

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Township Council
Monday, June 11, 2007
8:00 PM

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Jasionowski called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M. 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, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg, and Council President Jasionowski were present.

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

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor's Comments

Mayor commended EMS volunteers on a house fire on Oakland Avenue. He additionally thanked the back-up from other towns that responded to fire. The Mayor commented on the First Friends Graduation held on June 8th at the amphitheater. He added that the program is run by volunteers and what a wonderful job they did.

The Mayor also attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony where resident Kevin Dak of Troop 334 was recognized. Mayor Blundo declared June 10th Kevin Dak Day in the Township.

In conclusion, the Mayor announced that he will be officially posting the position of Captain with the Police Department as well as the retirement of Chief Back. He plans on being consistent with the ordinance and hopefully the hiring process will be finished by this fall.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan commented on the first meeting of the zoning sub-committee and that Holly Schepisi is preparing the ordinance for the commercial district.

Councilman Matos gave an update on the athletic field sub committee. He plans on reviewing the engineer's conceptual plans at their next meeting.

Councilman Bromberg echoed the Mayor's comments regarding the EMS volunteers. Councilman Bromberg also had comments about the timing of the traffic light at the Four Corners.

Councilwoman Sieg commented that the Kaplan Family Senior Residence had a wonderful ceremony and welcomed them to River Vale. Councilwoman Sieg also gave an update

of the zoning sub committee meeting and complimented the EMS workers regarding the Oakland Avenue fire.

Council President Jasionowski remarked on how well the First Friends Program is organized and run. The Council President also reported that a Westwood Firefighter suffered a minor injury during the Oakland Avenue fire. In conclusion, the Council President thanked both Mike Freedman and Jim Tolomeo for helping run a very successful T-Ball Program.

BUDGET HEARING

The Business Administrator gave a detailed explanation of both the Budget and Extraordinary Aide Process. The Township must wait for Trenton with regard to the Extraordinary Aide before we can adopt our Budget. However, we can still hold the public hearing. In addition, the Business Administrator gave an update on contributions and grants and other amendments to the budget

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to open the public hearing on the 2007 Municipal Budget.

Dr. Jeffery Maftus – 692 Alden Court – questioned the amount that the Budget will increase. The Auditor clarified the increased amount. Dr. Maftus also commented on school spending.

Chris O’Shea – 625 Astor Lane – Commended the Council for working to improve the athletic program. Mr. O’Shea also complimented Rich Campanelli and his staff for doing a great job maintaining the fields.

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to close the public hearing on the 2007 Municipal Budget.

Business Administrator’s Report

Business Administrator thanked Rich Campanelli, Bill Peters and Aaron Back for all of their assistance with regard to the completion of the FEMA application. He also informed that Council that the Township plans to share movie equipment with Hillsdale for the Summer Movie Program.

Mayor Blundo commended Bob Gallione for all the hard work and commitment he demonstrates with regard to saving money and creating good working relationships with neighboring towns.

The Business Administrator announced that there will be an FAA meeting on Wednesday, June 13th at the Hilton in Woodcliff Lake. Lastly, the Business Administrator reported that the Newsletter is being sent out under a new format and that as a cost saving measure there will only be two (2) issues a year.

Mayor Blundo added one additional comment. He informed the Council on all the compliments he receives about Rich Campanelli and how well the fields are maintained. He added that he’s doing a great job and to keep up the good work.

Township Engineer’s Report

Dennis Harrington reported that the bid opening for the 2007 Road Program is scheduled for June 20th. The DOT funding deadline is in August and he suggested that Baylor Avenue would be a good candidate. The engineer gave a brief update on the DPW Garage negotiation process; they have circulated a revised scope of work with the intention of possibly awarding at the June 25th Council meeting.

Mr. Harrington had additional updates on the FEMA application process and that he is in the process of drafting a proposal for the dredging of the streams and rivers. He also gave an update on water problems at the Rudd-O’Connor building which will continue to be monitored. Also, the concept plans for Mark Lane are being revised for the Field Committee.

He also spoke about the flooding problems on Orangeburgh Road and the different options the County has proposed. The first option is a drainage easement costing approximately \$12,000. The second option is to connect to the Township’s system, which is more expensive (\$25,000) but requires no land acquisition. The Council agreed to have the Engineer follow-up with the County to pursue the second option.

