

MINUTES
Council Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2009

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council Vice President Bromberg called the meeting to order at 8:01pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 406 Rivervale Road, River Vale, New Jersey 07675.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Council Vice President Bromberg asked all in attendance to rise and join him in a Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

Council Vice President Bromberg read the Sunshine Statement into the record, as follows:

“In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the Municipal Office.”

ROLL CALL

Councilman de Stefan, Councilwoman Sieg and Council Vice President Bromberg were present. Council President Jasionowski and Councilman Matos were absent.

Also present: Mayor Joseph Blundo, Robert Gallione, Business Administrator, Holly Schepisi, Township Attorney, Gennaro Rotella, CFO, Dominic Carrino, Township Engineer, and Karen Padva, Township Clerk.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor's Comments

The Mayor reported on the success of the National Night Out event. The Mayor thanked resident John Greco for his generous donation of the spectacular fireworks display and Joyce May for organizing the event. The Mayor also reported that River Vale's 7th & 8th grade baseball team won their state and advanced to the Little League Series in Michigan. Even though they didn't win we are very proud of how far this team advanced. Mayor Blundo also reported that the Giordano Park reopened and looks great.

Mayor Blundo commented that Christopher Righetti is up for parole this Wednesday; and strongly supports the resolution on the agenda denying his parole. The Mayor also reported that he would like to keep the pressure on regarding the High School District and Woodcliff Lake is going to referendum regarding this issue. Even though Woodcliff Lake chance of success is low; the Mayor wants to spare no effort to keep the district from unraveling.

The Mayor gave an update on the Poplar Road purchase of I6A. The Town has worked hard to preserve I6A and a builder would develop I6B and I7C for low income and single family homes. Recently, an environmental group may be saving all three (3) parcels. The Mayor continued that if this occurs the result would be a loss of ratables and possibly COAH units that were proposed for these properties. He added that it is not realistic to save every piece of open space at the expense of the taxpayers.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan commented that River Vale has a great environmental record as demonstrated by the previous Mayors and administrations. These issues require a balance and the Township cannot buy everything and maintain a decent tax base. Councilman de Stefan

concluded his comments by offering his support of the Mayor with regard to the fight against dismantling the high school district.

Councilwoman Sieg offered her support of the resolution denying the upcoming parole of Christopher Righetti and her thoughts and prayers are with Kim’s family. Councilwoman Sieg reported on how proud she is of the newly completed Giordano Playground. She added that there will be new landscaping and a new entry planned for the park. Councilwoman Sieg gave an update on the EMS Park and that they are presently accepting donations and to please get in touch with Bob Gallione. She concluded by offering her full support of the Mayor with regard to the high school.

Council Vice President Bromberg also thanked John Greco for his generous donation of a spectacular fireworks display at the National Night Out event. He also thanked the CERT team members for their help assisting the River Vale Police Department with traffic and crowd control during the Nights Out event. Council Vice President Bromberg stated that the CERT members are a great group of volunteers and anyone interested in joining should contact Det. Sgt. Sean Schiedle.

Council Vice President his offered his support of the resolution denying parole to Christopher Righetti. He stated that his crime was heinous; he poses a threat to all citizens and should remain in jail for the rest of his life.

Councilman Bromberg continued by stating his support of the Mayor and his efforts with the high school. He concurred with Councilman de Stefan’s comments regarding the Poplar Road and that there needs to be balance. A lot of planning by prior administrations has been done with regard to these parcels of land. This administration is trying to bring this to plan to fruition for the betterment of our residents. He continued that however important the environmental issues are he is opposed to this one group disrupting the balance that would effect our COAH obligation, development and tax ratables. Council Vice President Bromberg feels we should do whatever it takes to counter this group.

