



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Executive (Closed) Session**

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

7:30 P.M.

BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Municipal Place

Emerson, NJ 07630

Call to Order

Mayor Lamatina called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. Mr. Tom Browne led the salute to the flag followed by a moment of silence at the request of Mayor Lamatina.

O.P.M.A. Statement

Mayor Lamatina read the Sunshine Statement announcing that the meeting of June 17th, 2008 had been adequately noticed and was in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Further, that the meeting was included in the Annual Meeting Notice Resolution sent to the Bergen Record and Ridgewood News and advertised in said newspapers; posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall, Municipal Place, Emerson, NJ 07630 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice was on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and had been available to the public since its approval by the governing body.

Roll Call:

Mayor Louis J. Lamatina-Present

Councilman Steven Bair -Present

Councilwoman Marcia DeSalvo-Present

Council President Christopher Heyer-Arrived at 9:32 p.m.

Councilman Kenneth Hoffman-Present

Councilman Anthony Loffredo-Present

Councilman Francis P. Milone, Jr.-Present

Also present were Carol Dray, Borough Clerk, Joseph Scarpa, Borough Administrator, and Philip Boggia, Borough Attorney.

Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Meeting – March 19, 2008

☞ **Motion** to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2008 was **moved** by Councilwoman DeSalvo, **seconded** by Councilman Bair and carried.

- Work Session/Regular Meeting – May 20, 2008

☞ **Motion** to approve the Work Session/Regular Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2008 was **moved** by Councilman Bair, **seconded** by Councilwoman DeSalvo and carried.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Lamatina announced that copies of listed correspondence were available for a statutory fee in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

- #08-32 Letter dated 6/9/08; re: State Planning Re-adoption, DCA
- #08-33 Letter dated 6/9/08; re: Green Acres Application, DEP
- #08-34 Letter dated 5/23/08; re: Approval of 2007 Open Space Grant for Hillman Park Field Improvements for \$73,000, County Executive
- #08-35 Letter dated 5/29/08; re: Eagle Scout Court of Honor, Cory Joseph Mayer
- #08-36 Letter dated 6/19/08; re: 2008 Community Development Block Grant HUD Approval for Senior Activities for \$3,000
- #08-37 Letter dated 6/2/08; re: The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources, Ellen Rocca
- #08-38 Invitation received 6/3/08 to Emerson Middle Grade 8 Moving-Up Ceremony; Emerson BOH

7. APPOINTMENT AND PERSONNEL CHANGES

Appointments: Emerson Volunteer Fire Department: Michael J. Borer, Jr.

☞ **Motion** to approve the appointment of Michael J. Borer, Jr. as a member of the Emerson Volunteer Fire Department was **moved** by Councilman Hoffman, **seconded** by Councilman Loffredo and carried.

8. ORDINANCES

None

9. OLD BUSINESS

a) Redevelopment – Mayor Lamatina stated that there were two new positive developments to report on: Mr. Joseph Sanzari had agreed to assist the Borough in a limited way with redevelopment and would attend certain meetings. He noted that Mr. Scarpa was working on a press release regarding this arrangement. Mr. Sanzari will look at the pro-forma which the Mayor was excited about because of his background in the building industry. In addition, the Mayor noted that he had met with Town Engineer Ken Ascolese and Ken Aloisio from the County and Bob Goldsmith of Millennium Homes where they reviewed plans going back to the 1950’s for upgrading Kinderkamack Road. Mayor Lamatina also discussed setting up the public redevelopment meetings in mid-September so that everyone would be available; the date would be firmed up soon and announced publicly at that time.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Bergen County Classic Charity-Lynn Pontillo - Postponed
- b) All-Star Soccer Team Charity Event in Brazil – Ron Berg of Emerson stated that his daughter Victoria and one of her teammates, Sarah Royce, were planning to go to Brazil on a goodwill tour where they would be playing soccer and working with local children. Mr. Berg explained that part of the process was to create a relationship between the United States and Brazil. He provided a handout and mentioned that each student would be bringing a box with donations for Brazilian children - soccer equipment, nets, balls, etc. The Mayor asked Mr. Berg to have the students send email updates while on their trip so that they could be included in the Emerson Eagle. He also asked if the Recreation Department had any shirts that could be donated for this project. Mr. Berg expressed his appreciation for any contributions the Borough could make.
- c) Anti-littering Campaign – Mr. Scarpa explained that the borough was focusing on improving the littering issue in the borough and specifically, discarded cigarette butts at certain locations, by implementing an anti-littering campaign. While he noted that there was an ordinance on the books, the only way to make it work was to enforce it by posting anti-littering signs near the bus stop and perhaps have someone issue a

warning card or fine. The Mayor stated that he did not want to see a resident fined for the first offense. He also expressed the belief that if the ordinance was not enforced, it would send the wrong message to residents. In addition, he said that he would begin to reach out to bigger businesses in town to see if they would sponsor recycling bins placed downtown. Councilman Hoffman agreed with the Mayor and suggested putting information in the Emerson Eagle about the anti-littering campaign and plans for increased enforcement.

