because that was not the time or place for it.

Since no one else wished to speak, Council President Raguseo entertained a Motion to Close Citizens Hearing:

Motion by: C/M Muller

Second by: C/W Navarro

All ayes

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Council President Raguseo entertained a motion to vote on Resolutions 144 Through 148, 150 through 170 through 172 and Ordinances for Introduction Nos. 1229-10-07, 1232-13-07 and 1233-14-07.

Motion by: C/W Henriquez

Second by: C/W Schuck

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

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Quirico

RESOLUTIONS:

144. Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Agreement between the Borough of Little Ferry and Garden State Fireworks
145. Refund of Tax Overpayment - Dennis & Kathleen Provost
146. Refund of Tax Overpayment – LSI Tax Service
147. Approval of Change Order No. 1 – Building Demolition – 143 Mehrhof Road
148. Authorizing the Execution of a Municipal Snow Plowing Agreement With the County of Bergen
149. Authorizing Borough Engineer to Prepare the Necessary Documents for NJDOT 2008 State Aid Applications (Resolution was removed)
150. Proposed Settlement – Tax Appeal – Williamstowne Manor, Inc.
151. Proposed Settlement – Tax Appeal – Liberty Bell Village, LLC
152. Refund of Building Permit – All American Siding & Window Designers
153. Release of Escrow – Mr. & Mrs. Lee
154. Appointment of Additional Temporary Summer D.P.W. Employee
155. Temporary Capital Budget Resolution
156. Emergency Temporary Appropriation – Capital Improvement Fund
157. Acceptance of Resignation – Joseph Wisneski – Full-Time Civilian Police Dispatcher
158. Joseph Wisneski 100% Disability Veteran Deduction
159. Amendment to Little Ferry Personnel Policy
160. Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Agreement between the Borough of Little Ferry and Fun Time Entertainment
161. Authorizing Issuance of Entertainment Licenses
162. Proposed Settlement – Tax Appeal - Daniel DeRose, Jr.
163. Claims Resolution
164. Rejecting Bids for Washington Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation
165. Cancelling Balances of Completed General Capital Improvement Authorizations
166. Appointment of Council Representative and Alternate to Community Development – July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008
167. Appointment – “Active Member” – Little Ferry Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 – Tobin M. Reinert
168. Appointment – “Reserve Member” – Little Ferry Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 – Robert Aitken, Jr.
169. Approving Renewal of Liquor Licenses – July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008
170. Proposed Settlement – Tax Appeal – Wachovia Bank, N.A.
172. Approving 2007 Summer Recreation Counselors & Salaries And authorizing Recreation Liaison & Administrator to hire Summer Recreation Director

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 1229-10-07 – AN ORDINANCE ADDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED ‘RETIREMENT’ OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF LITTLE FERRY, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

ORDINANCE NO. 1232-13-07 – BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO MEHRHOF PARK IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF LITTLE FERRY, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,140,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO APPROPRIATE GRANTS, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF ONE MILLION FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$1,005,250) IN BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

ORDINANCE NO. 1233-14-07 – AMENDING 2007 SALARY ORDINANCE FOR SUMMER RECREATION COUNSELLORS

PRIVATE SESSION:

171. Executive Session Resolution

Council President Raguseo entertained a motion to go into Private Session

Motion by: C/W Henriquez

Second by: C/W Schuck

All ayes

Return from Private Session:

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

Absent: Mayor Quirico

Since there was no other business to be discussed, Council President Raguseo entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion by: C/W Navarro

Second by: C/W Schuck

All ayes

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Minutes transcribed by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia Lazzaro and respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Barbara Maldonado. I hereby certify the foregoing minutes to be a true account of the Regular Mayor and Council Meeting held on June 12, 2007.

Barbara Maldonado, Borough Clerk