

MINUTES
Council Meeting
Monday, May 27, 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, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg, and Council President Jasionowski were present. Councilman Matos was absent.

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

Council President Jasionowski stated the Council’s unanimous support for the Mayor with regard to a recent newspaper article. Additionally, he Council President thanked the Mayor for all his hard work and dedication for the town.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor’s Comments

The Mayor announced that the Memorial Day Parade held on Saturday, May 24th was a great success. The town looked great and the Mayor extended thanks to the DPW, Kristie Levine, and Bob Gallione for all their effort and making the event a success. The Mayor gave an update on the COAH committee and stated that he is confident that the committee will come up with a creative solution for the town’s problem.

Mayor Blundo read a Proclamation for *“National Public Works Month.”*

National Public Works Month
May 27, 2008

WHEREAS, public works services provided in our community are an integral part of our citizens’ everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, the support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of public works systems and programs such as water, sewers, streets and highways, public buildings, and solid waste collection; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depends on these facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design, and construction, is vitally dependent upon the efforts and skill of public works officials; and

WHEREAS, the efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff public works departments is materially influenced by the people’s attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Joseph Blundo, Mayor of River Vale, along with all of our Council Members, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2008 as

“National Public Works Month”

in the Township of River Vale, and I call upon all the citizens and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with the issues involved in providing our public works and to recognize the contributions which public works officials make every day to our health, safety, comfort and quality of life.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan offered his support of the Mayor and the stability he gives the town. He added that he is very happy with the way the town is being run. Councilman de Stefan expressed his displeasure with the actions of such a reputable newspaper.

Councilman Bromberg strongly supports the comments of Council President Jasionowski. Councilman Bromberg added comments about a recent meeting he attended regarding the re-opening of Pascack Valley Hospital by Hackensack Hospital. He reported on the proposed (3) phase plan; with regard to the re-opening of the Emergency Room and relocating the entrance, continued renovations to OB and other departments, and the addition of medical school classes and cardiac therapy center. The first class is estimated to start in the fall of 2010.

Councilwoman Sieg complimented the Township on the Memorial Day Parade and the wonderful speeches by both Peter Wayne and Mark Piferski; a resident serviceman being deployed to Iraq for the 2nd time. Councilwoman Sieg also gave updates on the renovations of the Frank Giordano Playground and a County grant received for the Pocket Park near the Jewish Home.

Mayor Blundo and Council President Jasionowski both stated their support of Mark Piferski’s family while he is away on duty.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The Business Administrator stated that members of the Shade Tree Commission and Historic Preservation will be profiled in the next newsletter. The Business Administrator gave updates on the *National Nights Out* event Scheduled for August and the status of the *Sapienza Garden* clean up project. The Administrator will also be requesting at the next scheduled Council meeting (June 23rd); that the River Vale be designated as a “Tree Community.” The Business Administrator concluded his report with explanations of certain resolutions on the agenda tonight.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Harrington gave updates on the DPW Building with an expected completion date in 2-3 weeks. The Engineer reported on the preparation of plans and specs for the slope failure project. Mr. Harrington explained a resolution requesting a change order for the Lower Grove Lighting Project; and that the DPW will perform the restorative landscaping work as a cost saving measure.

The Engineer reported that the Bergen County Mosquito Commission has performed some de-snagging of the Hackensack River near Ranges field. In addition, Mr. Harrington has done an inspection of the Valenti property and advised Mr. Valenti of standing water conditions on his property. Mr. Harrington concluded with a report on the status of work on the sanitary sewer line at the Community Center which should be completed in 2-3 weeks.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg 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.”

Ira Cohen – 536 Bernita Drive – expressed how pleased he is with the work of both the Mayor and Council, and how pleased he is with the outcome of the Pascack Valley Hospital meeting. Mr. Cohen commended the Mayor and Councilman Bromberg for demonstrating reason and resolve with regard to the hospital.

Mayor Blundo added that Holly Schepisi was very helpful with regard to the re-opening of the hospital.

Mr. Howard Lawrence - 607 Montview Place – commented on water from the street draining onto his property and the need for a storm drain.

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

RESOLUTIONS –

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to approve Resolutions #2008-123 through #2008-126 on Consent Agenda, as follows:

Resolution #2008-123

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES–May 12th Regular Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the May 12, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

Resolution #2008-124

APPROVE THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS PERMIT FOR THE RIVER VALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT *WET DOWN*

WHEREAS, the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department is holding a Wet Down on September 20, 2008; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council hereby approves the social affairs permit for the *Wet Down*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department Association shall issue a check in the amount of \$100.00 to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for said permit.

Resolution #2008-125

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
Administration	30,000	10,000
Mayor & Council	1,500	200

Township Clerk	2,200	8,100
Financial Administration	16,300	1,900
Audit Services		
Revenue Administration	5,000	1,005
Tax Assessment	2,000	6,400
Legal Services	500	20,000
Engineering Services		10,000
Planning Board	7,500	4,100
Zoning Board	500	300
Police Department	312,100	44,550
Emergency Management	500	800
Fire Department		8,100
Fire Prevention Bureau	2,000	26,350
Municipal Prosecutor	1,000	
Streets and Roads	106,950	9,500
Summer Camp	8,300	
Recycling and Garbage Removal		50,000
DPW Director	20,275	1,450
Buildings and Grounds		14,200
Vehicle Maintenance	7,300	2,500
Public Health Services	500	13,300
Social Services	1,000	
Department of Athletics	3,000	5,800
Social and Cultural Affairs	2,000	2,000
Street Lighting		15,000
Telephone		10,000
Other Utilities		30,000
Municipal Court	10,000	2,395
Public Defender		1,000
Uniform Construction Code	25,000	1,200
Social Security System		40,000
Flow Charges		153,000
Public Library		60,000
Insurance - Liabilities		140,000
Insurance – Health		200,000
Insurance – Dental		4,000
Insurance - Unemployment		4,100
L.O.S.A.P.		55,965
Gasoline		10,000
Municipal Court Improvements		5,000
Public & Private Programs		17,600
Payment of Bond Principal		
Payment of Bond Interest		40,000
Old Tappan Police Dispatching		45,000
Mandated Safety Program		2,000
Total	565,425	1,076,815

Resolution #2008-126

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE LOWER GROVE LIGHTING PROJECT

WHEREAS, there was one change necessary during the construction of the Lower Grove Lighting Project in the Township of River Vale; and

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Paul Tollin – 588 Colonial Drive - commented on a proposed land swap of BOE property at Woodside School and a developer. Mr. Tollin commented that building on this property would increase flooding problems for the resident Colonial Drive and Winding Way.

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.

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session to discuss contractual negotiations (9:08 pm.) No action will be taken.

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to come out of Closed Session to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Glen Jasionowski
Council President

ATTEST:
Karen Padva
Acting Township Clerk