

MINUTES
Council Meeting
Monday, September 8, 2008

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council Vice President Bromberg 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 Vice President Bromberg asked all in attendance to rise and join him in a Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

Council Vice President Bromberg 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, and Council Vice President Bromberg were present. Council President Jasionowski was absent. Councilwoman Sieg will be arriving late.

Also present: Holly Schepisi, Township Attorney, Robert Gallione, Business Administrator, Dennis Harrington, Township Engineer, Gennaro Rotella, CFO, and Karen Padva, Acting Clerk. Mayor Blundo will be arriving late.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan supports the administrations effort to update the property maintenance code and would like to institute this reform. Councilman de Stefan also announced that the book he is writing along with Bob Secor on the history of River Vale will be available in about a month.

Councilman Matos expressed how pleased he is with the new Skate Board Park in Old Tappan. Councilman Matos also complimented DPW Superintendent, Rich Campanelli on what a great job the DPW workers did re-sodding the football field. In addition, he was pleased that there was no water accumulation on the newly renovated basketball courts after a recent heavy rain.

Councilman Bromberg gave an update on the re-opening of Pascack Valley Hospital and the importance of the still pending *Certificate of Need*. Councilman Bromberg announced the circulation of a petition to support the Pascack Valley area having a hospital.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The Business Administrator reported that if anyone is interested in signing the hospital petition; it is available at the Town Hall offices. Mr. Gallione also thanked resident Tom Bellini for both donating and installing new plumbing fixtures in the Mark Lane restrooms. He also announced that Mayor Blundo will be attending the September 13th opening of the Skate Board Park in Old Tappan.

Mr. Gallione gave additional updates that Chris Wahmann will be appointed an alternate representative on the Open Space Committee and he also gave an update on the most recent Shade Tree Commission meeting.

*****Councilwoman Sieg arrived at the meeting at 8:10pm*****

1. Council Comments (continued)

Councilwoman Sieg commented on how proud she is to see all the volunteerism among the young people of River Vale. In addition, she paid compliments to the families of River Vale for setting such a fine example and what a nice reflection it is on the community.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Harrington opened his comments by stating that thanks to the efforts of Bob Gallione the Community Center parking lot will be paved this week. Rich Campanelli will stripe the lot. He also reported that the final CO for the DPW Building is pending and that FEMA monies will be used to repair a damaged headwall on Bernita Drive. The Engineer concluded his report with a brief report on the poor sidewalk conditions on Piermont Avenue.

*****Mayor Blundo arrived at the meeting at 8:22pm*****

2. Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Blundo announced the sad news on the recent death of Jim Seely. Mr. Seely was a former Mayor of Westwood and acted as the secretary for the Pascack Valley Mayors Association for many years. The Mayor added that Jim always kept the group together and focused and that he will be greatly missed.

The Mayor reported that there were very few complaints regarding the most recent storm. In addition, the fields held up very well during the storm and the Mayor expressed his gratitude to the DPW staff. Mayor Blundo also extended his appreciation to Sgt Scheidel and the River Vale Fire Department for being very prepared during this most recent storm.

The Mayor concluded his comments with an update on the Roberge Drive situation. He stated that the residents gave a very professional presentation and petition. Mayor Blundo gave a brief summary of Sgt. Ryan’s findings with regard to the traffic history of the area. Sgt Ryan does not recommend the connecting of Roberge Drive to Brookside Avenue; and Mayor Blundo does not support the idea and concurred with Sgt. Ryan’s findings.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Council Vice President Bromberg 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.”

Grace Meyer – 642 Roberge Drive— Mrs. Meyer expressed that she was not in favor of the reopening of Roberge Drive to Brookside Avenue and that it would adversely affect the neighborhood.

Paul Turdo – 626 Roberge Drive – distributed pictures to the Council of the path that connects Roberge Drive to Brookside Avenue.

Ferrari – 181 Doretta Drive – presented the Council with a petition with 48 signatures opposing the reopening of Roberge Drive to Brookside Avenue.

