

MINUTES
Special Meeting of the Township Council
Tuesday, August 7, 2007
8:00 PM

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Jasionowski called the meeting to order at 8:00 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, Councilwoman Sieg, Council Vice President Bromberg, 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, Robert Haag, Lerch, Vinci and Higgins and Karen Padva, Township Deputy Clerk.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor’s Comments

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan had no comments.

Councilman Bromberg commented on the recent water emergency and that it was a good drill for a real emergency. Councilman Bromberg added how grateful he was for the Swift Reach program which notified residents to boil their drinking water.

Councilwoman Sieg commented on a recent accident that occurred in front of her home and commended the emergency services on their response.

Council President Jasionowski had no comments.

Business Administrator’s Report

The Business Administrator introduced the new Tax Collector/Building Department Secretary to the Council. The Business Administrator also gave an update on the status of the FEMA applications which were complete. In addition, he gave an update of the Octoberfest and the Mayor’s Wellness Campaign.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Chris O’Shea – 625 Aster Lane – Spoke as President of both the football and baseball associations. Commented on the importance of sports and field maintenance are to the town.

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

RESOLUTIONS –

Council Discussion:

All members of the Council present agreed that they supported the budget. Council President Jasionowski added that Councilman Matos communicated to him that he supports the budget.

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution 2007-171 and Resolution 2007-172 on consent agenda, as follows:

Resolution #2007-171

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2007 BUDGET

See Attached

Resolution #2007-172

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2007 BUDGET

See Attached

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

ENGINEERS REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS TO MARK LANE COMPLEX

The Township Engineer presented two (2) sets of plans to the council for improvements to the Mark Lane Sports Complex. Plan 1A preserved most of the existing buildings and field structures. The second plan 1B was more of a clean slate option. Plan 1B allows for an additional softball field and smaller multi-purpose field. The Engineer addressed concerns about the stability of the land fill portion of the field.

Councilman de Stefan suggested leaving the existing clubhouse in the old location in concept plan 1B. Councilwoman Sieg commented that she would like to the complex more as a town wide facility with options for seniors and people with disabilities as well.

Mayor Blundo questioned whether the softball field could be used for adult games and if the existing lighting is adequate. Mr. Harrington answered the field is functional for adult games and in plan 1B lighting would be added and existing lighting moved. Council President Jasionowski added what a good idea to tot lots are and suggested not moving the concession stand but perhaps making improvements.

Council President Jasionowski thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work and requested that the Engineer come back to the Council with figures for plan 1B in particular.

The Engineer added that he will also look into the preparation of the cost of the sub-surface investigation and that they will need permitting because of the wetlands.

Councilwoman Sieg added that the RVBOE is involved with the project and wants to work with the town.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Lorraine Waldes – 797 Westwood Avenue – had remarks about field maintenance and storage of equipment.

Mike Freedman – 601 Sunnyhill Terrace – thanked the Council for passing the budget and suggested that the field committee make the final recommendation on the project.

Paul Criscuolo – 514 Alosio Drive – Commented that both plans look good and plan 1B might be the better plan.

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.

Mayor Blundo spoke briefly about when the tax bills would be mailed and why the budget was delayed. He announced that the State Aide was \$200,000 and that the increase in the municipal portion was due to wages, pensions, completion of 2006 projects, lawsuits from prior years, and lost ratables. The prior administration was able to spend more of the surplus to hold taxes down. Mayor Blundo added that there will be an \$800.00 increase on the average taxpayer.

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to adjourn the meeting to closed session at 9:10pm. No action will be taken after the closed session.

Glen Jasionowski
Council President

ATTEST:
Karen Padva, Deputy Clerk