

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
February 8, 2024
7:00 PM

Mayor Anlian announced that this meeting is being held in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10 4-6 et seq.” notice of which was sent to the Record, and the Star Ledger on December 29, 2023 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Village Website.

This agenda is listed as a courtesy and attempt to inform the public of actions being considered by the Village Board of Commissioners. There may be additions and deletions prior to the Board taking final action. Any action may be taken at any meeting, which includes all Caucus and Regular sessions. The Commissioners reserve the right to conduct and/or attend any meetings presently scheduled for the rest of 2024 by a combination of electronic and/or in-person means. Meetings are open to the public.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

Also, present: Phil Boggia and Chris Chapman, Village Attorneys; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus and Closed Session Meetings of January 18, 2024.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

DISCUSSION I

Chamber of Commerce

Lenor Sanchez and Salwa Diaz, Chamber of Commerce representatives, were in attendance to discuss the following issues:

1. If the Board of Commissioners could pass a moratorium on limiting the number of businesses of the same type. Mayor Anlian stated he understands their goal but it is free enterprise and the Village can’t control it. Attorney Boggia will look at the request further.
2. Parking is an issue – patrons of salons are getting ticketed if parked too long. Mayor Anlian advised the only restriction is street parking from 9am-11am without an RP decal. Commissioner Gerken suggested visitor hang tags from the Police Department for businesses to give to patrons that will be longer than the meters allow or during the hours of 9am-11am for off street parking.
3. 10-minute parking spaces for patrons/uber drivers. The Commissioners will look into it.
4. Permanent lantern lights on Main Street. Samsung is working with the Chamber of Commerce on this project. The Commissioners would prefer the lanterns on Grove Street. Main Street has trucks that travel through and their may be height issues. Commissioner Gerken stated they are looking to convert the lighting on Main Street to LED. Also, the Webster Street parking lot will have additional parking for patrons.

Commissioner Olson suggested the proceeds 501C3 and local clubs get charged for tables in the Street Fair go to the Chamber of Commerce.

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HEARING OF CITIZENS

Lissette Palacios and Robert Frieber, residents, complained about the noise problem (humming from roof machinery) at Consolidation Packaging Co. Ms. Palacios stated she has contacted the Senator's office, who sent the EPA to take decibel readings of the property. They were 20% above the acceptable level. This issue has been on-going for 2 years now and she suffers from sleep deprivation. She also has a petition signed by the surrounding neighbors.

Kevin Boswell, Boswell Engineering, stated the Village can issue a summons based on the EPA decibel reading report. Mayor Anlian will speak with the Police Chief tomorrow. A copy of the report will also be sent to the Building Department.

Chris Santana, member of the Ridgefield Park Fire Department, stated the double parking at the School of Excellence is an accident waiting to happen. There should be more traffic control.

Also, vehicles are parking in fire zones and at yellow curbs around the schools during dismissal time. Emergency services response times are delayed due to this problem.

Mayor Anlian advised he will speak with Chief Rella.

DISCUSSION II

Kevin Boswell, Boswell Engineering

Kevin Boswell advised the Board of Commissioners that he is now the President/CEO of Boswell Engineering. His brother, Stephen, retired as CEO on October 1, 2023. On September 12, 2024, Boswell Engineering will be having a 100th Anniversary Reception at the Venetian. There will be a presentation to Ridgefield Park for being their first client.

RFQ – Veterans Park

A resolution will be prepared for the Tuesday, February 13th meeting. There will be an emphasis on the expertise of synthetic turf vs. grass surfaces.

CORRESPONDENCE

01-10 Gary Prettyman, Veolia – Veolia Water NJ 2023 WR23110790 Rate Case - Informational

01-11 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

01-12 NJDEP Weekly Update - Informational

01-13 Surenian, Edwards, Buzak & Nolan LLC – COAH A4 Hearing - Informational

01-14 Local Finance Notice 2024-02 - Informational

01-15 Josh Gottheimer – Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program - Informational

01-16 NJLM Weekly Round – Up - Informational

01-17 NJDEP Weekly Update - Informational

01-18 Ken Aloisio, County of Bergen – 2024 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund – Mayor Anlian will apply to purchase additional property for the Nature Preserve

01-19 Table of Equalized Valuations – Informational

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CORRESPONDENCE – cont.

02-01 NJLM Weekly Round-Up - Informational

02-02 NJDEP Weekly Update - Informational

02-03 Sen. Gordon Johnson Letter – COAH – Informational

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

2024-22 Authorize Re-appointment of Emergency Management Coordinator

Motion by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, that Resolution 2024-22 be approved.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised Municipal Court had their annual review and passed. Their office will be painted and re-carpeted. There is currently no notification in the building where Municipal Court is – he will be posting signage.

The computers in the Health/Welfare Department are outdated and need to be replaced.

The Environmental Commission had a clean-up at the Nature Preserve. The Commission would like to receive donations. For example, plaques for benches.

Bids are out for the Overpeck Island Reduction project.

Engineering updates have been received from Boswell and Suburban Engineering firms.

Webster Street Parking Lot – received a drawing from Joe Dunne, Boswell Engineering.

The Green Acres application for the Fellowship Park playground was submitted on Wednesday.

Something needs to be done with the garbage on Main Street- seems to be in 1 location. Summons’ should be given to the property owner.

Commissioner Olson stated he had dinner with the Ambulance Corps. Monday night.

The Board of Recreation is doing fine.

The CCTV project is moving along fine.

The VFW floor emblem is out and at the DPW. A table will be made out of it but it will be too big for the Library.

The thought is to use the VFW property as a temporary mini-park.

The food composting is going fine, but should think about charging for year 2025.

Janet Harris wants to do 2 bee colonies – not sure of locations.

Hackensack/Bogota held an EPS collection on Sunday. March 2nd is Leonia/RP.

Commissioner Olson would like to extend the Summer Recreation Program to the end of August and utilize the Civic Center and Library.

The High School Principal contacted Comm. Olson and stated the teens would like the town to do something for them. On March 1st, the Civic Center will be open from 7pm-10pm for teenagers. He and Janet Harris will be supervising.

The mural project has been stalled a little. 2 bids have been received. Approx. cost is \$25,000.00.

Clerk O’Grady advised the Municipal Election material should be posted on the Village website.

The past two weeks have been tax time and numerous residents have complained on the condition of the Municipal Building front steps. The DPW has looked at them and agree something should be done.

Quarterly meetings will be held to discuss open grants and grant applications.

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Superintendent Monroe advised the game plan is to paint and carpet the Violations Bureau in one weekend.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2024-23 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, the public portion of the meeting recessed in order to convene a Closed Session Executive Meeting permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (7, 8) Litigation, Personnel

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.
Commissioner Portorreal

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 9:19 p.m.

On a motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Mayor Anlian to adjourn.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.
Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson
Commissioner

Abstain
Commissioner Portorreal

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor

/s/Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk

Approved on February 22, 2024