

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
February 13, 2024
7:30 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 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, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; Joe Rella, Chief of Police and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Anlian.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of January 23, 2024.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$5,730,048.32.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Ridgefield Park Fire Department Hose Co. No. 3 - Retirement

Motion by Mayor Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, accept the retirement of James VanDerTulip from the Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department.

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

SPECIAL REPORTS

Installation of Elected Officers Ridgefield Park Heavy Rescue

Commissioner Portorreal welcomed all and asked Chief Mike Ruiz to present his annual report.

Chief Ruiz advised the Rescue Squad responded to 49 calls this past year. His report touched on the apparatus and equipment, training, building repairs and community events.

Chief Ruiz thanked the Mayor and Commissioners, the Village Clerk and her team, Bogota's Chief Foster and his wife Susan and daughter Ariana.

Mrs. O'Grady administered the Oaths of Office to the Administrative and Line Officers.

Commissioner Portorreal thanked the members of the Rescue Squad for their service.

Mayor Anlian thanked Chief Ruiz for his service as Chief and as a volunteer. He thanked all of the volunteers and their families. If it wasn't for the time and effort of any of the volunteer services, the Village would be a much different place. Thank you for your dedication to Ridgefield Park and have a successful 2024. Mayor Anlian also welcomed Bogota's Mayor Fede.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised the Environmental would like to receive donations for the Nature Preserve to be used for improvements – a Trust Fund would need to be set up.

Boswell Engineering was asked to provide a quote for the Webster Street parking lot improvement project.

Invoices are being submitted for the Veterans Park project – as per the CFO, an ordinance is needed to spend the funds.

Commissioner Olson stated the floor section of the VFW has been removed and is working with a local artisan to make a table.

Summer Recreation will have an addition session extending to September 4th.

One ambulance has been repaired and the other will be going out for repairs shortly.

A local resident will be hosting a concert at the Civic Center on Saturday at 7pm.

February 24th a jazz workshop will be held for students with a concert following at 6:30pm at the Civic Center.

Commissioner Portorreal stated the 2024 pool application is getting finalized. There will be an early bird special for early registrations; cost increase for daily passes.

Commissioner MacNeill reminded the Commissioners to get their budget sheets in.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Askar Mirza, resident, stated he submitted a Citizen's Leadership form and hasn't heard anything yet. Clerk O'Grady will forward Mr. Mirza's form to Jeff Hoffman. Mayor Anlian stated many boards have associate members and he can attend any of the board/commission meetings.

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NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Anlian announces that the following business is considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 2024-23 Authorize Issuance of a Request for Qualifications For Landscape Architectural/Engineering Services for Improvements to Veterans Park
- 2024-24 Authorize Agreement for Public Health Services with the Borough of Ridgefield
- 2024-25 Authorize Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Commissioner Portorreal, seconded by Commissioner Olson, that the consent agenda be approved.

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

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- 2024-01 ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF THE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$388,800.00 THEREFOR FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND – THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE RESURFACING OF PARK STREET FROM OVERPECK AVENUE TO EUCLID AVENUE**

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner MacNeill read the said ordinance by title.

Commissioner MacNeill moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading, published in the Record Newspaper and posted on the Village Bulletin Board by the Village Clerk. The public hearing will be held on February 27, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gerken.

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

- 2024-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 182 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, ENTITLED “FILMING”**

Commissioner Olson moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

Commissioner Olson read the said ordinance by title.

Commissioner Olson moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading, published in the Record Newspaper and posted on the Village Bulletin Board by the Village Clerk. The public hearing will be held on February 27, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal.

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

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ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal
Commissioner

/s/ John H. Anlian
Mayor

/s/Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk

Approved on February 27, 2024