

MINUTES
Council Meeting
Monday, March 24, 2008

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Jasionowski called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM 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, Council Vice President Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Jasionowski were present. Councilman Matos was absent

Also present: Mayor Joseph Blundo, Robert J. Gallione, Jr., Business Administrator, Glen Finkle, Township Attorney, Dennis Harrington, Township Engineer, Gennaro Rotella, CFO and Karen Padva, Acting Township Clerk.

PUBLIC HEARING 2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to open the public hearing on the 2008 Municipal Budget.

There being no questions or comments from the public motion by councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to close the public hearing on the 2008 Municipal Budget.

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to table the adoption of the 2008 Municipal Budget pending the receipt of the finalized state aid figures.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Blundo commented on what a success the Easter Breakfast and thanked Kirstie Levine for doing a great job organizing the event. The Mayor anticipates Ms. Levine will be bringing the Social and Cultural Affairs Department into a whole new direction.

Recently, several environmental concerns have been brought to the Mayor's attention and subsequently he announced the creation of an environmental committee. Some possible members could be Mark Erickson and Joe Massin.

Mayor Blundo announced that it has been about one year since the April storm that caused so much flood damage. It has been a long recovery and the Township will work on preventative measure such as de-snagging the river. The Mayor added that United Water has clearly stated that they are not in the flood control business and it is very difficult for the town to support opposing a utility company. The Mayor did pledge his support to assist the families in other ways such as providing meeting locations.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan was pleased to hear about the formation of an environmental committee and suggested getting input from Burton Hall.

Councilman Bromberg congratulated the administration and Social & Cultural Affairs department on running a great Easter Breakfast.

Councilwoman Sieg complimented Kirstie Levine on the Easter Breakfast. Councilwoman Sieg also expressed how proud she is of how community-minded residents are becoming.

Council President Jasionowski concurred with his fellow Councilmember's comments and commended Kirstie Levine on the Easter Breakfast. Council President Jasionowski reported that the River Vale Board of Education is holding their budget meeting tonight. The RVBOE announced that the proposed increase will be the lowest in years.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Business Administrator commended both Kirstie Levine and Stephanie Muska for their work on the Easter Breakfast and donations from Forcellati Brothers. The Business Administrator also announced that a group of resident mothers have volunteered to refurbish the Mark Lane Field House. Mr. Gallione also announced that the Township does recycle cardboard and that there will be an area designated in the DPW yard to drop off recycling in the event you miss a pickup.

Mr. Gallione announced that the Shade Tree Commission's first project will be planting trees at the Senior /Community Center. In conclusion, the Business Administrator reported that Hillsdale will be holding a Health Fair on March 29th.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Township Engineer reported that the DPW project is making good progress and is expected to be completed by Memorial Day. The lighting fixtures and equipment for the lower grove field are scheduled to be delivered March 28th. This project is expected to be completed in early April. The Engineer also reported that the paving project at the Community Center parking lot has resumed. The Mark Lane sub-surface testing is done; the next step will be to provide the Mayor and Council with a final report. In conclusion, the Engineer announced that Brookside Avenue is a very good candidate for DOT Discretionary Aid and they would be preparing an application within the next few weeks.

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."

Patricia Kieck – 511 Bernita Drive – commented that Baylor Avenue and sunny Hill Terrace are very unsafe to travel on are filled with potholes. Ms. Kieck also commented on the proximity of the new DPW building to Rivervale Road.

Mayor Blundo responded to Mrs. Kieck that Baylor Avenue will be part of the 2008 Road Program. The also stated that except for the County roads the burden of road maintenance falls upon the taxpayers. The Mayor plans on increasing the budget for road improvements in the future.

Dennis Harrington responded to comments about the location of the DPW building. The building received County Planning Board approval and he will look into safety measures.

The Mayor complimented the DPW Superintendent for finding ways to pave and repair Brook

Avenue which was not covered in the budget.

Frank Rosalia – 260 River Drive – commented on flooding on his property and how clay runs off Ranges field. Mr. Rosalia suggested better field drainage and a buffer.

John Morris - 251 River Drive – commented on the flooding on River Drive and the speed with which the water rose and receded during the April storm. Mr. Morris questioned what is being done to prevent future flooding. He also thanked the Council for all the help and assistance provided by the town to residents affected by the flooding.

Scott Beh – 622 Charles Court – commented on flood damage to his home and his repair costs. Mr. Beh thanked Rich Campanelli and the DPW staff for helping with the clean up. Mr. Beh had additional remarks about United Water’s knowledge of the storm and expressed his concern that something must be done to stop the flooding.

Arnold Diskin – 619 Charles Court – expressed concerns about United Water and flood control issues. Mr. Diskin suggested the use of negative publicity to pressure United Water.

Luis Morales – 627 Charles Court – commented that he has lived here for 29 years and he has never had flooding problems.

Peter Stokes – 276 River Drive – commented on flooding and United Waters responsibility. Mr. Stokes added that United Water has been selling off watershed property for development.

Ed Carter – 664 Woodside Avenue – remarked that the flooding on River Drive has been a problem for a long time.

