



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

Tuesday, January 8, 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 7:35 pm. Mr. Donato 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 8, 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-Absent  
Councilman Francis P. Milone, Jr.-Present

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

**6. Executive Closed Session-Resolution No. 24-08**

☞ **Motion** to close for an executive session to discuss matters exempt from the public as duly noticed by Resolution No. 24-08 was **moved** by

Councilman Hoffman, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and was carried by roll call vote.

**RC: Council members:**

**DeSalvo-Yes**

**Bair-Yes**

**Milone-Yes**

**Heyer-Yes**

**Loffredo-Absent**

**Hoffman-Yes**

08-1/8-01 Personnel-CFO/Treasurer

08-1/8-02 Personnel-Fire Department

## 12. RECONVENE

☞ **Motion** to reconvene was **moved, seconded** and carried unanimously.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Redevelopment – Mayor Lamatina began a brief update on Redevelopment by stating that Seth Cohen of Millennium would not be ready on January 15<sup>th</sup> and would present his plan on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Mayor stated that he would like to get a team together with Millennium that would include Council President Heyer, the Planning Board Chair and Borough Planner Joseph Burgis before the meeting so that they could work together on the planning process. He emphasized that he had stressed to Mr. Cohen that he must work with the Borough Planner through the process and that Mr. Cohen agreed.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

None

## 9. REPORTS

- a) Office of the Borough Administrator – Borough Administrator Joseph Scarpa reported that Emerson had received a \$150,000 grant from the State to do work on Lincoln Boulevard. He commented that while the funds were not enough to do the entire road, it was useful. He also mentioned that he would look into asking the State for the 2009 grant money in advance so that the funds could be applied to the project. He reviewed the road projects planned for 2008 that were being coordinated with other Pascack Valley towns – Congress Street, Dorchester Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup>

Street and Orchard Avenue. Mr. Scarpa discussed the recent switch of Borough cell phone service to Sprint and stated that the service would allow additional minutes at a savings of \$1000 per year. On other topics, he said that the Recycling Newsletter had been distributed town wide and that an additional leaf pickup had been scheduled for January 17th. Mayor Lamatina asked Mr. Scarpa to contact the Office of Smart Growth so that they could get on an agenda and meet with them in Trenton. The Mayor thought it would be especially useful to do this in conjunction with Redevelopment, as the use of their planner would be of no cost to the Borough.

- b) Office of the Municipal Clerk – Borough Clerk Carol Dray reviewed the information she gathered during a mandatory election meeting at the County Board of Elections in Hackensack. County Clerk Kathleen Donovan reviewed weather issues and expenses that municipalities may incur during the February 4<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary. Ms. Dray explained that only the Governor can stop an election and that the possibility of inclement weather necessitated the need for back up plans. The potential services required might include plowing of school parking lots and roads, and transporting election board workers to polling places. She mentioned that Ms. Donovan stated that there was \$20 million available from the State for reimbursement of extra fees if Clerks applied and documented them. While there was no guarantee that municipalities would receive a portion of these funds since the Counties would receive reimbursement first, Ms. Dray stated that she would apply as soon as possible after the election to increase the likelihood of receipt. Finally she explained that she was encouraging people to vote absentee to reduce the probability that a voter may be disenfranchised due to bad weather.
- c) Borough Attorney – No report

## **10. 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 to comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Milone, **seconded** by Council President Heyer and carried unanimously.

Mr. Vince Donato – 128 Vivian Avenue –commented that it was not fair to the public to have the Closed Session early in the meeting; although he understood why the accommodation had been made. He criticized the Borough questionnaire located on the borough website claiming it was an inadequate tool for gathering resident opinions, and suggested that another survey be put together that addressed Redevelopment exclusively. He stressed that he was an advocate for a much smaller redevelopment plan in town. Councilman Hoffman suggested that a revised questionnaire /survey be placed in the new borough newsletter format, The Emerson Eagle.

Ms. Danielle DiPaola – 93 Union Street – commented that the Chamber of Commerce would like to take advantage of some space in the newsletter. Mr. Scarpa commented that the opportunity always existed. She stated that she would be attending their next meeting and would invite them to submit information. Mayor Lamatina said that the Borough was looking for contributors and would welcome the Chamber of Commerce’s input.

Seeing no more hands, Mayor Lamatina asked for a **motion** to close the public portion of the meeting.

☞ **Motion** to close the meeting to comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Heyer, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried unanimously.

## 11. CONSENT AGENDA-RESOLUTION No. 21-08

☞ **Motion** to approve the Consent Agenda Resolution No. 21-08 was **moved** by Councilman Milone, **seconded** by Councilman Bair and carried by roll call vote.

**RC: Council members:**

**DeSalvo-Yes**

**Bair-Yes**

**Milone-Yes**

**Heyer-Yes**

**Loffredo-Absent**

**Hoffman-Yes**

ca #22-08 Approve Bill List

ca #23-08 Approve Affordable Housing Agreement with the Housing Authority of Bergen County

Councilman Hoffman asked for feedback from the Mayor and Council about allowing seven members to sit on the **Historic Preservation Committee** instead of five. He explained that a number of people were interested and that he would not have a problem filling these seats. The Governing Body had no objection. Councilman Hoffman also reported on a phone call he had with a resident who was concerned about a recent six hour wait for emergency service at Englewood Hospital. He stated that he wanted to have the facility back for Borough residents. Mayor Lamatina responded that this was one of the issues that the Pascack Valley Mayors Association was working on. He explained that Westwood Mayor Blundo was committed to having an acute care facility on that site and that Emerson's Governing Body agreed. The Mayor explained that he would report back after the next Mayors meeting but was confident that a new acute care facility would be in place fairly soon.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to address, at the request of Mayor Lamatina, Councilwoman DeSalvo **moved** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Councilman Milone and carried at 8:48 p.m.

Carol Dray, RMC

March 17, 2008