



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting /Budget Workshop
Executive (Closed) Session**

Tuesday, January 29, 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. Basile 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 29, 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, Philip Boggia, Borough Attorney, and Joseph Scarpa, Business Administrator.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

UNAPPROVED

a) "Paperless Meetings" Presentation - Greg Hart, Administrator, Franklin Lakes

Mr. Hart presided over a PowerPoint presentation explaining the benefits of document imaging and the electronic filing technology of government records. He demonstrated the ease of managing and the retrieval of records for greater governance and the implementation of "paperless meetings". He offered that it cost Franklin Lakes to be up and running with the Laserfiche Weblink software, laptops for the governing body, installation and support about \$35,000. Mr. Hart added that yearly maintenance and IT support costs were approximately \$3,000.

b) Departmental Discussions

1) Emerson Public Library

Jodi Fulgione, Library Director, and Library Trustees, Gail Kovacs and Gloria Wilson, presented the proposed Library Budget for 2008 absent of any salary increases and with no capital improvements forecasted. However, they anticipated budgeting for a new ceiling and new lighting in 2009. This year the library would be celebrating its 50th anniversary and many special programs and activities were being planned to commemorate the event. They had received "Honorable Mention" as one of the best public libraries in Bergen County and over the last two years circulation had increased 63%. Ms. Wilson reminded the governing body that the library facility was old and outdated and asked that they be kept informed and included on the Redevelopment project.

2) Court

Judge Leddy quantified his request for two full time employees in the Office of the Municipal Court because of increased filings and the loss of a full time staffer last year.

3) DPW

Mr. Solimando, DPW Superintendent, quantified his capital request for new vehicles to replace tired ones and the need for additional personnel.

4) Recreation

Steve Belloise and Marty Porcello discussed their budgeting needs for the upcoming year and funding to finance background checks of officers and coaches. Councilmen Milone suggested adding \$5.00 to registration fees to offset the expenditure. The governing body was supportive of this suggestion and would consider an amendment to the ordinance. Mr. Scarpa requested that Recreation give him the total number of coaches for budgeting purposes.

c) Request to hang banner- Assumption Church

Councilman Milone **moved** and Council President Heyer seconded the motion to grant Assumption Church permission to hang a banner in advertisement of Catholic Schools Week. All were in favor with no objections and the motion was carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a) Redevelopment

Mayor Lamatina reported that they had met with the redeveloper, Millennium Homes, and were encouraged by their acknowledgement to begin the project north of Linwood. He expected to have a signed Developer's Agreement in approximately three (3) weeks.

Appointment of a Redevelopment Sub-committee

Council President Heyer suggested formally creating a Redevelopment Authority sub-committee for the purpose of expediency and continuity of the project and that the committee members should be limited to borough administrative personnel and members of the governing body only. He added that he considered it inappropriate to include any one else. Councilman Loffredo concurred that the creation of the Redevelopment Sub-committee would expedite the project without requiring the entire authority having to participate on a regular basis.

As the Council pondered the suggestion, Mayor Lamatina queried Mr. Boggia for his opinion as to the appropriateness of another individual outside of Council President Heyer's definition being included in those meetings. Mr. Boggia opined that it was a policy-making decision set by Council and the only thing left to do by the governing body was to focus on working out the details of the proposed Developer's Agreement between the developer and the Borough as efficiently as possible. He saw no harm in utilizing a smaller representation of the governing body who would regularly report back to the Mayor and Council. He added that he also saw no purpose to continue debating the Redevelopment since it was now an adopted zoning ordinance; the Mayor and Council had approved a developer who must comply with the plan and, except for the terms of the Developer's agreement, the matter would soon be back in the hands of the Planning Board.

When polled by Mayor Lamatina, all shared Council President Heyer's opinion to limit the membership of the sub-committee to those borough officials he suggested except for Councilman Hoffman, who had no objection to allowing the Planning Board Chairman to attend as well.

A **motion** was moved by Council President Heyer, **seconded** by Councilman Loffredo to formally create a Redevelopment sub-committee exclusively consisting of the Mayor, the borough attorney, the borough administrator, the real estate liaison, and/or the Class III member of the Planning Board. The motion was carried by a 5-1 roll call vote.

UNAPPROVED

Roll call:
DeSalvo-yes
Bair-yes
Milone-yes
Heyer-yes
Loffredo-yes
Hoffman-no

Mayor Lamatina asked the Council to begin to consider who to appoint to the Smart Growth Advisory Committee and further explained the purpose and the advantages of the initiative.

8. 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 Council President Heyer, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried unanimously.

Brian Todd, 207 Palisade Avenue, was pleased that the redevelopment and that the shopping center was moving forward as well. Councilwoman DeSalvo recognized his contribution on those projects as well while a councilperson.

Motion to close the meeting for comments from the public was moved by Council President Heyer, **seconded** by Councilman Loffredo and carried unanimously.

9. CONSENT AGENDA-Resolution No.30 -08

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 30-08 was moved by Councilman Bair, seconded by Councilman Hoffman and carried 6-0 by roll call vote.

UNAPPROVED

ROLL CALL:

DeSalvo-yes
Bair-yes
Milone-yes
Heyer-yes
Loffredo yes
Hoffman-yes

- Ca-31-08 Approve Bill List
- Ca-32-08 Approve Investments
- Ca-33-08 Approve Transfer of Funds within the 2007 Budget
- Ca-34-08 Approve Joseph Scarpa, Administrator, as the 2008 Community Development Delegate and Dorothy Romaine, as the Alternate Delegate
- Ca-35-08 Community Development Senior Citizens Grant for \$3,000
- Ca-36-08 Approve Fire Department Mutual Aid with Pascack Valley towns
- CA-37-08 Approve Mutual Aid Agreement with the Volunteer Fire Departments of the Borough of Oradell, Paramus and Harrington Park

10. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION No.38 -08

Motion to close for an executive session to discuss matters exempt from the public as duly noticed by Resolution No. 38-08 was moved by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Heyer and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Roll Call:

DeSalvo-yes
Bair-yes
Milone-yes
Heyer-yes
Loffredo yes
Hoffman-yes

- #08-1/29-5 Personnel-Police Chief's Contract
- #08-1/29-6 Litigation-Gebbia v. Borough of Emerson
- #08-1/29-7 Personnel-Fire Department

11. RECONVENE

Motion to reconvene was moved, seconded and carried.

Gebbia v. Borough of Emerson

UNAPPROVED

Motion to authorize the Borough Attorney to prepare a motion to dismiss and/or the appropriate pleadings in response to the intended litigation by Salvatore Gebbia was moved by Council President Heyer, seconded by Councilwoman DeSalvo and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

DeSalvo-yes

Bair-yes

Milone-yes

Heyer-yes

Loffredo yes

Hoffman-yes

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to discuss, Mayor Lamatina requested a motion to adjourn, so moved by Council President Heyer, seconded by Councilman Loffredo and carried unanimously at 11:30 p.m.

Carol Dray, RMC, CMC

February 25, 2008