



MINUTES
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
JANUARY 26, 2010
7:30 P.M.
Borough Hall-Council Chambers
Emerson, NJ 07630



Call to Order

Mayor Lamatina called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm. Police Chief Mike Saudino and Fire Chief John Holter led the salute to the flag.

O.P.M.A. Statement

Mayor Lamatina read the Sunshine Statement announcing that the meeting of January 26th 2010 had been adequately noticed and was in compliance with 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. In addition, a copy of the notice was on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and had been available to the public since its approval by the governing body.

Roll Call:

Mayor Louis J. Lamatina-Present
Councilman Steven Bair –Present
Councilman Browne - Present
Councilman Hoffman – Present
Council President Lazar- Present
Councilman Rivers – Present
Councilman Shaw – Arrived at 7:55 p.m.

Also present were Deputy Clerk Jane Dietsche substituting for Borough Clerk Carol Dray, Borough Attorney Phil Boggia and Business Administrator Joseph Scarpa, who arrived at 7:50 p.m. Chief Financial Officer Catherine Henderson arrived at 8:05.

III. BUDGET WORKSHOP

2010 Municipal Budget

Departmental Discussions:

1. Police Department – Chief Saudino, Captain Donald Rossi and Lieutenant George Buono appeared before the Governing Body to present their budgetary requests for 2010:

- Digital cameras for the Police vehicles. The Chief explained that three had already been switched from videotape and asked that three cars and the motorcycle be equipped with the equipment this year.
 - Radar units, one or two per year
 - Computer Units – ‘Tough book’ Panasonic laptop computers
 - New Police vehicle to replace the stealth car with a Crown Victoria patrol car
 - Chief Saudino also emphasized the need for a new Police facility, detailing the many workplace and potential liability issues, safety hazards, and security concerns of the present facility. He stated that working conditions were horrendous. Mr. Scarpa concurred and detailed additional inadequacies.
2. Fire Department – Fire Chief Holter and Assistant Fire Chief Joe Castrovillari reviewed their requests for the upcoming year:
- Replacement of the 1983 rescue truck and 1984 pumper with a single multipurpose fire truck
 - Turn out gear for five to ten volunteers
 - Locking system for the Firehouse with swipe card access
 - Generator to provide power in case of a disaster
3. Department of Public Works – Superintendent Joe Solimando discussed his budgetary needs:
- Additional employees – He explained that the department was spread thin and discussed State regulations of sewer maintenance that require daily upkeep
 - Vacuum truck
 - New truck to replace a 1998 vehicle

IV. 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 Councilman Browne, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Lamatina asked for a motion to close the meeting to comments from the public.

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

V. RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA NO. 49-10

☛ **Motion** to approve the Consent Agenda Resolution No. 49-10 was **moved** by Councilman Browne, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried by roll call vote.

RC: Council members:

Browne-Yes

Rivers-Yes

Bair-Yes

Lazar-Yes

Hoffman-Yes

Shaw-Yes

Ca 50-10 Settlement – Property Tax Appeal – 440 Old Hook Road

Mr. Boggia stated that the Borough had received a letter from Town and Country which had posted a \$50,000 cash bond a number of years ago, asking for the funds returned. He added that he and Mr. Scarpa had asked them to reimburse the Borough for part of the cost incurred on the Patrick Street slope collapse. Mr. Boggia explained that the Borough had an out of pocket expense of about \$12,000.00. Town and Country had offered the Borough \$6,000.00 which Mr. Boggia and Mr. Scarpa thought was fair, so the Borough would send them back \$44,000.00.

☛ **Motion** to approve the return of \$44,000.00 to Town and Country was **moved** by Councilman Bair, **seconded** by Councilman Hoffman and carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to address, at the request of the Mayor, Councilman Bair **moved** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Councilman Rivers and carried at 10:08 p.m.

Jane Dietsche, Deputy Borough Clerk
(Proofed 2/11/10)

January 29, 2010