

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Budget Meeting
Tuesday, January 31, 2006
8:00 P.M. Council Chambers
Municipal Building
Emerson, NJ 07630

This meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm. Bill Bierman led the Salute to the Flag followed by a moment of silence.

Council President Todd read the Open Public Meetings Statement announcing that the meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of **January 31, 2006** was included in a list of meeting notices sent to the Bergen Record and Ridgewood News on December 15, 2005 and advertised in said newspapers on December 17th & December 23, 2005; respectively, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on December 17, 2005 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk of the Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Councilman Carlo Camporeale-Present
Councilwoman Carole Costantin-Present
Councilman Christopher Heyer-Present
Councilman Kenneth Hoffman-Absent
Councilman Frank Milone-Absent
Council President Brian Todd-Present
Mayor Steven Setteducati-Absent

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Appointment:

Fire Official: Frank Boccio-Resolution AO10-06

☛ **Motion** to appoint Frank Boccio as the Fire Prevention Officer for the Borough of Emerson for the term ending 12/31/06 effective immediately was moved by Councilman Heyer, seconded by Councilwoman Costantin and carried unanimously.
Mr. Boccio was sworn in by Councilman Heyer.

Fire Inspectors: Resolution AO8-06

☛ **Motion** to appoint Richard Solimando, Richard Masiello, Richard Talley, Edward Mills, Sr., & Joseph J. Mara as Fire Inspectors for the Borough of Emerson for the term ending 12/31/06 was moved by Councilwoman Costantin, seconded by Councilman Heyer and carried unanimously.

Part time Police Dispatchers: Appointment of Jason Mejia & Christine Nelson

☞ **Motion** to appoint Jason Mejia and Christine Nelson as part time police dispatchers for the Borough of Emerson Police Department was moved by Councilwoman Costantin, seconded by Councilman Camporeale and carried.

NEW BUSINESS: BUDGET WORKSHOP

1. Municipal Departments

a) Library

Bill Bierman, a trustee and President of the Library Board introduced the Library Director, Jodi Fulgione and Board Treasurer, Gail Kovacs. Ms. Fulgione briefly explained the goals of the library and its many new programs. She added that the circulation was the highest it had been in the last five years and invited the Mayor and Council to visit the library often. Ms. Kovacs reported that the mandatory borough appropriation was \$385,235. A line item of \$4,000 for landscaping and a capital request for a new air conditioning unit, which is on its last legs estimated at \$75,000 was discussed. Before the library could accept a public service project through Rutgers Cooperative for new landscaping, they must have the ability to irrigate the new plantings at an estimated cost of \$4,000.

b) Police

Chief Saudino began with four capital requests for the Emerson Police Department; three of which he considered mandatory. He explained the Info Cop program, the need for the newer model breathalyzer as the accepted machine throughout the state, the 911 communication system, which is on loan from Verizon who have requested that it be returned, and the need to lease a trailer to expand the Police Department due to a confining work area. The cost for the initial set up would be \$35,000 including the annual \$9,000 rental. Chief Saudino mentioned that revenue from police officer traffic detail revenue had brought in \$24,765, the cost of a fully equipped squad car, and asked if the Council would re-consider his request for two new squad cars instead of the customary one police car. Chief Saudino suggested that the Council reconsider hiring another police officer since Lt. Rossi was having trouble with a squad that is light by one man and hoped the matter could be revisited sometime in May or June. Chief Saudino would secure the resumes so that the process could resume within the year. Councilman Todd questioned the cellular fees and Chief Saudino responded accordingly. Chief Saudino added that he would work on condensing the line items of the Police Department.

b) EMS

Captain Larry Hagberg and President Dennis Fleming of the Emerson Volunteer Ambulance Corps discussed their operating budget and capital gains with the Mayor and Council. Mr. Hagberg explained the equipment upgrades and the repairs to the new ambulance. As a result of the obesity epidemic, Captain Hagberg was also in the market to purchase a couple of Stryker Power Rugged stretchers that could lift 700 lbs. with the push of button at \$9,823 each and a generator to power the EMS building in situations of

power failure and a new computer as the existing one was over ten years old. An increase in the clothing allowance was also requested.

c) Recreation

Pat Rizza was present to discuss the Recreation Department's budget. The salary line had increase by \$8,000 in anticipation of a new Recreation secretary. Mr. Rizza stated that he had met some opposition from some of the various sports programs to get their budgets in on time in accordance with their By-Laws and whatever had not been submitted by this date would not be considered. Mr. Rizza was trying to establish a policy of tracking vouchers for a greater accounting of the various sports programs use of funds and requested that a copy machine be installed in the Recreation Building for this reason. Mr. Rizza discussed those line items that had changed and the reasons for the increases. The greatest challenge ahead was keeping the utility fee for the cost of lighting Hillman Field within an economical range and would work with the various sports programs to achieve that goal. He did not have the exact number of all children enrolled in the various programs but knew the number had been increasing consistently every year.

Councilman Camporeale added that the Baseball Friends of would like to make dugout improvements at no cost to the borough except that the DPW may be minimally involved and wondered if it were necessary to carry the discussion to the next meeting. Councilman Camporeale added that the improvement would not require any field resurfacing.

Mr. Scarpa advised that he would only suggest that Mr. Rizza make sure that all the sports programs were on board as to what baseball was planning to do because of complaints during the prior field improvement project. Mr. Rizza stated that he would email all the various program presidents to alert them of this project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Before opening the meeting for comments from the public, Council President Todd 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. Council President Todd 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.

☞ Councilman Heyer **moved** to open the meeting for comments from the public, seconded by Councilman Camporeale and carried unanimously.

Marcia DeSalvo, 3 Valley brook Dr., asked if state mandated borough requirements or improvements receive funding from the state and Council President Todd replied that

they did not. Ms. DeSalvo wondered if the surplus was carried over to the next year and Mr. Scarpa explained that it would help the next year's budget. Ms. DeSalvo commented that she had seen a huge improvement in the Public Library since Ms. Fulgione began as the Director and considered the library a great asset to the town adding that she hoped the town would take her comments into consideration when they reviewed the budget.

☞ Seeing no more hands, **motion** to close the meeting for comments from the public was moved by Councilman Camporeale, seconded by Councilwoman Costantin and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

☞ With no more business to discuss, **motion** to adjourn was moved by Councilman Heyer, seconded by Councilwoman Costantin and carried unanimously at 9:30 p.m.

Carol Dray, RMC

February 17, 2006