Business Administrator’s Report

The Business Administrator reported that EMS Park has received a donation of a tree and flagpole. He also reported that April 1st 2010 the Census starts and he thanked the CERT team for their help with the National Night Out event. He also reported that the Oktoberfest is being moved from Mark Lane to the Upper Grove and that Safety Town is being held at the Community Center. Mr. Gallione continued that the renewal of the Cablevision franchise will be on the agenda soon and he concluded with a brief update on the status of the fall newsletter.

Township Engineer’s Report

Mr. Carrino reported that the Holdrum field installation is complete; the contractor is adjusting the sprinkler heads and the first three (3) cuts of grass will be done by the contractor by September 1st. He continued that the slope survey is complete and will look into whether to road collapsing can be incorporated into this project. Mr. Carrino concluded with updates on the Bernita Drive headwall replace and the withdrawal of the salt shed application.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilwoman Sieg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to open the meeting to the public.

Council Vice President Bromberg read the following statement into the record.

“Each person wishing to address the Council shall step up to the microphone, shall give his or her name in an audible tone for the record. All member of the public are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner. Any derogatory, abusive or threatening statements will not be permitted. The Chair will immediately rule such conduct out of order and terminate any further comments.”

Joe Massin 68 Holiday Court – commented of the high school issue and school funding. This is a state wide legislative problem and the funding formula is antiquated. Mr. Massin also had comments regarding Zoning, wind turbines and other technological changes.

There being no further questions or comments from the public; motion by Councilwoman Sieg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to close the meeting to the public.

The Council briefly discussed the International Property Maintenance Code. Councilman Bromberg wants to get this ordinance done and requested guidance from Holly Schepisi. There was further discussion as to removing section and obtaining sample ordinances from other towns to help create our own.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolutions #2009-185 to Resolution 2009-188 on Consent Agenda, as follows:

Resolution #2009-185

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the July 13, 2009 Council meeting are hereby approved.

Resolution #2009-186

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENFORCEMENT OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE – 608 NEW STREET

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of River Vale that the DPW Superintendent is hereby authorized to obtain estimates to remove trash and overgrowth from 608 New Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the completion of the work the costs be forwarded to the tax collector in order that a lien for said work can be attached to the property.

Resolution #2009-187

DENY PAROLE FOR CHRISTOPHER RIGHETTI AND ADHERE TO THE LIFE SENTENCING HE RECEIVED

WHEREAS, on August 31, 1976, Kim Montelaro, a resident of New Milford, Bergen County, then 20 years old, was forcibly abducted, brutally, assaulted and murdered by repeat offender, Christopher Righetti; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Righetti, Prisoner #59431, is currently incarcerated for the killing of Kim Montelaro; and

WHEREAS, Kim Montelaro’s parents, Anthony and Alice Montelaro have worked tirelessly for 33 years to persuade the New Jersey Parole Board to keep Christopher Righetti behind bars; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Righetti has gone before the parole Board of Northern State Prison many times already. His release was denied each time, as the parole board found that Christopher Righetti was unwilling to take responsibility for abducting, assaulting and murdering Kim Montelaro; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Righetti has never shown any remorse for his crime and has made no substantial progress in addressing the issues that led him to murder Kim Montelaro and has demonstrated a substantial risk for recidivism; and

WHEREAS, Kim’s family should not be made to relive this horrible crime every few years when there is a parole hearing. They are forced to travel long distances from their current residence in Florida each time there is a parole hearing for their daughter’s killer. They continue to suffer unnecessarily on Christopher Righetti’s account; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the efforts of Anthony and Alice Montelaro, the Township of River Vale hereby supports the position that Christopher Righetti should not be granted parole and should serve out the full remainder of his life sentence. The abduction, rape and murder of an innocent young woman is a serious crime that demands justice; and the family of Kim Montelaro should be given the peace of mind of knowing that their daughter's murderer will remain behind bars for the rest of his life, as ordered by the court.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale hereby abide by the conclusion that Christopher Righetti be denied parole and be made to serve out his life sentence, otherwise this creates a grave injustice to the family of Kim Montelaro as well as to society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the New Jersey Assembly, All Bergen County municipalities, the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association, the New Jersey PBA, the New Jersey Senate, the Office of the Bergen County Prosecutor, and to Chairman Peter J. Barnes Jr. of the New Jersey State Parole Board.

