



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Executive (Closed) Session
Tuesday, January 15, 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 7:32 pm. Mr. Pfister 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 January 15, 2008 had been adequately noticed and was in compliance to 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.

Roll Call:

Mayor Louis J. Lamatina-Present
Councilman Steven Bair -Present
Councilwoman Marcia DeSalvo-Present
Council President Christopher Heyer-Present
Councilman Kenneth Hoffman-Present
Councilman Anthony Loffredo-Present
Councilman Francis P. Milone, Jr.-Present

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

Approval of Minutes:

Work Session/Regular Meeting of December 4, 2007

☞ **Motion** to approve with corrections was **moved** by Councilman Milone, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and carried unanimously.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Lamatina announced that copies of the correspondence were on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

#08-01 letter dated 12/17/08, re: Weathercraft, S. Gebbia

#08-02 letter dated 12/21/07, re: NJDOT Municipal Aid Program, K. Kolluri, DOT

#08-03 letter dated 1/2/08; re: Carol Dray, Municipal Clerk, N. Grant, Pres., Bergen County Municipal Clerks Association

#08-04 letter dated 12/20/07 from Senator Gerald Cardinale; re: Borough of Emerson receiving \$150,000 for improvement of Lincoln Blvd from FY 2008 Transportation Trust Fund

#08-05 letter dated 12/17/07 from Samuel D. Bornstein; re: Redevelopment

#08-06 letter dated 1/6/08, re: hazardous roadway icing condition, S. J. Yang

#08-07 letter dated 1/7/08, re: Soldier Hill Development, L. Kaufman

#08-08 letter dated 1/11/08, re: Ackerman Park Improvements, J. Macchione

#08-09 report dated 1/11/08; Re: Drainage Improvements, Maser Consulting, P.A.

#08-10 letter dated 12/14/07 received 1/14/07; re: Basic Course in Land Use Law and Planning, B. Spinelli

8. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Lamatina announced that February 1st was nationally recognized as National Wear Red Day to raise the awareness of heart disease in women and encouraged everyone to wear red on that day.

9. APPOINTMENT AND PERSONNEL CHANGES

a) Ambulance Corps- Council Second Liaison

☞ **Motion** to appoint Councilwoman DeSalvo as the Second Liaison on the Ambulance Corps was **moved** by Councilman Loffredo, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and carried with no objections.

b) Recreation Commission-Alternate I for the unexpired term ending 12/11- Jim La Rose

☞ **Motion** to appoint Jim La Rose as the Alternate I member of the Recreation Commission for the unexpired term of 12/31/11 was **moved** by Councilwoman DeSalvo, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and carried with no objections.

- c) Shade Tree Commission-Regular member for the unexpired term ending 12/08-Diane Frassa

Mayor Lamatina appointed Diane Frassa as a regular member of the Shade Tree Commission left vacated by James Wagner for the unexpired term of 12/31/10.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a) ORDINANCE-FIRST READING

1344-08 AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION IN THE BOROUGH OF EMERSON, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

☞ **Motion** to introduce Ordinance #1344-08 on first reading was **moved** by Councilman Hoffman, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and carried by 6-0 roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes
Bair-Yes
Milone -Yes
Heyer-Yes
Loffredo-Yes
Hoffman-Yes

Mayor Lamatina announced that Ordinance No. 1344-08 was duly approved unanimously on first reading and would be further considered at a Public Hearing to be held on February 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall, Municipal Place, Emerson, N.J and published in the January 18, 2008 edition of the Ridgewood News. Ordinance No. 1344-08 was on file in the Clerk's Office and posted on the official bulletin board of the Municipal Building.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Discussions: None

12. FINANCIAL ACTION

None

13. OLD BUSINESS

a) Redevelopment

Mayor Lamatina reported that a meeting with Millennium Homes would tentatively take place on January 24, 2008. Mayor Lamatina invited

Councilman Heyer and/or Councilman Bair to attend also. It was expected that Mr. Joseph Burgis, the Borough Planner, or his associate would also be in attendance. Mr. Scarpa added that, according to Mr. Burgis, the Master Plan was complete and had requested the number of copies needed for distribution.

14. REPORTS

a) Mayor and Council Reports

Councilwoman DeSalvo reported that she would be attending the first meeting of the **Library Board** and to save the date of February 23 when the **Library Board of Trustees** would host their Annual Breakfast. She had attended the annual **Emerson Fire Department** Installation Dinner and thanked the Fire Department members and their families for their commitment and the sacrifices they make to keep residents safe. With respect to the **Finance Department**, Councilwoman DeSalvo reported that before moving on the budget, the 2007 books had to be closed out. She explained that Mr. Gene Vinci of Park Ridge was working on this project and that it should be finalized within a few weeks.

Councilman Bair had nothing to report.

Councilman Milone had spoken to the auditor, Mr. Gary Higgins, who was closing out the 2007 books. When that was accomplished, the Council would then begin to assess the **budget** situation for 2008.

Council President Heyer had no report.

Councilman Loffredo gave the year end and most current **Police Activity Report**.

Councilman Hoffman commented that he, too, enjoyed the **Fire Department installation dinner** and thanked Mr. Rizza as well as all the volunteers for keeping Emerson safe. The Reorganization Meeting for the **Shade Tree Commission** was held the previous week; Mr. Joseph Solimando was reappointed as the Chairperson and Mr. Steven Frassa was reappointed as Vice Chair for 2008. Mr. Solimando and Mr. Frassa were also reappointed as Primary Tree Inspector and Co-Tree Inspector, respectively.

Mayor Lamatina reported that he, Mr. Scarpa, and Mayor Wenzel of Washington Township would be attending **Mayors' Legislative Day** in Trenton the next day. He also attended Governor Corzine's Town Meeting in Hackensack the previous evening. The Governor discussed the state of the economy in New Jersey, specifically addressing the debt situation and possible solutions including toll hikes, raising personal income taxes, increasing the gas tax or increasing the sales tax. He encouraged everyone to try to attend a meeting with the Governor. Mayor Lamatina also gave a status report on **Pascack Valley Hospital**. He explained that the Pascack Valley Mayors

Association had spoken with a group that was proposing to place a bid on February 4th to buy the assets and run the hospital. However, the Mayor still believed that Hackensack Hospital would make the strongest bid. His conclusion was that there would be an acute care facility at the Pascack Valley site. Updating the group on the **Federal Aviation Association** status, Mayor Lamatina explained that the DEP would be filing a brief disagreeing with the FAA's position and contesting their final environmental impact study. In closing, he mentioned the extra leaf bag pickup scheduled for Thursday, January 17th.

- b) Office of the Borough Administrator – Mr. Scarpa had attended the Governor's meeting in Hackensack the previous evening and remarked that solving the budget crisis in New Jersey would take serious commitment and significant time. He stated that the Governor's speech was very vague on spending cuts. In addition, Mr. Scarpa reviewed the letter from Macchione Construction and stated that the Borough would not pay anything. On other topics, he mentioned that he and the Borough Clerk would be attending a JIF Reorganization meeting on Thursday night; floor replacement work being done in two rooms of the Police Department was almost completed; and the Police Chief and five volunteers were painting two rooms at the station on their own time. Finally, he discussed the classified advertisement posted on the NJSLOM website for a replacement CFO/Treasurer. He had not yet received any responses and had reached out to another person for assistance until the position was filled.
- c) Office of the Municipal Clerk – had no report
- d) Borough Attorney - had no report

15. 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.

APPROVED 5-20-08

☞ **Motion** to open the meeting for comments from the public was **moved** by Council President Heyer, **seconded** by Councilman Bair and carried at 7:55 p.m.

Seeing no 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 Council President Heyer, **seconded** by Councilman Bair and carried at 7:58 p.m.

16. CONSENT AGENDA-Resolution No. 25-08

☞ **Motion** to approve Consent Agenda Resolution No. 25-08 was **moved** by Councilwoman DeSalvo, **seconded** by Councilman Milone and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes

Bair-Yes

Milone -Yes

Heyer-Yes

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

CA 26-08 Supporting a the Establishment of a Hospital at the Site of the Pascack Valley Hospital

CA 27-08 Award Contract for Drainage Improvements for Linwood and Wortendyke Avenue to Reivax Construction, 46 Washington Street, Harrison, NJ 07029 for Alternate Bid A & Alternate C for \$112,849.50 and Alternate B to D.R. Mullen Construction, 38 Edison Ave, Oakland, NJ 07436 for \$46,552.00

17. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION No. 28-08

☞ **Motion** to close for an Executive Session to discuss matters exempt from the public as duly noticed by Resolution No. 28-08 was **moved** by Council President Heyer, **seconded** by Councilman Milone and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes

Bair-Yes

Milone -Yes

Heyer-Yes

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

APPROVED 5-20-08

#08-1/15-3 Personnel- CFO/Treasurer

#08-1/12-4 Personnel-DPW Collective Bargaining Unit

18. RECONVENE

☞ **Motion** to reconvene was **moved** by Councilman Milone, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and carried at 8:00 p.m.

CFO/Treasurer

Ms. Burns' request for post retirement benefits was discussed in closed session by the Mayor and Council and the following action of the governing body took place when the meeting reconvened. Mr. Scarpa was asked to notify Ms. Burns of the Council's decision the next day.

☞ **Motion:** Councilman Bair moved that CFO/Treasurer, Nancy Burns be provided with \$225 a month for up to 18 months from her retirement date of April 1, 2008 to fund an AARP supplementary health insurance plan to Medicare based upon her 22 years of service. This action by the governing body was exclusive to this person only based upon her length of service to the borough and did not establish a precedent by the Borough of Emerson was **seconded** by Councilman Loffredo and carried 4-2 by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-No

Bair-Yes

Milone-No

Heyer-Yes

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

19. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to address, at the request of Mayor Lamatina, Councilman Milone **moved** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and carried at 8:57 p.m.

Carol Dray, RMC, CMC

April 8, 2008