#### **BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

## MINUTES

## October 26, 2010

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 8:05 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees stated that the meeting complied with the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting having been made to all members of the Council by personal service on January 4, 2010 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 4, 2010.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Rose Heck, Councilwoman Sonya

Buckman Councilman David Gonzalez, Councilwoman Pamela J. Link, Councilman

John Dingertopadre, Councilman

Russell A. Lipari

Absent: Councilman Justin A. DiPisa

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**: Mayor Heck led in the Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**: Councilman Lipari gave the Invocation which was as follows:

"Lord, we thank you for Your Word, in which You have revealed Yourself and Your plans to us. We long to be a nation that continues to be blessed by You. We bring to you our candidates for office, and pray that they will be men and women who will seek to receive their visions for our nation from You and Your word. Amen."

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- 1) Notice of Public Hearing Re: Proposed Amendments to Bergen County Utilities Authority's Rules and Regulations
- 2) Notice of Potential Programming Change from Cablevision
- 3) Invitation to Annual Ragamuffin Parade on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010 at 1 p.m.

## COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):

- 4) Letter to Assemblyman Lou Greenwald and Assembly committee members regarding Arbitration Bill A-3393
- 5) Letter from PSEG on updates
- 6) N.J. Aviation Hall of Fame Presents "Salute to Veterans" on November 7, 2010 from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at Aviation Hall of Fame Museum, 400 Fred Wehran Drive, Teterboro Airport
- 7) Invitation to Veterans Day Memorial Service at Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 11 a.m.

Items #1, 3, 4 and 74 were requested to be read into the record (Copies attached).

On a motion by Councilman Dingertopadre, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried, the foregoing Communications were accepted.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (September 28, 2010 Executive Session, October 12,

2010 Regular Meeting, Work Session and Executive

Session)

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried, the foregoing Minutes were approved.

## **BILLS:**

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$413,837.55 specified in the schedule hereto annexed, have been examined and approved by the Finance Commissioner, or his Deputy; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in the accounts listed for payment of the claims;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the claims be paid and checks be issued on the funds and accounts indicated on the attached schedule.

Signed Justin A. DiPisa Deputy Commissioner of Finance

## BILLS (cont'd):

On a motion by Councilman Link, seconded by Councilman Dingertopadre, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

#### **REPORTS:**

**POLICE:** Under Police, Mayor/Deputy Commissioner Heck reported that Halloween is this weekend and parents and children are reminded that the Borough curfew is 9:30 p.m. and will be strictly enforced. Parents who allow their children to do mischief are requested to confine their activities to their own property and not that of others. Those who do property damage will be charged. Extra patrols will be out on both Oct. 30 and 31. The Police Department thanked Ron Ingui of RC Landscaping for his donation of mums and mulch at the Police Memorial. They also thanked the Costa Family for their assistance in adding Captain Rafford's name to the memorial. She noted that the Hasbrouck Heights Police Department received Honorable Mention from the N.J. Department of Transportation for their excellent crash reporting practices. She also congratulated the Police Department on receiving the SFY 2010 Body Armor Replacement Fund Program Award of \$2,707.71. This grant program offsets costs of purchasing body vests for their officers.

**RECREATION & PARKS:** Under Recreation, Commissioner Buckman reported Halloween in the Park was held at Woodland Park on Tuesday night October 19<sup>th</sup>. The park was transformed into a scary haven ghosts and other frightening creatures. We had 2 wagons every 15 minutes for 3 and half hours. Free refreshments were available for all participants. The Recreation Department would like to thank the members of the recreation advisory board, HH DPW, HH Fire & Rescue Dept, HH Police Dept, Al DeAngelo and his actors from Nightmares Haunted Attractions, Peter Bothe from Bergen County Parks Department, Fletcher Creamer Construction for the hay bails, and of course the HH Mayor and Council for all your support. The Recreation Center opened last month, you can register your child at the center when it is open on Friday and Saturday evenings 7pm-10pm. The cost is \$30.00 and the center will be available for children in 6th, 7th, & 8th grades. Senior Halloween Party once again will be sponsored by the recreation department, the party will be held Wednesday October 27th 12pm-3pm in the senior center. All town seniors are invited to enjoy an afternoon of eating, dancing, and music all free of charge. Costumes are optional but encouraged. The Recreation Department also has a list of senior activities, such as line dancing, movies, fun bingo, aerobics, yoga, WII Bowling, and more are offered on a monthly senior activities calendar. Recreation wrestling and youth basketball registrations are still open for anyone who still wants to sign a child up. Recreation adult basketball and adult volleyball has resumed play at the high school new gym free for all town residents 18 and older. Basketball plays on Monday nights 7pm-9pm and volleyball on Wednesday nights 7pm-9pm. For any more information on current or upcoming recreation programs feel free to call Robert Brady at the Recreation Office (201) 288-

