

MINUTES
Council Sine Die Meeting
Friday, January 1, 2010

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Jasionowski called the meeting to order at 12:00PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 406 Rivervale Road, River Vale, New Jersey 07675.

SALUTE TO FLAG

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

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

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

Also present: Mayor Joseph Blundo, Robert J. Gallione, Jr., Business Administrator, Gennaro Rotella, Holly Schepisi, Township Attorney and Karen Padva, Township Clerk.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Blundo wished everyone a happy New Year. The Mayor congratulated both the new chief and new officers of the River Vale Fire Department. On behalf of all the residents of River Vale the mayor expressed his thanks for all they do to keep our town safe.

The Mayor also acknowledged all the newly appointed and returning individuals to the various boards. These people are the silent backbone of our community; many of these people are unpaid. The Mayor added that these individuals whether serving on the Library Board, Zoning Board or Planning Board or any other volunteer role; and give countless hours of their time trying to protect the character of the town.

Mayor Blundo recognized the town's new Athletic Directors; Kathy Blazina and Paul Criscuolo. He wished them well in their new and very important position. The Mayor noted that they both fit the timeless cliché of the 80/20 rule and that 80% of the work in a community is done by 20% of the people. The Mayor continued that both Kathy and Paul are volunteers in many other areas as well as being members of the Board of Education.

The Mayor also noted that in 2009 there was the closure of two (2) very important and long standing issues. The first being the purchase of the Kirk Property on Cedar Lane which will allow River Vale to complete our low income housing commitment. The Mayor noted that we will closely monitor the events Trenton to ensure we only build what we are required as our new Governor sets his agenda.

The Mayor continued that after decades of negotiations the town has purchased with County and State grants a tract of land on Poplar Road. This will forever preserve another 5 acres of open space along a very sensitive corridor. The Mayor reported the history of this effort which spanned four (4) administrations to understand the peril this area was once under. Overall 50% of the acreage was saved and the number of units to be built was reduced from about 400 to 120.

Mayor Blundo continued that also in 2009 the Holdrum Field was renovated which creates more opportunity for our youth athletics. This was accomplished while still maintaining and improving the core services in all aspects of government including our Public Works under Rich Campanelli.

He also noted that 2009 was our first full year with our new Chief of Police. Mike McCann is an outstanding addition in his new roll. He has not only maintained but improved on the legacy of a great department. The Mayor noted that his efforts have not gone unnoticed outside our borders. Mike was invited to attend an elite training program provided by the FBI at their Quantico campus. This is a great honor to both Mike and the entire Police Department; because no leader is better than those in his charge.

The Mayor mentioned that while we can not take credit for this he wanted to make special mention of the Library renovations. He noted an article in *The Record* describing the project all of which is being done without taxpayer monies. The Mayor thanked the Library Board and Director, Ann McCarthy for doing a great job.

The Mayor continued that as he enters his last term as Mayor he noted the greatest accomplishment of all was that River Vale has been re-established as a quiet town. While encouraging debate as seen with discussion on COAH and the more recent Property Maintenance Code; all this was done in a professional respectful manner. The Mayor continued that the needless personal attacks and lawsuits have subsided. And each person does their part respectful of others. The Mayor thanked the Council for all their hard work. He described Council President Jasionowski as his partner; and that hardly a decision goes by without consulting each other.

He added that achieving these goals would not have been possible without the tribunal; the three people that day in and day out run our government. The Mayor thanked Karen, Bob and Gennaro for all that they do.

Mayor Blundo stated that the goal of 2010 is restraint. We continue to face tough times economically; and we know the financial trouble our State is in. The Mayor expects a bigger cut of state aide that we once received. He added that the State will probably cut what aide is left. The Mayor plans to scale back capital projects and be prepared for another tough year financially.

The Mayor stated that even though there have been setbacks in the fight to reopen Pascack Valley Hospital; he vowed to continue fighting this battle with our sister towns. Mayor Blundo also reaffirmed his commitment to continue to take every action to maintain the Pascack Valley High School region.

The Mayor concluded his comments with a special reminder from his son; to please encourage everyone to continue to recycle to help keep our environment healthy.

Thank you, happy and healthy New Year and God Bless.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan agreed with the Mayor words and thanked both the Mayor and Glen for their leadership. He stated that River Vale has the very unique situation where Republicans and Democrats work together and support each other for the benefit of the town. The problems in the State are far too severe and complex to have the nonsense of partisan politics. He added that even though we do disagree we are all on the same page to serve the town.

Councilman de Stefan stated that he has two wishes; one is that the cooperation continues and he wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Councilman Matos wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year for 2010. He also echoed the Mayor's comments that 2009 was a great year and that this Council works very well together. Councilman Matos continued that 2010 will be a tough year as the Mayor stated; but we will still continue to do the great things that make River Vale the community it is. Councilman Matos concluded that it is the people of this community that make River Vale one of the most sought after communities in the country.

