



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL AGENDA
MINUTES**

Work Session/Budget Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 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. Pierce 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 February 12, 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-Arrived at 8:05 p.m.
Councilman Francis P. Milone, Jr.-Present

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

6. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Pauline Winarsky-100 Years Old – Postponed due to inclement weather

7. APPOINTMENT AND PERSONNEL CHANGES

Resignations:

Property Maintenance - Nelson Fullam-effective 2/15/08

☞ **Motion** to accept the resignation of Mr. Fullam effective 2/15/08 was **moved** by Councilman Milone, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried unanimously.

Certified Financial Officer - Ann Burns- effective 4/1/08

☞ **Motion** to accept the resignation of Ms. Burns effective 4/1/08 was **moved** by Councilwoman DeSalvo, **seconded** by Councilman Bair and carried unanimously.

Court Administrator – Veronica Heisse - effective 2/22/08

☞ **Motion** to accept the resignation of Ms. Heisse effective 2/22/08 was **moved** by Councilman Hoffman, **seconded** by Councilman Bair and carried unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion: 2008 Municipal Budget

a) 7:45 p.m. – **Emerson Volunteer Fire Department** – Fire Chief Mark Savino outlined his 2008 budget requests. He discussed the 1983 rescue vehicle which needed system replacements, was rusty and displayed a lot of wear and tear. Chief Savino also mentioned the 1972 pumper. He asked about replacing these vehicles with a multipurpose rescue/pumper. Councilman Hoffman explained that a new vehicle would take some pressure off the 1996 pumper and would be useful when there were less volunteers during the day since one truck would handle everything. Chief Savino also mentioned the need for a new generator at the Fire House as the current machine was 25 years old and unable to run heating and air conditioning. He stressed the need for this item since the Fire House was listed as a town shelter in case of emergency. Also reviewed was the need to replace the 1993 Suburban. Chief Savino suggested that the Council consider reassigning the Building Department's old vehicle if it is replaced to eliminate any expenses in this area. Other items included were an addition to the Fire House and replacing the present boat with one capable of handling rough currents and adaptable with other boats in the area. Chief Savino also requested updated lighting on the engine room floor, replacing the outside fire escape, replacing some pages and portables and a new repeater. Councilman Hoffman stated that a stair lift for the building would be something else to consider as some members of the Fire

Department were getting older. Borough Administrator Joe Scarpa mentioned that it might be possible to get 100% funding for this through Community Development. Councilman Heyer inquired about getting grant money to fund the new fire truck. Mr. Scarpa stated that the borough had applied for grant money twice and had been rejected. He observed that these grants generally go to large urban areas. Councilman Heyer questioned whether the borough could get funds from the Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Scarpa mentioned that the shelter might qualify for grants and would try to apply. The Mayor asked Chief Savino if the borough might share a fire truck with Oradell but Chief Savino stated that this scenario would not be feasible if one town was using the vehicle and the other town needed tools on it. He commented that sharing specs for vehicles was a possible avenue to pursue. Mayor Lamatina quizzed Mr. Scarpa about whether capital equipment sharing had been discussed in the Pascack Valley Administrators meetings. Mr. Scarpa explained that this was a political issue, and that unless a governing body specifically asked, it would not be taken under consideration. Instead, Mr. Scarpa explained, the group had been focusing on roads.

b) 8:00 p.m. – **Building Department** – Building/Construction Official Mike Sartori began by explaining that the original forecast of \$225,000 in revenues for 2008 would be reduced by approximately \$50,000 due to the Armenian Home delaying groundbreaking until 2009. Therefore his current projection was \$175,000, a significant reduction for his budget. He detailed the ways he anticipated lowering his budget – reducing expenses for supplies, printing and miscellaneous. He also acknowledged that in the absence of the Armenian Home revenue, a new vehicle could not be purchased. Councilman Bair inquired about the open Property Maintenance Officer position and Mr. Sartori noted that the fees for enforcement more than offset the salary for this position. The Council discussed raising fees and Mr. Sartori stated that Emerson’s fees are right in the middle compared with fees in other Pascack Valley towns. He thought that adding \$5.00 to each permit across the board could increase revenue by approximately \$10,000. Mayor Lamatina and Mr. Scarpa discussed putting together a committee to review this option or just raising fees at a Council meeting. It was noted that the last time fees were raised was in 2003 or 2004. The Mayor declared that they would discuss this at the next meeting and complimented Mr. Sartori and his department for how well things were going and for positive resident feedback. Councilwoman DeSalvo and Mr. Scarpa concurred. He concluded by saying that it was important to hire a Property Maintenance Officer in the near future.

c) 8:15 p.m. – **Police Department** – Police Chief Michael Saudino outlined his capital requests in order of priority. He explained that the current speed sign had malfunctioned and was not repairable. In addition, he requested a message board for detours that could be shared

with other departments. He explained that there was a need for a storage shed for Police ATVs, motorcycles and equipment and related that Washington Township Councilman Robert Schroeder was willing to split the cost of \$6000. The facility would be a 12 x 28 foot, impressively crafted garage constructed offsite by the Amish that could be moved if necessary. Chief Saudino also mentioned that there was a need to replace the worn touch screens for the police vehicles. The replacement cost was \$500 each. There was discussion about the move to digital radio technology in 2011 or 2012 and replacement costs as the current radios were not digital. The Council considered the option of replacing a couple radios each year or bonding. Finally Chief Saudino emphasized the need to replace the outdated Freedom Recorder which does not capture transmission of all car, desk and phone calls and is 15 – 16 years old. It was difficult to maintain as they are unable to get parts. He shared information about leasing vs. purchasing a replacement. Leasing would cost \$5039 per year, for a five year cost of \$25,195. To purchase, the cost would be \$13,882 per year, with maintenance starting at \$2,100 for the first year and going up to \$2,706 by year five. Chief Saudino stated that if the borough leased the equipment, they would always be able to take advantage of the latest technology. Mr. Scarpa stated that the difference between leasing and purchasing was approximately \$1,500. Chief Saudino also reviewed overtime, requested an additional officer and asked for two vehicles to replace those that are in poor condition with high mileage. He stressed that the safety of Borough Police Officers was at the heart of the need for police cars. In closing, he emphasized the need for a new Police Complex and remarked that the conditions in the current Municipal Building were shameful.

d) 8:45 p.m. – **Emerson Volunteer Ambulance Corps** – Captain Dave Mason and Mike Budres began their statement by addressing the need for waterproof/fireproof filing cabinets to store records. There was general discussion regarding the fact that \$19,906 in funds for their annual installation dinner were unencumbered. They reviewed the status of the two Borough ambulances, indicating that the newer vehicle, a 2002 model with 29,000 miles on it, was on the road more now that Pascack Valley Hospital had closed and calls were lengthier. The second ambulance, a 1993/1994 model with 42,000 miles on it, was becoming unreliable and was considered technically outdated. He explained that Emerson has a mutual aid agreement with the TriBoro Ambulance Corps, as well as Old Tappan, Washington Township, Hillsdale and Westwood and estimated the cost of a new ambulance at approximately \$160,000. Councilwoman DeSalvo inquired about the need for two ambulances in the Borough. Captain Mason responded that the second ambulance was a backup used for standby coverage at Borough sporting events and to cover in case the other ambulance was at a call. In addition, it allowed the Borough to cover surrounding towns on the

weekend when they have a steady crew. In return, other towns provided backup for Emerson during the week when they are short of help.

e) 9:00 p.m. – **Redevelopment Sub-committee Meetings** – Councilman Hoffman expressed concern about whether there would be more meetings between Millennium and the Redevelopment Sub-committee and requested that they be taped so that everyone on the Council could remain informed. Councilman Heyer agreed to his request. Councilman Hoffman also inquired whether Millennium had proposed a total number of residential units. Councilman Heyer explained that the work would be done in phases and within the confines of current COAH regulations. Councilman Hoffman asked for the total number of units for the entire town and proposed the calculation of 311 units plus 62 low and moderate income housing units. He also asked if Millennium would appear before the entire governing body so that the public would be able to attend. Council President Loffredo explained that there was no developer's agreement yet and that the first order of business was to have the developer's agreement signed and know the parameters. In closing, Mayor Lamatina informed everyone that he would be attending a Greener Community seminar on Friday, February 15th at Bergen Community College. It would provide him with the opportunity to learn more about green topics like alternate energy and building green and allow him to hold Millennium to their pledge to build green in the Borough.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) ORDINANCES-FIRST READING

1345-08 BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, APPROPRIATING \$360,000 AS AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$342,000 OF BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING THE COST OF SAID IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF EMERSON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY

☞ **Motion** to introduce Ordinance #1345-08 on first reading was **moved** by Councilman Heyer, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes

Bair-Yes

Milone-Yes

Heyer-Yes

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

Mayor Lamatina announced that Ordinance No. 1345-08 was duly approved unanimously on first reading and would be further considered at a Public Hearing to be held on March 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall, Municipal Pl., Emerson, N.J and published in the February 15, 2008 edition of the Ridgewood News. Ordinance No. 1345-08 was on file in the Clerk's Office and posted on the official bulletin board of the Municipal Building.

b) Resolution No.40-08 Temporary Capital Budget

☛ **Motion** to approve Resolution No. 40-08 was **moved** by Councilman Milone, **seconded** by Councilwoman DeSalvo and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes

Bair-Yes

Milone-Yes

Heyer-Yes

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

Mr. Scarpa explained that Resolution No. 40-08 amends the Capital Budget to allow for a down payment of a bond, putting the financing in order for a road project. It is part of the Shared Services Agreement, allowing nine Pascack Valley towns to work together, and providing an estimated total savings of \$100,000 in engineering fees for bidding costs. He noted that this project would cost approximately \$9 million dollars between the nine towns.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

In the interest of time, speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Speakers with prepared statement should provide eight (8) copies for the Council

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 ejection from the council chambers.

Motion to open the meeting for comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Milone, **seconded** by Councilman Heyer and carried unanimously.

Mr. Vincent Donato – 128 Vivian Avenue – Mr. Donato stated that he supported Chief Saudino’s request for a new and larger Police facility and that it was long overdue. He also concurred with the need for another ambulance because of the extra burden on volunteers since the closing of Pascack Valley Hospital. Commenting on the Redevelopment Subcommittee, Mr. Donato strongly supported having the meetings recorded and reduced to writing. Mr. Scarpa and Council President Loffredo maintained that the Redevelopment Sub-Committee had been in existence since the beginning, and that it had simply been formalized recently. The formalization was done only to expedite the process and all information was always brought back to the Mayor and Council.. However, Councilman Hoffman expressed concern that he wanted to be aware of everything that went on regarding Redevelopment. Councilman Heyer reminded everyone that the Mayor issued frequent updates on the Emerson Borough website. Mr. Donato noted that he thought that the Redevelopment Plan would be like having ten Senior Housing Centers in the Borough. Councilman Bair corrected Mr. Donato by explaining that the concepts presented looked nothing like the Senior Housing and that Mr. Donato’s statement was premature and erroneous. He further detailed the fact that the Planning Board had numerous meetings before Redevelopment was even presented to the Mayor and Council and that he would have liked to see more people at those meetings. Mayor Lamatina related that a team would be going before the State Office of Smart Growth for guidance and that they would be looking at zoning ordinances as well as the entire plan. He emphasized that the Council was committed to Redevelopment, and while they understood that there would be some opposition, they must do what is best for the town as a whole.

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 Milone and carried unanimously at 9:30 p.m.

11. CONSENT AGENDA-Resolution No. 41-08

☞ **Motion** to approve the Consent Agenda Resolution No. 41-08 was moved by Councilman Bair, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes

Bair-Yes

Milone-Yes

Heyer-Yes

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

Ca 42-08 Bill List

Ca 43-08 Transfers within the 2007 Budget

Ca 44-08 Authorizing the Borough of Emerson to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement for the purchase of goods and services.

12. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION No. 45-08

Mr. Scarpa notified the Council that the personnel interviews for CFO were being postponed due to inclement weather. Councilman Hoffman requested that Fire Department personnel be added to the Closed Session Agenda.

☞ **Motion** to add 'Personnel - Fire Department' to Closed Session Resolution No. 45-08 was **moved** by Council President Loffredo, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried unanimously.

☞ **Motion** to close for an executive session to discuss matters exempt from the public as duly noticed by Resolution No. 45-08 was **moved** by Councilwoman DeSalvo, **seconded** by Councilman Heyer and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

DeSalvo-Yes

Bair-Yes

Milone-Yes

Heyer-Yes

Loffredo-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

#08-2/12-9 Personnel-Interviews-CFO

#08-2/12-10 Personnel- Police Chief's Contract

#08-2/12-11 DPW Contract

#08-2/12-12 Personnel-DPW Superintendent's Contract

#08-2/12-13 Personnel- Fire Department

13. RECONVENE

Motion to reconvene was **moved** by Council President Loffredo, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried unanimously.

14. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED Min No. 6

With no other business to address, at the request of Mayor Lamatina, Councilman Heyer **moved** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Council President Loffredo and carried at 10:05 p.m.

Carol Dray, RMC, CMC

March 14, 2008