Alan Melconian – 264 River Drive – echoed his neighbors concerns and added that erosion has also taken away some of their property.

The Township Engineer added that stabilization of the stream bank is a DEP project that requires permits from the state.

Council President Jasionowski feels very passionate about helping the residents affected by the flooding and will help by serving on a committee.

Councilwoman Sieg was very touched by the flood victim stories and promised to work hard to help with this problem. Councilwoman Sieg believes that the negative publicity is a good idea and requested Maggie a reporter to do a story about the resident’s.

Councilman Bromberg commented that this incident appeared to be a water management problem not an act of god.

Mr. Finkle added that there could be some negligence on behalf of United Water.

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

RESOLUTIONS –

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to approve Resolution #2008-92 through #2008-95 on Consent Agenda, as follows:

Resolution #2008-92

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES–March 10th Regular Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the March 10, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

Resolution #2008-93

RESOLUTION APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE FOR TABLE TO TABLE, INC.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the following license to conduct a Raffle be issued to:

NAME: Table to Table, Inc.
 PO Box 1051
 Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

LOCATION OF RAFFLE: 97 Rivervale Road
 River Vale, NJ 07675

DATE OF RAFFLE: May 21, 2008 6:00PM

I.D. #: 109-4-36274

RAFFLE LICENSE: RL 296

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said license shall be issued subject to all rules and regulations of the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission of the State of New Jersey.

Resolution #2008-94

RESOLUTION
(TEMPORARY EMERGENCY)

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-19 provides that where contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to final adoption of the 2008 Budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time provided.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body that the following additional temporary appropriations be made and a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for his records:

APPROPRIATION	SALARIES & WAGES	OTHER EXPENSES
Police Department - Education	11,250,000.00	0.00

Resolution #2008-95

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE AND RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR 2008 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-8A-1 et seq., authorizes public entities to enter into a contract with each other to subcontract any services which the parties to an agreement are empowered to render within its own jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the River Vale Board of Education, Borough of Hillsdale and the Township of River Vale wish to operate the Camp Have Some Fun and Camp Adventure programs for the summer season of 2008; and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to both the River Vale Board of Education, the Borough of Hillsdale and the Township of River Vale to provide the benefits of the Camp Have Some Fun and Camp Adventure programs to their residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor and Business Administrator are hereby authorized to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the River Vale Board of Education and the Borough of Hillsdale for the operation of the 2008 Camp Have Some Fun and Camp Adventure programs which will run from

June 30, 2008 through August 1, 2008, per the terms of the Interlocal Agreement supplied to the Township by the River Vale Board of Education.

Resolution #2008-96

RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Business Administrator be, and hereby is authorized to pay the following claims:

RESERVE CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 60,477.11
CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 97,803.59
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 116,630.51
PLANNING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 157.50
PRIVATE DUTY ESCROW ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 6,026.80
DOG TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 124.20
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 141.63
ZONING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 38.56
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 489.39
OPEN SPACE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 000
SPECIAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 60.03
HOUSING TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00

TOTAL CLAIMS TO BE PAID \$ 281,949.32

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the following claims have been paid by the Business Administrator prior to the Bill List Resolution in the following amounts:

CURRENT claims in the amount of:	\$ 2,587,284.69
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRUST claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
STATUTORY ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 371,740.88
OPEN SPACE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID	<u>\$ 2,959,025.57</u>

TOTAL BILL LIST RESOLUTION \$ 3,240,974.89

**MANUAL DISBURSEMENTS
BILL LIST FOR MARCH 24, 2008**

2/29/2008 – Wire Transfer Payroll	\$ 181,829.99
3/15/2008 – Wire Transfer Payroll	\$ 189,910.89

TOTAL STATUTORY ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS \$ 371,740.88

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Ordinances 1st Reading

Motion: Councilman Bromberg

2nd: Councilman de Stefan

ORDINANCE #197-2008

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #194-2008 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #0-10-04 ADJUSTING AND DETERMINING MUNICIPAL CLASS POSITION TITLES AND SALARY RANGES FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE”

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, as follows, until a subsequent salary ordinance is adopted:

Section 1. The salary ranges per annum for the following officers and employees of the Township of River Vale in the Classified Service (staff) shall be as follows:

Fire Inspector	\$2,000 – \$2,500
Fire Official	\$5,000 – \$7,000

Section 2. The Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to determine the salary of each employee within each salary range annually, such determination and salary to be effective the first day of each calendar year beginning 2008.

Section 3. All employees shall be paid on the 15th and 30th of every month as stipulated in the Township Personnel Manual except for changes required on account of calendar year requirements.

Section 4. All parts or ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistent parts, but nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize any salary decrease. This ordinance shall take effect after passage in the manner provided by law, except that any and all such salary increases shall in all respects be subject to any provisions of law.

Section 5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Council President announced that there were substantial changes to Ordinance #196-2008 and requested the Council table to the next meeting.

Ordinance #196-2008

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to Table Ordinance #196-2008 to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on April 14th

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to adjourn meeting at 9:40 pm

ATTEST:
Karen Padva
Acting Township Clerk

Glen Jasionowski
Council President