Resolution #2009-188

RESOLUTION APPROVING MUNICIPAL ENDORSEMENT OF 2010 CD APPLICATION

WHEREAS, a Bergen County Community Development Grant of \$40,000.00 has been proposed by Spectrum for Living Group Homes, Inc. for Spectrum's Support Services Program in the municipality of River Vale; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development Funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Mayor and Council;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of River Vale; and

WHEREAS, the resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite expenditure of the aforesaid CD funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of River Vale hereby confirm endorsement of the aforesaid project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Bergen County Community Development Program so that implementation of the aforesaid project be expedited.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilwoman Sieg and Council Vice President Bromberg, voted yes. Council President Jasionowski and Councilman Matos were absent.

ORDINANCES 1st Reading

Ordinance #218-2009

Motion to Introduce: Councilman de Stefan

Seconded: Councilwoman Sieg

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 81 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey that Chapter 81 "Vehicles and Traffic," Article I, Section 81-1 and Article XII, Section 81-35 of the Code of the Township of River Vale are hereby amended as follows:

Delete the following two sections:

81-25 Two Hour Parking.

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Westwood Avenue	North	From a point 200 feet east of the intersection of the north curblineline of Westwood Avenue and the east curblineline of Rivervale Road in an easterly direction to a point 585 feet east of the intersection of the north curblineline of Westwood Avenue and the east curblineline of Rivervale Road.

81-1 Prohibited Parking.

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Westwood Avenue	North	From the intersection with Rivervale Road in an easterly direction to a point 320 feet east thereof.

Approve New Ordinance as follows:

81-1 Prohibited Parking.

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Westwood Avenue	North	From the intersection with Rivervale Road in an easterly direction to a point 575 feet east of the intersection with Rivervale Road

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilwoman Sieg and Council Vice President Bromberg, voted yes. Council President Jasionowski and Councilman Matos were absent.

ORDINANCES 2nd Reading

There were no ordinances for 2nd reading this evening.

Mayor Blundo requested that the following resolution be placed on the agenda. He explained that this resolution was being approved in Westwood and other towns. It was a request to put a non-binding question on the November General Election ballot that would support the reopening of Pascack Valley Hospital. The Mayor added that this will demonstrate overwhelming support to Trenton.

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2009-189, as follows:

Resolution #2009-188

RESOLUTION APPROVING PLACING A NON-BINDING QUESTION ON THE NOVEMBER 3RD GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 19:37-1 empowers the governing body of any municipality which desires to ascertain the sentiment of the legal voters of the municipality upon a question of policy pertaining to the government or internal affairs thereof to place a question on the ballot for a non-binding referendum on the subject; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale seek to ascertain the sentiment of the legal voters of the township of River Vale on the matter set forth below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Township of River Vale shall forthwith transmit this question to the County Clerk to be placed on the official ballot in the next ensuing general election:

Question: Shall the Township of River Vale continue to expend resources through the attendance and participation at public hearings or other proceedings by municipal officials in support of the application by Hackensack University Medical Center North at Pascack Valley to the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services for approval of the “Certificate of Need”? Such attendance and participation shall be made in effort to support the re-opening of 128-bed, full-service hospital on the site of the former Pascack Valley Hospital in Westwood.

Explanatory Statement: The Governing Body seeks to ascertain the voters’ sentiment regarding the municipal involvement and efforts to support the re-opening of a full service community hospital on the site of the former Pascack Valley Hospital.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilwoman Sieg and Council Vice President Bromberg, voted yes. Council President Jasionowski and Councilman Matos were absent.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to open the meeting to the public.

There being no questions or comments from the public; motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to close the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Council Vice President
Mark Bromberg

ATTEST:
Karen Padva
Township Clerk