Councilwoman Sieg wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010. She also expressed her thanks for allowing her the privilege and honor to serve this community. She stated how grateful she is to all the people that serve this community. From our Emergency Services to the Administration who are always working on behalf for the betterment of River Vale. Councilwoman Sieg concluded with thanks to the Mayor for being a wonderful leader and Council President for the honor and privilege to serve.

Councilman Bromberg wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Councilman Bromberg referenced the Mayor's comments on the 80/20 rule. He wanted to thank all the volunteers and those people that continue to give more time and effort and volunteer again; it's a phenomenal community to be a part of. Councilman Bromberg also offered special thanks the volunteers in the Fire Department on their promotions and reorganization.

Councilman Bromberg is looking forward to 2010 and agreed that it will be a challenging year financially. He continued that it's an honor and a privilege to be a part of this Council and serve this community. They are doing the best that we can to come up with the best solutions to serve in the best interest of the people of River Vale. Councilman Bromberg added that despite the challenges; he has complete confidence that between the towns' people, the volunteers and leaders we will do what's best for River Vale.

Councilman Bromberg concluded with an appeal to all disappointed Giants fans. We are fortunate that there is an alternative and asked that everyone be gracious and supportive this Sunday night.

Council President Jasionowski thanked his fellow council members for making this a great and easy year to be Council President. He also extended his thanks to the Mayor and Administration. He noted that during his six years on the Council this has been the most productive year he has seen on the dais. Council President Jasionowski explained that we provide the law and the money but it takes the Administration to gets the work done. He added that it was the Mayor who allowed us to have a productive year. A phenomenal amount was accomplished this year; the fields were done, a new playground, the EMS Park, we purchased a truck, and roads were completed. Council President Jasionowski is looking forward to the same this year.

He also made special note that there were six (6) ex-chiefs present and that several will be sworn in again as officers. The level of volunteerism in emergency services is very impressive and he thanked them.

Council President Jasionowski wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year and thanks for allowing him to serve as Council President and he looks forward to working with everyone next year.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Council President Jasionowski 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."

There being no questions or comments from the public; motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to close the meeting to the public.

RESOLUTIONS –

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2009-280, as follows:

Resolution #2009-280

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES–December 14, 2009

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the December 14, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg, Council President Jasionowski voted yes. Councilman Matos abstained.

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolutions #2009-281 through #2009-283 on Consent Agenda, as follows:

Resolution #2009-281

RESOLUTION
(TRANSFERS)

WHEREAS, there exists a need to make transfers in the 2009 Budget Appropriations, and there exists balances from which to make said transfers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Chief Financial Officer hereby be authorized to make the following transfers to the 2009 Budget Appropriations.

Inside CAP:

To:

Fire Prevention-Hydrants OE	\$ 18,500.00
Engineering Services OE	\$ 21,000.00
Fire Department OE	\$ 3,800.00
Garage – Auto Repairs OE	\$ 7,000.00

Total \$ 50,300.00

Inside CAP:

From:

Police Patrol S&W	\$ 20,300.00
Police Patrol O&E	\$ 10,000.00
Group Health OE	\$ 20,000.00

Total \$ 50,300.00

Resolution #2009-282

RESOLUTION
TAX LIEN REDEMPTION

WHEREAS, the tax lien on the property located at 696 Westwood Avenue (Block 1801, Lot 24) has been redeemed;

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received a check in the amount of \$ 109, 176.27 for payment of the lien (Certificate No. 09-06) held by U.S. Bank Corporate Trust Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has deposited said check in the Township’s Current Account;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby by authorized to issue two (2) municipal checks as follows:

- 1. \$ 49, 176.27**
- 2. \$ 60,000.00**

payable to U.S. Bank Corporate Trust Services, Tax Lien Services Group, 2 Liberty Place, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 1950, Philadelphia, PA 1910.

Resolution #2009-283

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL ENDORSEMENT OF SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF BERGEN FOR A HIGH PRESSURE SEWER CLEANER

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, *N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq.* allows any municipality or county to enter into a contract with any other municipality or county for the joint provision of any services within their joint jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen has purchased one (1) high pressure sewer cleaner for use by the Township of River Vale and the following other municipalities: Emerson, Hillsdale, Montvale, Old Tappan, Oradell, Park Ridge, Washington Township, Westwood and Woodcliff Lake;

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale recognizes the need, cost effectiveness and savings regarding the use of this vehicle;

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale is desirous to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the aforesaid municipalities and share the use of the vehicle and receive the cost savings benefit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of River Vale hereby approves the Township of River Vale’s participation in the Shared Services Agreement with County of Bergen for the shared use of a high pressure sewer cleaner with the municipalities of: Emerson, Hillsdale, Montvale, Old Tappan, Oradell, Park Ridge, Washington Township, Westwood and Woodcliff Lake.

BE IT RURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to open the meeting to the public.

There being no questions or comments from the public; motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to close the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to adjourn the meeting at 12:20pm.

Glen Jasionowski
Council President

ATTEST:
Karen Padv
Township Clerk