

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**
2 **Minutes**
3 **January 18, 2012**
4

5 *A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County,*
6 *New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:30pm.*

7 Mayor DeSimone called the meeting to order.

8 Mayor DeSimone asked everyone to stand while Council President Knott led in the Pledge
9 of Allegiance.

10 **Council Present:** *Mayor DeSimone, Councilpersons, Knott, Choi, Hawkins, Salmon,*
11 *Whitter*
12

13 **Council Absent:** *none*
14

15 **Also Present:** *Jack Terhune, Borough Administrator, Fran Lehmann, Borough*
16 *Clerk, Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney, Lynn Hemmer, Deputy*
17 *Borough Clerk*
18

19 **Absent:** *none*
20

21 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

22 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin
23 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.
24

25 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
26

27 Roland Weimer, 329 Moore Avenue; Mr. Weimer spoke about the noise emitted by the
28 heat at Borough Hall.
29

30 **PRESENTATION**
31

32 **American Traffic Signals:** Mr. Charles Callari, 16 Shaffer Road, Bridgewater, NJ; Mr.
33 Callari is the New Jersey Regional Business Development Director for American Traffic
34 Signals. Mr. Callari explained the program. The summonses that are issued fall under Title
35 39, however there is no surcharge, and points will not show up on an abstract.
36

37 Councilman Whitter asked if the State was involved in the design and how is the fine
38 money distributed. Mr. Callari explained how the DOT decides if a municipality is
39 eligible. The fine money is split the following way; the fine is \$85.00, \$46.00 goes to the
40 Borough, \$27.50 goes to the County and \$11.50 goes to the State. The installation of the
41 equipment is at no charge to the municipality and if the County chooses not to take their
42 portion of the revenue, it reverts to the municipality.
43

44 Council President Knott asked if this program is a continuous live feed that would require
45 someone to view it constantly. Mr. Callari stated it could be viewed at the end of a shift.
46 The only way tickets are issued is by an officer. They review the tape and either accept or
47 not accept the information. If accepted, a ticket is generated. Council President Knott
48 inquired about “blocking the box”. Mr. Callari said New Jersey does not have a law
49 prohibiting it.

50
51 Councilman Hawkins stated he still has not changed his opinion and did speak with the
52 Police Chief and he is not in favor of the program either. Tickets are issued by a Leonia
53 Police Officer. Mr. Callari stated they are generated automatically.

54
55 Councilman Choi asked if the company is a private vendor. Mr. Callari stated, yes. There
56 are others in the country but this program is far superior. Councilman Choi asked how the
57 company gets paid. Mr. Callari explained how it works in Palisades Park.

58
59 Councilman Salmon - Councilman Salmon noted there is no proof that this reduces
60 collisions that would be something he is interested in. Your statistics are nationwide how
61 does this affect a small municipality like Leonia Mr. Callari explained this for Councilman
62 Salmon.

63
64 Councilman Hawkins spoke about no reduction in accidents.

65
66 **Light Rail** – Mark Gordon – Urbana
67 Jessica Georgiana H2M

68 Mr. Gordon reminded the Governing Body that there would be a Public Hearing on
69 January 24th. At the hearing two (2) members of the Governing Body would be allowed to
70 speak for three minutes each. Public Officials would go first then the public. Need to have
71 very strong testimony to obtain what is important to the Borough. February 21, 2012 is the
72 deadline for written testimony. Councilman Salmon inquired about a fly-over on Fort Lee
73 Road. Mr. Gordon explained why it may not work.

74
75 Councilman Choi – This had been in discussion for a long time. The parking should be in
76 the North West quadrant of Over Peck Park, not in Kulite because it will cause many
77 safety issues.

78
79 Councilman Hawkins spoke about the fly-over in Weehawken. There is no consideration
80 for pedestrian traffic, grade crossing, or the children at Leonia High School in the DEIS.

81
82 Council President Knott agreed with Councilman Hawkins regarding the fly-over. The
83 traffic lights could also be synchronized. The traffic impact will be on Shor Avenue and
84 Willow Tree. The North West quadrant was chosen by 40% of the residents who
85 responded to the survey.

86
87 Councilman Whitter – Parking in the North West quadrant makes the most sense. The
88 parking area could be used on weekends for festivals in the park. The High School

89 children would need a different access to the school. Paving the right of way all the way to
90 Englewood could be an option.

91

92 Mayor DeSimone stated that they could not put the parking on the other side because it is
93 Green Acres.

94 Ingrid Brennan, 53 Palmer Place; Mrs. Brennan said these are the important issues: #1
95 quiet zones; #2 pedestrian access is insufficient; #3 pedestrian crossover for the High
96 School.

97

98 Matt Brennan, 53 Palmer Place; Mr. Brennan explained he has been an Environmental
99 Attorney for 25 years. The representatives from the Council need to push for six to eight
100 things. Could do a land trade, and quiet zones need to be applied for by the County. Mr.
101 Brennan spoke about the DEIS.

102

103 Councilman Whitter asked what the doable solutions were.

104

105 Roland Weimer, 329 Moore Avenue; Mr. Weimer stated time is of the essence regarding
106 bicycle and pedestrian traffic, neither of which was addressed in the DEIS.

107

108 Phil Craig, (no address given) spoke about grade separation on Fort Lee Road.

109

110 Councilman Hawkins said quiet zones need to be applied for.

111

112 Mr. Terhune suggested appointing someone to meet with the Transportation Committee
113 and the consultants.

114

115 Councilman Hawkins made a motion to take the three aspects and add to comments;
116 alternate high school access, grade separation and location, seconded by Councilman
117 Whitter. Roll call vote: Councilpersons Knott, Choi, Salmon and Whitter voted no,
118 Councilman Hawkins voted yes. Motion failed.

119

120 The Committee will consist of Councilmembers Salmon, Hawkins and Whitter.

121

122 **APPOINTMENT**

123

124 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

125 Minutes of December 19, 2011 – A motion was made by Councilman Whitter, seconded
126 by Councilman Hawkins to approve the Minutes of December 19, 2011. Roll call vote; all
127 in favor none opposed

128

129 Closed Session Minutes December 19, 2011 - Councilman Whitter, seconded by
130 Councilman Choi, made a motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes of December 19,
131 2011. Roll call vote; all in favor none opposed.

132

133 Reorganization Minutes of January 4, 2012 – Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Council
134 President Knott, made a motion to approve the Reorganization Minutes of January 4, 2012.
135 Roll call vote; all in favor none opposed.

136
137 **RESOLUTIONS**

138
139 Councilman Hawkins pulled Resolution 12-76 for a separate vote.

140
141 Council President Knott asked for a discussion on Resolution 12-84. Borough Attorney
142 Giblin stated it is negotiations and needs to be discussed in Closed Session. Resolution 12-
143 84 held for Closed Session discussion.

144
145 Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Councilman Choi, made a motion to approve
146 Resolutions 12-74, 12-75, 12-77 through 12-83. Roll call vote; all in favor none opposed.

147
148 Resolution 12-76 - Councilman Whitter made a motion to approve Resolution 12-84,
149 seconded by Council President Knott. Roll call vote, Councilpersons Knott, Choi, Salmon
150 and Whitter voted yes. Councilman Hawkins recused himself because he has a sculpture in
151 the garden. Resolution 12-84 approved.

152
153 **Standing Committees**

154
155 Finance Administration & Personnel- Council President Knott reported on the 2012
156 budget issues. Council President Knott, reported he and Councilman Hawkins met
157 with the PBA and are close to an agreement.

158 Laws & Ordinances – Councilman Whitter reported the Committee has not met. A
159 meeting is scheduled for January 23rd at 3:00 PM.

160
161 Police – Councilman Hawkins reported the committee has not met. However, in
162 light of the events surrounding synagogues, the area around the synagogues in town
163 have been stepped up.

164 Fire Department – Council President Knott reported that last weekend he attended
165 the Fire Departments dinner. Council President Knott wished the new Chief all the
166 best.

167 Ambulance – Councilman Choi read the report from Englewood Hospital.

168 Public Works – Councilman Choi reported there is a leak under the solar panels. The
169 DPW Committee has not met.

170 Borough Administrator –Mr. Terhune reported the Wood Park Basketball Court
171 renovation will begin in the spring, the Recreation Commission would like to erect a
172 temporary ice rink in Wood Park and the Engineer finished the design of the ADA
173 improvements to the Borough Hall Annex. The sinkhole on the corner of Park
174 Avenue and Grand Avenue was caused by a stormwater pipe collapse. IQM2 is
175 waiting on the internet connection for the Annex.

176 *Mayor* –Mayor De Simone attended a transportation meeting. He also attended the
177 Fire Department Dinner.

178

179 **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

180

181 Introduction of Ordinance 01-12 entitled:

182 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 267 OF THE CODE OF**
183 **THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA TITLED “TOWING” BY**
184 **AMENDING SECTIONS 267-3, 267-4, 267-5, 267-6 AND 267-10.**

185

Borough Clerk read by title.

186

187 A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by
188 Council President Knott, to approve on first reading, Ordinance 01-12.

189

190 **ROLL CALL:** Councilperson, Knott, Choi, Hawkins, Salmon, Whitter voted
191 yes. Ordinance 01-12 introduced.

192

193 Introduction of Ordinance 02-12 entitled:

194 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARIES, WAGES AND/OR**
195 **COMPENSATION AND TO ESTABLISH SALARY & WAGE**
196 **RANGES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC**
197 **SERVANTS OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY**
198 **OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR**
199 **BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2012.**

200

Borough Clerk read by title.

201

202 A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by
203 Council President Knott to approve on first reading, Ordinance 02-12.

204

205 **ROLL CALL:** Councilperson, Knott, Choi, Hawkins, Salmon, Whitter voted yes.
206 Ordinance 02-12 introduced.

207

208 **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

209

210 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

211

212 **NEW BUSINESS**

213

214 **CORRESPONDENCE**

215

216 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

217 Roland Weimer, 329 Moore Avenue – Council President Knott pointed out the budget is
218 going to be difficult and he inquired about raises when there is a budget shortfall.

219

220 Leah Roland, 186 Crescent Avenue – Mrs. Roland said she was confused about the status
221 of the report and a need to portray we are allies, but not at the quality of life. Mrs. Roland

222 said she supports the grade separation, and high school safety. Mrs. Roland inquired about
223 a raised trestle. Traffic and safety should be first.

224
225 Sally Klig, 497 Park Avenue – Mrs. Klig said she is not in favor of light rail. Mr. Giblin
226 responded. Mrs. Klig stated we need to come to a decision. Leonia is too small for light
227 rail and we need to think ahead.

228
229 **CLOSED SESSION**

230 Personnel DPW; Leonia v Fort Lee and Negotiations.

231

232 **Open Session**

233

234 Councilman Whitter inquired if there were plans for the construction at the old Toyota
235 sight. Mr. Terhune stated, no.

236

237 Resolution 12-84: Council President Knott made a motion to approve Resolution 12-84,
238 seconded by Councilman Choi. All in favor none opposed.

239

240 **ADJOURN**

241 Councilman Whitter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman De
242 Simone. All in favor none opposed.

243

244 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at
245 10:15PM.

246

247 Respectfully submitted,

248

249 Fran Lehmann

250 Borough Clerk