**RECREATION & PARKS (cont'd):** 

4143. Under Parks, Commissioner Buckman reported The Department of Public Works helped assist Rob Brady with his successful "Halloween in the Park" event that took place on Tuesday, October 19th. The event, held every year in Woodland Park, needed the streets barricaded off around and near the park, hay picked up from Fletcher Creamer Construction Company in Hackensack and delivered to the park and returned to them after the event, portable generators and electrical cords had to be placed at several areas of the park, and a tractor and pick-up trucks was used to pull the wagon for the hayride. The DPW provided two (2) men to drive these vehicles through the park to insure a safe ride for all to enjoy. The entire park was cleaned after the event which included bathrooms, garbage collection, and any litter. The irrigation system in Woodland Park was winterized along with the Circle and Borough Hall. As Library liaison, she reported currently there were 9,116 items were circulated during the month of September. The total circulation of materials shows an 11% increase compared to last year's figures at this time. Forty-nine new patrons, 22 adults and 16 juveniles, were registered bringing the total number of cardholders to 7,773. The new system, Envision software allows people to sign up on the computer requires a library card.

**FIRE:** Under Fire, Commissioner Gonzalez reported that according to the activity report submitted by EMS Coordinator Elizabeth Waring for the period of Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, 2010 there were 31 fire calls, 13 non-emergency fire calls and 132 EMS calls. This included 14 mutual aid calls to Teterboro, 1 in Lodi and 1 in Little Ferry. EMS 1 was on hand for Town Day and the Wings and Wheels Expo; the Fire Department and EMS were on hand for Halloween in the Park and visited all the schools during Fire Prevention Week. He urged all residents to change their batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and congratulated all past and present members of Engine Company 2 for celebrating 90 years of service and dedication to our community.

FINANCE & PUBLIC FACILITIES: Under Public Facilities, Commissioner Link reported that on Tuesday, October 5, DPW Supt. William Spindler and Borough Administrator Michael Kronyak met with a representative from The New Jersey Joint Insurance Fund to perform a safety audit of all the Borough facilities. The audit started in the office of the Borough Administrator and proceeded to all the offices and rooms in the Borough Hall, Senior Center, Library, and basement. After completion of that facility, Superintendent Spindler took the representative to inspect the Public Safety Building which houses the Police Department, Fire Department, and Court facilities. The last stop was the DPW facility at 1 Plant Road where the DPW office, vehicles, and equipment are located. The audit was completed and the results will be reported to Michael Kronyak. He will disclose the findings with DPW Superintendent Spindler when they are issued. Under Finance, Commissioner Link reported the Current Fund cash balance at September 30 was \$1,228,538.98 and at August 31, 2010 was \$3,495,741.45 which represents a decrease of \$2,267,202.47. The entire balance was

## FINANCE & PUBLIC FACILITIES (cont'd):

invested and earning approximately 0.50%. Cash receipts for the month of September totaled \$578,295.85 of which \$154,116.95 was for Current Taxes, \$311,108.70 was Grants and State Aid, \$5,653.50 was Pre-paid Taxes and \$107,416.70 was Miscellaneous Revenues. Cash disbursements for the month of September totaled \$2.845.508.32 of which \$1.919.932.75 was for Local School Taxes. \$566.746.35 was for Salaries and \$358,829.22 was for Other Expenses. Final 2010 tax bills were mailed in late September. You will notice that the bill has a new look that we hope is easier to read and more informative. There is an explanation of tax rates at the top right corner and a distribution of taxes further down. Included on this final bill is the fourth quarter payment, which is due November 1, 2010, as well as the first and second quarter payments due in 2011. In addition to its usual business hours, the Tax Collector's Office, located at 320 Boulevard, will be open on Saturday, October 30, 2010, from 9 a.m. until noon for your convenience. The 2011 budget process has begun and the Finance Officer attended the fall Budget Update seminar which was held on October 22nd. We do not know exactly how the Budget and Levy Cap's will be treated for next year but we expect more information within the next few weeks. After the close of October, Department Heads will receive 2011 budget request forms which are to be completed and returned to the Finance Officer. The Finance Committee will begin holding more regular budget meetings and will ultimately get beck to meeting every week as the deadline to introduce the budget approaches.