Chris Wayman – 611 Poplar Road – had questions regarding the open space ballot question and expressed his concern about funding in the event there is a no vote.

Joe Massin – 68 Holiday Court – followed up on his question regarding the possible implementation of an Adopt – A – Tree program in the Township.

There being no further 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 Councilwoman Sieg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to approve Resolution #2008-208, as follows:

Resolution #2008-208

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES–July 28, 2008

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the July 28, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2008-209, as follows:

Resolution #2008-209

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES– August 11, 2008

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the August 11, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Resolution #2008-210 was pulled by Council Vice President Bromberg

Resolution #2008-210

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES–August 25, 2008

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the August 25, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to approve Resolutions #2008-211 through #2008-215 on Consent Agenda, as follows:

Resolution #2008-211

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE NOT TO EXCEED LIMITATIONS FOR T&M ASSOCIATES – DPW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Council of the Township of River Vale at their September 10, 2007 Council meeting authorized not to exceed limitations in the amount of

\$50,000 to the Engineering Firm of T & M Associates in connection with the DPW Building Construction project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the not to exceed limitations be amended for an additional amount of \$16,600 to T & M Associates for services in connection with the DPW Building project.

Resolution #2008-212

RESOLUTION SUPPPORTING THE BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD’S GRANT AGREEMENT FOR DPW SHARED SERVICES STUDY

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Westwood received notice from the SHARE Program of its eligibility to receive a SHARE Grant in the amount of \$21,450.00; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the award is to hire a consultant to study and recommend the sharing of DPW equipment, services, scheduling and evolving towards environmentally friendly practices that would be beneficial to the residents and municipalities of the Pascack Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Westwood, that the Governing Body does hereby accept the award of \$21,450.00 to hire a consultant to study and recommend the sharing of DPW equipment, services, scheduling and evolving toward environmentally friendly practices that would be beneficial to the residents and municipalities of the Pascack Valley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Borough of Westwood be and hereby is authorized to execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs on behalf of the Borough of Westwood and all the other local municipalities that are party to the SHARE Grant Application, and upon execution of said Agreement, the Borough of Westwood does accept the Terms and Conditions specified in the Agreement in connection to this grant award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of River Vale accepts the terms and conditions of Grant Agreement #2008-04665-2834-00 known as the DPW Shared Services Study.

Resolution #2008-213

APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale has entered into a Three Year Cooperative Agreement with the County of Bergen as provided under the Interlocal Services Act NJSA 40A:8A-1 et seq. and Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, said Agreement requires that one Municipal Representative be appointed by the Governing Body of the community to be part of the Community Development Regional Committee for the term of one year coinciding with the fiscal year July 1 through June 30;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council hereby appoints Robert J. Gallione, Jr. and his alternate, Chris Wahmann to participate on the Community Development Regional Committee.

Resolution #2008-214

RESOLUTION APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE FOR OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION – ON-PREMISES DRAWING

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

NAME: Our Lady of Mercy School Association
25 Fremont Avenue
Park Ridge, NJ 07656

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

DATE OF RAFFLE: October 23, 2008 6:00 – 11:00 pm

I.D. #: 374-5-1394

RAFFLE LICENSE: RL 298

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 #2008-215

RESOLUTION APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE FOR OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION – 50/50 ON-PREMISES

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

NAME: Our Lady of Mercy School Association
25 Fremont Avenue
Park Ridge, NJ 07656

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

DATE OF RAFFLE: October 23, 2008 6:00 – 11:00 pm

I.D. #: 374-5-1394

RAFFLE LICENSE: RL 299

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.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to Approve Resolution #2008-216 as follows:

Resolution #2008-216

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGREEMENT FOR USE OF PROPERTY—RVVFD CIRCUS

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale is desirous of using the Holdrum Middle School Upper field located on the Holdrum School grounds for the purpose of holding the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department Circus on September 27, 2008.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the above mentioned agreement with such edits or changes, if any, proposed by the Township Attorney.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to adjourn meeting at 8:58 pm

Mark Bromberg
Council Vice President

ATTEST:
Karen Padva
Acting Township Clerk