Lastly, Mr. Harrington spoke briefly about the possible development in Orangeburgh, NY. The Town does not have the ability to stop the project but the situation is being monitored. The Engineer also will look into the Cleveland Avenue traffic situation and whether parking will be allowed to slow traffic.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Matos 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.”

Joe Massin – 68 Holiday Court – complimented how nice the newsletter came out and suggested possibly emailing as a cost savings to residents. Mr. Massin also commented on uncollected taxes and the burden they pose on municipalities; suggested shifting the responsibility to the County or State level. Councilman de Stefan suggested that Mr. Massin draft a resolution promoting the idea.

Ray Fisher – 829 Cambridge Road – provided the Council with photos of a tree blocking the flow of a stream in his backyard. Mr. Fisher questioned who is responsible for the removal of the tree. The Township Engineer answered that the property owner is responsible.

Dr. Jeffrey Maftus – 692 Alden Court – complimented the RVFD with regard to the Oakland Avenue fire. Dr. Maftus had additional questions about the budget and the Business Administrator confirmed and 8.3% tax increase. Lastly, Dr. Maftus read a letter to the Council regarding personal attacks.

Howard Lawrence – 607 Montview Place - questioned the status of the flooding on Interglen Avenue. The Township Attorney reported on a tort claim that was expected from another resident on Interglen. Mr. Lawrence commented on the bump-outs on Westwood Avenue.

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

RESOLUTIONS –

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution 2007-130 as follows:

Resolution #2007-130

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES –May 14, 2007

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the May 14, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Bromberg and Councilwoman Sieg voted yes. Councilman Matos and Council President Jasionowski abstained.

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Matos to approve Resolutions 2007-131 through 2007-134 on consent agenda, as follows:

Resolution #2007-131

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIREWORKS PERMIT FOR THE EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB – JUNE 30, 2007

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the fireworks permit for the above mentioned is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all permit fees to the Township of River Vale have been paid in full; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fire Official has received all pertinent applications and approvals according to Township Ordinances and Statutes of the State of New Jersey.

Resolution #2007-132

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE AND RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR 2007 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

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 Camp Adventure program for the summer season of 2007; 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 Adventure program 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 2007 Camp Adventure program which will run from June 27, 2007 through August 3, 2007, per the terms of the Interlocal Agreement supplied to the Township by the River Vale Board of Education.

Resolution #2007-133

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN COUNTY SNOWS PLOWING AGREEMENT 2007-2008

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Bergen is authorized by N.J.S.A. 27:16-33, to cause snow to be plowed from the County owned or County controlled roads; and

WHEREAS, it is the desired plan of the County to employ the services of the Township of River Vale for snow plowing operations on County roads located within the Township of River Vale;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of River that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the above mentioned agreement.

Resolution #2007-134

APPROVE LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

WHEREAS, the following liquor license holders have paid the required fee to the Township of River Vale for renewal of their licenses for the July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 term;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue liquor licenses as follows:

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE

Open Public Hearing

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Matos to open the public hearing on Ordinance 180-2007:

Dr. Jeffrey Maftus – 692 Alden Court – requested clarification of the ordinance which Council President Jasionowski answered.

Howard Lawrence – 607 Montview Place – remarked that the parking restrictions are absolutely necessary.

John Donovan – 63 Rivervale Road – questioned as to whether the ordinance being adopted is the same as introduced. The Council answered that it is identical and no amendments were made.

Close Public Hearing

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Matos to close the public hearing on Ordinance 180-2007.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Dr. Jeffrey Maftus – 692 Alden Court – commented on flooding on Baldwin Drive. Dr. Maftus commended the Council for taking action on the parking restriction near Roberge School. He had additional remarks about school safety and the possibility of holding an open meeting with Senator Cardinale at the amphitheater,

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 de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Matos to adjourn the meeting to closed Session at 9:35 pm to discuss personnel issues. The Council will not take action upon adjourning from closed session.

Glen Jasionowski
Council President

ATTEST:
Karen Padva, Deputy Clerk