**STREETS, SANITATION & TRANSPORTATION**: Under Streets, Sanitation & Transportation, Commissioner Dingertopadre reported that the list of streets that were milled and resurfaced this year is as follows:

Woodside Avenue from Franklin Avenue to Madison Avenue Woodside Avenue from LaSalle Avenue to 100 feet past Ottawa Avenue Madison Avenue from Woodside Avenue to Boulevard LaSalle Avenue from Terrace Avenue to Hasbrouck Avenue Garrison Avenue – entire length Hasbrouck Avenue – 400 block

A sink hole appeared at 159 Franklin Avenue on private property and the DPW responded by placing orange construction fencing around the hole as a courtesy to the resident. The hole was reported to the Borough Engineer and correspondence was sent to the homeowner by the Borough Attorney. A new electrical service riser was replaced at the Franklin Avenue Sanitary Sewer Pump Station as a result of damage that occurred from a traffic accident.

HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & LAND USE: Under Health, Commissioner Lipari reported The Hasbrouck Heights Health Department will be sponsoring an "All in One" Seasonal Flu & H1N1 Vaccine, Children's Immunization Program on Monday. November 8<sup>th</sup>. from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. at the Municipal Building in the Senior Center. Parents will be charged a \$20.00 fee for each vaccine. Vaccines will be given to Children 6 months to 18 years of age. Parent or legal guardian must accompany their children. Participants will be given information regarding the vaccine and will be required to sign a "Clients Informed Consent Form" before receiving the vaccine. No appointments are needed. For further information please call the Hasbrouck Heights Board of Health at 201-288-1636. This year the Child Health Conference has been very busy. The Health Clinic facility is located in River Edge, contracted through Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission. The pediatrician and nurses with River-Edge provides a complete health screening and immunization program for all residents with children 18 and younger. With more and more families in Hasbrouck Heights with no health insurance it is essential to provide this health service to protect them and the children in the classrooms. For further information please contact the Hasbrouck Heights Board of Health at 201-288-1636. Under Social Services, he reported the food pantry is open on Monday mornings from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. for residents in need. Anyone in need that has to register can do so with Robert Brady by calling (201) 288-4143. During the month of October the pantry helped over 62 residents in need. Thank you to the generous volunteers who help stock and supervise the food pantry, as well as the following donors: First Reformed Church, Augie Hund, Janet Pinkus, Jeanine Dattalico, Phylis Berman, Mary Barone, Kathy Van Jura, Cheryl Cuccio, Lucy Conway, Lynn Bright, Julianna Nass, Claire Amyot, Louise Vereeken, Lynn Petronella, Allison Auriemma and Marc Cricco. The pantry is also looking for holiday donations such as Thanksgiving dinner items, and toys and clothing appropriate fo the holidays. If anyone is interested in donating food items here are some ideas: canned fruit, juices, paper products, all kinds of soaps and cleaning products, shampoo, toiletries, jelly, coffee, tea, powdered milk and snacks. Please call the Recreation office at 201-288-4143 or Borough Clerk's office at 201-288-0195 if you have any questions. Under Land Use, he reported the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting was scheduled for October 28, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. New business included the following applications: Application 10-11: Charles and Helena Elmo, 135 Division Avenue for a variance for height and front yard setback; Application No. 10-12: Ralph and Lois Lagriola, 73 Roosevelt Avenue for front yard setback; Application 10-13: Janet Johnson & Sandra Stanley, 155 Route 27 South for a use variance to do readings. He continued that the Zoning office asked to remind business owners that Grand Opening banners are the only kind of banners permitted on commercial property. During the month of October the Building Department issued permits totaling \$21,802. The Department performed 76 inspections with an 80% pass rate. The Property Maintenance Officer performed 14 inspections and issued six warnings.

# **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

<u>Sept. 30<sup>th</sup></u> Attended the Evening Event sponsored by the Library and the Chamber of Commerce. Money raised is for both Library and Chamber projects.

Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11 am, Officiated at Maria's Kitchen Grand Opening at 220 Boulevard. Maria, and John Dingertopadre and their children Johnny, Ryan and Tabitha, also participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony, along with Council Members David Gonzalez and Russell Lipari.