d) Nominees for Volunteer of the Year – Councilwoman DeSalvo stated that the Governing Body had received a letter the County asking for a nominee for Volunteer of the Year. She asked if anyone had any nominees and said that she had received five to date. Councilman Hoffman recommended Pat Rizza who had volunteered in many capacities in the past. Councilman Loffredo suggested Carolyn and Phil Mazzo. Mayor Lamatina recommended Steve Beloise. Other potential nominees discussed included Jim Bailey, Jackie Santala, Dave Mason and Pat Schwalbe. Councilwoman DeSalvo suggested that each Councilmember contact their recommended candidate to gather information on their volunteer activities and vote at the next meeting to choose a nominee. She noted that the deadline for submissions was August 22nd.

e) Permission to take Emerson Fire Department Engine #295 to the Honesdale, Pennsylvania Fourth of July Parade – Councilman Hoffman explained that he had received an email from Fire Chief Mark Savino with the request. He stated that Mr. Scarpa assured him that the borough insurance would cover the event. Councilman Hoffman said that the Honesdale, PA Fire Department was a sister department to the **Emerson Fire Department** and that the borough had donated equipment to them and would like to participate in their parade with the fire truck. Councilman Bair asked about the expense involved and Mr. Scarpa estimated that it would amount to about \$50.00. Councilman Milone expressed concern about the vehicle's safety on a long trip. He was assured by Ron Berg that it been had inspected and would have no problems. The Governing Body's consensus was to give permission for the outing. Councilman Hoffman concluded by saying that he would speak with the Chief and give him approval to make the trip.

11. REPORTS

a) Mayor and Council Reports

Councilwoman DeSalvo – No report.

Councilman Bair – He stated that School Superintendent Dr. Taffaro was not interested in repairing the lights at the tennis courts, which

would lower costs, and would poll the **Board of Education** for a consensus and have an answer at the end of the month. Councilman Bair also noted that the **Planning Board** had pushed the Armenian Home application back to August because they had asked for significant improvements to the plan. He explained that the Armenian Home was doing everything they could to comply and he was optimistic that they would be able to meet their needs.

Councilman Milone – At the last Board of Health meeting, they discussed feral cats and potentially putting an ordinance in place regarding feeding wild and stray animals. There were no problems with health checks in the Borough. They were also continuing with Dan Levy's health class training. Also Andrew Bellavaqua was named Emerson Volunteer of the Year by the **Emerson Ambulance Corps**.

Councilman Loffredo – He gave the Recreation report related to Memorial Day and the Emerson Picnic and commended the **Recreation Commission** on their work on both projects. He also mentioned that work on Ackerman Courts should be completed within the next couple weeks. Bids would be open Friday for Hillman Field. Also the County was going to open Pascack Brook Park for the Recreation Soccer program. The Mayor said that the Borough would stripe the fields. Councilman Loffredo thought that using this field would be very helpful and thanked the Mayor, Joseph Scarpa and the County. He did not have a Police Report, but mentioned Captain Hayes' retirement and that he had requested that the Captain wished to remain the OEM Coordinator and liaison to the Auxiliary Police until the end of the year. Councilman Loffredo suggested that they accept Captain Hayes' offer and allow him to remain in those capacities until the end of the year. The Council was in agreement. In addition, he questioned Mr. Scarpa about the Countywide Emergency System. Mr. Scarpa stated that Captain Hayes recommended that the Borough go with the County wide system which did not cost any money except for the setup; the Borough would only pay when they utilize the system.

Councilman Hoffman – He gave the **Fire Department** report for the month of May. He also announced that longtime fireman Rich Masiello was honored by the Knights of Columbus as Volunteer Firefighter of the Year. He congratulated Mr. Masiello on that honor, noting that he was a 44 year veteran of the Fire Department who still goes out on calls and was a former Chief and Fire Inspector. The **Shade Tree Commission** was off for the summer and would soon begin their tree planting program for 2008. He commended all the hard work done by Steve Frassa and anticipated that 18 or more trees would be planted around town. Councilwoman DeSalvo asked for an update on the Farmer's Market; Councilman Hoffman explained that the **Environmental Commission** was still working on it. Mayor Lamatina mentioned a few other Farmer's Markets such as Piermont

and thought that the organization may be a good resource for information on such programs.

Mayor Lamatina – He first discussed the budget and an article in the day’s paper stating that municipal aid would be restored by about 75%. Mayor Lamatina emphasized that he would like to get back to work on the budget and strive to maintain the zero percent tax increase by getting revenues up and continuing to control expenditures. He also remarked on NJ Transit’s plan to budget \$250 million for restoration of the Hoboken train station. He opined that this was a lot of money to spend for aesthetics in the current economy and stressed that NJ Transit should budget a few million dollars towards moving the train station from the center of Kinderkamack Road, a County thoroughfare. He planned to write a letter to the editor of The Record to voice his opinion on this situation. Members of the Governing Body agreed to sign the letter as well. Mayor Lamatina emphasized that the most significant cost of Redevelopment was moving the train station with an anticipated cost of \$3 million to \$7 million. While he acknowledged that the Hoboken train station was a landmark, he said that the situation with the train station in the Borough was dangerous and a disaster waiting to happen and must be addressed before aesthetic concerns.

- b) Office of the Borough Administrator – Inaudible
- c) Office of the Municipal Clerk – No report
- d) Borough Attorney – No report

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Before opening the meeting for comments from the public, Mayor Lamatina reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones, keep their comments as brief as possible and try to limit them only to governmental issues of concern to an Emerson resident. He further requested that if a subject matter was addressed and answered, to please refrain from repeating it unless they had something new to contribute. A five-minute rule was in effect for each speaker at the discretion of the Council. Mayor Lamatina asked that everyone do their part to be civil, to the point, and respectful of another’s point of view and opinion. He further warned that speaking out without recognition would not be tolerated and a second warning could result in removal from the Council Chambers.

☞ **Motion** to open the meeting for comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Hoffman, **seconded** by Councilman Loffredo and carried at 8:40 p.m.

Danielle DiPaola, 93 Union Street – Ms. DiPaola asked whether Mr. Sanzari would be eliminated from bidding on road contracts since he would be participating as a voluntary consultant on Redevelopment. Mayor Lamatina explained that Mr. Sanzari had checked with the County and his attorneys and was assured that there were no conflicts of interest and nothing unethical about bidding on road projects for the Borough. In addition, she complained about parking on Union Street during the Recreation program activities. She explained that the current ordinance stipulated that no parking was allowed between Mariana and East Ackerman Avenues; now vehicles park in front of her home, litter the area and block access to her driveway. She asked if a letter could go out with fall registration for the fall football recreation program urging people to park at the high school. The Mayor remarked that the parking signs are confusing and that the situation would be addressed.

Angela Ciccarelli, 164 Wortendyke Avenue – Ms. Ciccarelli spoke as a member of the **Shade Tree Commission** and as a private citizen. She thanked the Council for designating the green space opposite the train station as Jim Wagner Park. She noted that the commission would continue landscaping the area in the fall. She asked if the municipal sign (soon to be replaced with a digital version) at the park could be repositioned to allow for enhancement of the beauty of the park and the downtown area. The Mayor noted that this area was at the center of redevelopment so he did not want to spend any money moving the sign at this point in time. Ms. Ciccarelli finished by asking the Mayor and Council to take the park and the sign into consideration when considering plans for the area.

Tom Browne, 114 Pine Street – He informed the Mayor and Council that he learned that Montclair, NJ was using a plain clothed Police Officer to enforce their street crossing ordinances. He asked if the **Police Department** could adopt a similar procedure, explaining that he had witnessed situations where people's safety was at risk. He emphasized that enforcing these ordinances would make Emerson more pedestrian friendly. The Mayor supported his suggestion and stated that Redevelopment plans were seeking to make the Borough pedestrian friendly and traffic calming, similar to Oradell's plan. Mr. Browne also brought to the Council's attention the fact that Clifton purchases electricity with other Pascack Valley towns and asked if the Borough could explore the option of sharing energy purchases with other towns. Mayor Lamatina stated that Emerson is constantly striving to share services to save money. He asked Mr. Scarpa to contact Vivian Baker of NJ Transit to discuss adding commuter spots in town because of the traffic, safety and health issue which must come before aesthetics.

Seeing no more hands, Mayor Lamatina asked for a motion to close the meeting to comments from the public.

☞ **Motion** to close the meeting for comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Loffredo, **seconded** by Councilman Milone and carried at 9:00 p.m.

13. CONSENT AGENDA-Resolution No. 110-08

☞ **Motion** to approve Consent Agenda Resolution No. 110-08 was **moved** by Councilman Hoffman, **seconded** by Councilwoman DeSalvo and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes

Bair-Yes

Milone-Yes

Heyer-Absent

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

Ca #111-08 Approve Bill List

Ca #112-08 Approve Corrective Action Plan – Audit Ending December 31, 2007

Ca #113-08 Approve 2008 Liquor License renewals for the term July 1, 2008 through June 31, 2009: #021433004001, #021433006006, #021444002002, #021433001005, #021431009001, #0214444007008

Ca #114-08 Approve Site Design of Hillman Field Dugout

Ca #115-08 Oppose S-1455 Referendum to Consolidate Certain Financial and Health Services Officers

12. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION No. 116-08

☞ **Motion** to close for an executive session to discuss matters exempt from the public as duly noticed by Resolution No. 116-08 was **moved** by Councilman Bair, **seconded** by Councilman Milone and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes

Bair-Yes

Milone-Yes

Heyer-Absent

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

APPROVED No. 14

#08-6/17-48 Personnel-Police

#08-6/17-49-Litigation-COAH Development Fees-PVSC

13. RECONVENE

☞ **Motion** to reconvene was **moved** by Councilman Loffredo, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and carried at 9:49 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

☞ **Motion** to adjourn was **moved** by Councilman Loffredo, **seconded** by Councilman Bair and carried at 9:50 p.m.

Carol Dray, RMC/CMC

July 17, 2008