

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Township Council
Monday, July 9, 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 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, Gennaro Rotella, CFO, Dennis Harrington, Township Engineer, and Karen Padva, Township Deputy Clerk.

LIBRARY RECOGNITION—PLUS Literacy Community Award

Mayor Blundo recognized and commended Holli Deni, Director, River Vale Free Public Library, Anne Pellegrini, Co-President Friends of the River Vale Fee Public Library, Rose Borgano, Co-President Friends of the River Vale Fee Public Library, and Carmen O’Brien, ESL Coordinator as being recipients of the PLUS Literacy Community Award.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Blundo gave an update on the FAA meeting at the Woodcliff Lake Hilton on Thursday, June 28th. The Mayor also reported that the meeting was very well attended with 1,000 or more people. The Mayor also officially requested the financial backing to help pay the legal fees incurred while pursuing the fight against the FAA proposed plans. The legal representation would be for any Pascack Valley towns that wish to participate.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan agreed that the Town needs the legal representation in order to fight the FAA Plans.

Councilman Bromberg had additional comments about the FAA hearing and it was very well attended. He definitely felt that they got the attention of the FAA and added that Rockland County is getting involved as well. Councilman Bromberg also supported hiring an attorney to fight the issue.

Mayor Blundo added that the cost could be \$20,000 for each participating town.

Councilwoman Sieg also attended the FAA meeting and added her support.

Councilman Bromberg added that Mayor Blundo gave a very nice speech at the FAA hearing

PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDED 2007 BUDGET

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

Dr. Maftus – 692 Alden Court – had various questions about the grants in the amended budget. The Business Administrator explained that the additional monies are being used to offset capital projects.

There being no further comments regarding the Amended 2007 Budget motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to close the public hearing on the Amended 2007 Budget.

Business Administrator’s Report

The Business Administrator reported on Budget items, extraordinary aide, and that there will be a grace period to pay taxes due on August 1st; the residents will be well noticed. The Business Administrator offered additional recognition to the Friends of the Free Public Library – PLUS Literacy Award.

Mr. Gallione gave updates on the Farmers Market which is offering senior coupons and free blood pressure readings. Mayor Blundo again offered his appreciation to Mr. Gallione on all his work with regard to Interlocal agreements.

Township Engineer’s Report

The Engineer reported that there is a pre-construction meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 12th at 10:15 and the entire Road Program is expected to be complete by Labor Day. He also updated the Council that they are still pursuing grant money as reimbursement for flood damage.

Mr. Harrington will be presenting revised concept plans to the athletic field committee on Tuesday, July 10th. There will also be a field turf representative in attendance.

The Engineer gave brief updates on the Community Center with regard to utilities connection; water is complete and gas/electric not complete. The expectation is that the building will be done by Labor Day with the exception of the parking lot.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

The Township Attorney spoke briefly about 1st Amendment Rights with regard to defamatory remarks made towards public officials.

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.”

Joe Massin – 68 Holiday Court – spoke about the FAA hearing and that the Town should seek out more towns than just the Pascack Valley. He suggested looking regionally. Mr. Massin also suggested the Town having a long- range multi-year plan and the creation of a “Fiscal Planning Committee.”

Dr. Jeffrey Maftus – 692 Alden Court – appreciated the Township Attorney comments about 1st Amendment Rights. He also commended the Library on their recognition and had question about having turf fields on school property. Dr. Maftus had various questions about the Farmers Market regarding the vendors and fees collected. He had additional comments on the FAA hearing, the school funding formula and property taxes.

John Donovan – 63 Rivervale Road – commented that he thought Mr. Massin suggestions was good and question the Liquor License Renewal for Pascack Restaurant Corp.

Mr. Howard Lawrence – 607 Montview Place – questioned the status of the flooding on Interglen Avenue. The Township Attorney responded that the Township is awaiting a tort claim filed by a neighbor and therefore the process has been delayed.

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.

RESOLUTIONS –

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to approve Resolutions 2007-143 through 2007-148 on consent agenda as follows:

Resolution #2007-143

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES –May 30, 2007

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the May 30, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

Resolution #2007-144

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES –June 11, 2007

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the June 11, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

Resolution #2007-145

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 Deputy Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue a liquor license as follows:

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE

#0253-33-002-005	Pascack Restaurant Corp 200 Old Hook Road Harrington Park, NJ 07640	\$2,000.00 River Vale, NJ 07675
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Resolution #2007-146

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SEVICE CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A.40A:11-5 (1) (A)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that a contract is hereby awarded in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, to Dennis A. Maycher, Esq. for legal services in connection with the Pascack Valley Regional School District Funding Formula.

Resolution #2007-147

RESOLUTION OPPOSING UNITED WATER COMPANY'S PEITION TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR A 28% RATE INCREASE

WHEREAS, United Water Company has filed a petition with the Public Utilities for a 28% increase in its water rates and adjustments to its depreciation rates for the 750,000 customers served in Bergen and Hudson Counties, and

WHEREAS, United water is a subsidiary of Suez Lyonnaise Des Eaux, a company with world-wide operations whose stock has risen dramatically from the low\$20's in 2004 to the high \$50's at present and the requested increases would increase United Water's revenue by \$36,000,000, and

WHEREAS, this petition also seeks permission to merge three other subsidiaries, Arlington Hills, Hampton, and Vernon Hills/Lambertville into United Water and this merger proposes decreases for the rates for these operations to be off-set by the proposed rate increases for United Water customers, and

WHEREAS, an increase of this magnitude will cost the average United Water customer \$92.92 per year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on behalf of its residents the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale strongly object to the excessive rate increases proposed by United Water and request the Public Utilities Commission to either deny or to greatly reduce them.

Resolution #2007-148

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AMENDED AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY FOR CDBG GRANT FOR RIVER VALE COMMUNTY/SENIOR CENTER -- \$36,400.00

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

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

ORDINANCES 1st Reading

ORDINANCES 2nd Reading

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Dr. Jeffrey Maftus – 692 Alden Court – questioned water spilling from schools onto Rivervale Road, police car and computer lease arrangements, property taxes, litigation and turf field expenses.

Mayor Blundo responded to the question regarding the legal fees. The Mayor explained that the expenses incurred in 2006 and no money was allocated in 2006. Some money will be reimbursed by the JIF. Mayor Blundo added that the State of New Jersey determined the disability and law has ordered that the Township pay the health insurance.

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 the meeting to closed Session at 9:30 pm to discuss contract negotiations and litigation. The Council will not take action upon adjourning from closed session.

Mark Bromberg
Council Vice President

ATTEST:
Karen Padva, Deputy Clerk