Meetings and calls are being made several times a week on several matters of importance to our budget for 2010 and for the implementation of plans for 2011. Participants include CFO Mike Kronyak, Finance Chair Pam Link and Vice Chair Justin DiPisa and me. We review grants, the creation of a special 9-11 Committee, various revenue increasing measures currently under study, and review State progress on the Tool Kit recommended by Governor Christie to the Legislature. With the Passing of 2% CAP Legislation and its signing in June, we are very involved with promoting various solutions, especially while health costs and pension costs from the state continue to increase.

We also stress the need for increased recycling to help us save money, making sure that DPW Supt. Bill Spindler has everything he needs to do so. We have to make certain that every household puts out newspapers, magazines, bottles and cans according to the Recycling Calendar so we can substantially increase our number of recyclables. There are 3800 household mailing addresses here in town, each of us working as a whole can make a big difference in landfill costs with savings in the thousands of dollars. Even if it means putting out a small packages of newsprint and magazines and only one or two bottles and cans on recycling days. Let's see how close we can get to saving a tax point in 2011 keeping recyclables out of the garbage. Remember a tax point equals \$185,000.

Oct. 6, 7:30 pm, attended the Planning Board Meeting.

October. For weeks Borough Clerk Ro Sees has been collecting stories and photos from all the Borough Departments. She has been placing those stories and photos in the first draft of the newspaper. I started my work with her on the Borough Business Bulletin the first week in October. After the initial work, I then review contents and ask Ro Sees to go back to certain departments to ask them for additional stories on accomplishments that they might have overlooked. I ask them to put those stories together and send them to us. I want to thank all of those departments who got their stories and pix to us early. Next year in order to expedite printing of the paper, we are moving towards an earlier deadline for copy and that will be mid July for a follow-up in August and printing the first week in September.

Pictures must be taken with a camera, not a cell phone. It limits the quality of the photos for reproduction. Ro and I checked and doubled checked and the printer

# MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

assured us everything was fine. Well, apparently, they weren't. The photos reproduced horribly. I was very annoyed after all of the work everyone put into the paper to have the muddy photos. We will be getting a discount on the printing costs next year and be given four pages of color photos at a very low price.

Add to that a problem with the mailing – a death in the family delayed the labeling process and then the Post Office took almost a week to deliver them and then sporadically throughout the town.

The content of the Borough Business Bulletin is very thorough and I recommend that you save and read it. Lots of kudos go to the departments for their hard work during these tough economic times. Most of all our thanks to Ro Sees for all of her many weeks of diligent work.

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, Health Fair. What a wonderful event. The Board of Health members and Lori French, Secretary Registrar, are to be congratulated for bringing together an outstanding group of health professionals. I was disappointed that more residents didn't attend, especially the young parents. But it is my understanding that there were conflicting events going on that day.

Perhaps we should take a straw poll as to the best time for the Health Fair. With all that work and effort we want to attract a larger amount of people so they can benefit from the event.

We again send a big thank you to Wellington Care One for supplying all of the delicious refreshments.

Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, left early for Trenton for a 10 a.m. meeting with Governor Chris Christie arranged by League of Municipalities for the Mayors. The Governor spoke with us for a little over an hour, and then invited us to stay for his Press Conference with the media.

Main topic for the Mayors: Help the Governor get the Speaker of the House Sheila Oliver and Senate President Steve Sweeney to move his "Tool Kit." There is a list of 33 items that will help the municipalities stay within the 2 % CAP. Even though the legislature passed the bill and he signed it the Tool Kit legislations has been on hold all summer through September. The promise of working on it and getting it passed has not happened. The Governor gave us the job of pushing our State Senators and Assembly People by asking them to pass the Tool Kit.

The Top Four Bills to be addressed will change: Binding Arbitration – Reform Civil Service – Address the State Mandates with no State Pay and change The Council on Affordable Housing – or as most of us know it C.O.A.H.

# MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

I asked the Governor if he would like for each of us mayors to bring a contingency of people to Trenton to rally for these four items and if he would accommodate us with parking. He said he would certainly be happy to do that and would make it a point to meet with all of us. He gave me the "Go To Person" to make the arrangements and I told him I would do so right after the Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> election.

I have already spoken to the President of the Bergen County Mayors League, where I am First Vice President, to ask him to bring it to the attention of the 70 Mayors in Bergen County. He agreed.

Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, Thursday, 1 pm Attended the special gathering of Rosarians with the Corpus Christi Eighth Graders. We were served refreshments and sat and spoke informally at individual tables with various groups of students. It was very informative and I sat with a mixed group – that is – three students who recently transferred from Assumption in Wood-Ridge and one young man from St. Joseph's in East Rutherford along with two Hasbrouck Heights Corpus Christi students. We had a wonderful sharing of thoughts and ideas. I suggested to the students that it might be nice if they asked Social Studies teachers to have them attend a Council Meeting to bring some of their ideas to us. They said they would like that. Their school day begins at 8 am and they seemed to be fine with it. They certainly have varied curricula.

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Attended an 8:30 am meeting at the Forsgate Country Club in Jamesburg sponsored by the NJ State Chamber of Commerce. Hasbrouck Heights was among three Bergen Towns represented; Maywood and Ridgefield were the other two. We had the pleasure of hearing from four former New Jersey State Treasurers: John McCormick, now Mayor of Woodbridge then Treasurer under Gov. McGreevey; Brian Clymer V.P. with Prudential/Newark, then Treasurer under Gov. Whitman; Sam Crane Treasurer under Gov. Florio and Jim DiLiteario, Treasurer under Gov. DeFrancesco.

I have to transcribe my notes and will give my written report to the Borough Clerk, Borough Administrator, The Council, and The Observer newspaper when I complete it.

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m. I was the guest speaker at the Mid Bergen Rotary. They asked me to speak on the proposed Teterboro dissolution. I gave them the complete background and noted that the matter is neither closed nor dead. That we are keeping a close eye on the bills and are ready to go to court if indeed they are successful and we are hurt by it.

I believe that the Borough of Teterboro is also watching and waiting.

I also spoke about the Hudson Bergen Light Rail extension on which I still worked with the New Jersey Assn of Railroad Passengers as the Chair of the Light Rail Panel since

## MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):

it is the work I started while in the Assembly. It is my goal to make certain that we in Bergen benefit from the work I started in the early 1990s and which Hoboken, my old hometown, Jersey City and Bayonne were now recipients of all the benefits. Since the work was started in Bergen with a group of volunteers, all unpaid professionals, I will not rest until we in Bergen see Light Rail here.

<u>Saturdays:</u> I am in the Library from 10 am till noon on Saturdays so residents may if they wish come to visit me, give me their thoughts, or tell me of their concerns. I enjoy residents coming to visit, especially the children. I also receive information through the various departments and the calls made to the Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees at 201-288-0195, and the Borough Administrator Mike Kronyak at 201-288-7209. You may also write to HOT LINE REPORTS, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604.

This concluded the Mayor's Report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

CONSENT AGENDA: 195. Raffle License for Kiwanis Club of Hasbrouck Heights

On a motion by Councilman Dingertopadre, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda Resolution was approved.

**RESOLUTIONS:** 196. Authorizing Refund of Taxes Overpaid Due to a Tax Court Judgment for Block 45, Lot 31, and Block 132.01, Lot 3

On a motion by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved.

197. Authorizing Application for Hasbrouck Heights Municipal Alliance Grant for 2011

On a motion by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Buckman, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved.

198. Authorizing Cancellation of 2010 Taxes for Certain 100% Tax Exempt Disabled Veterans

On a motion by Councilman Dingertopadre, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was approved.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck invited anyone from the public wishing to speak to please come forward.

Chris Semenecz, 415 Jefferson Avenue, who had been on vacation, came forward to say he had missed the governing body and was happy to be back.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public portion which was made by Councilman Dingertopadre, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck digressed from the agenda and invited Borough Attorney to report on the Department of the Treasury Certification of the Table of Equalized Valuations. Mr. Chandless explained that the averaged ratio assessed to true value was based on sales for the prior year up to October 1, 2009. The last revaluation in Hasbrouck Heights was done in 2005 for 2006 and is significant that the impression is that the market is terrible, but in Hasbrouck Heights the ratio was 101.76, noting that the value of homes has remained stable.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 199. Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to go into Executive Session which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Lipari, and unanimously carried. It was noted no action would be required.

#### MOTION TO RE-OPEN AND ADJOURN:

Mayor Heck asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

I, ROSE MARIE SEES, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are to the best of my knowledge a true account of the Regular Meeting held on October 26, 2010.

Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk	