

1 **Special Meeting**
2 **Minutes**
3 **February 17, 2012**
4

5 *A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County,*
6 *New Jersey, was held this afternoon in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 1:00 pm.*

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, Councilperson; Knott, Choi, Hawkins, Salmon,*
11 *Whitter*

12
13 **Council Absent:** *none*

14
15 **Also Present:** *Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney, Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk,*
16 *Lynn Hemmer, Deputy Borough Clerk, Borough Administrator Jack*
17 *Terhune*

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 **APPOINTMENT**
26

27 **PRESENTATION**
28

29 Mark Gordon, Urbana Consultants – Mr. Gordon reviewed Draft #3 from the Mayor and
30 Council regarding the DEIS for Light Rail.
31

32 Barbara Marchant, 128 Spring Street: As a member of the Transit Committee, Ms.
33 Marchant read a letter from the Transit Committee.
34

35 Kathleen Treubig, 419 Golf Course Drive: Ms. Treubig spoke about the DEIS. Ms.
36 Treubig stated she is very much in favor of the Light Rail.
37

38 Jeff McCartney, President of the Board of Education: Mr. McCartney read a brief
39 overview of the report that the Board of Education sent to NJ Transit in Newark from the
40 Board of Education. Mr. McCartney stated the entire report is on the Board of Education
41 website.
42

43 Rebecca Kind, 53 Hawthorne Terrace: Ms. Kind spoke about the report and the concerns
44 that have been raised regarding the plan. Ms. Kind said that the residents in Leonia can use
45 another form of transportation to go into the city.
46

47 Nina Gaetjens, 351 Oakdene Avenue: Mrs. Gaetjens suggested the use of shuttle buses for
48 picking up and dropping off. Perhaps this could be contracted with one of the companies in
49 the area.
50

51 Jennifer Mitchell, Lakeview Avenue: Ms. Mitchell asked if there was a buffer in the plans
52 for Lakeview Condominiums.
53

54 Arthur Zayat, 125 Reldyes Avenue: Mr. Zayat said he supports the Light Rail and the
55 report done by the Transit Committee. Mr. Zayat urged the Governing Body to accept the
56 recommendations of the Transit Committee.
57

58 Ryan Maxwell, 203 Glenwood Avenue: Mr. Maxwell said he is in support of the Light
59 Rail and the Transit Committee recommendations.
60

61 Brad Wilds, 157 Glenwood Avenue: Mr. Wilds asked about the proposed parking garage.
62 Mr. Gordon answered his question. Mr. Wilds expressed concern over the size of the
63 garage.
64

65 Mark Spiegel, 122 Wood Terrace: Parking is an issue. A parking garage in Englewood or
66 Palisades Park would be better.
67

68 Roland Weimer, 329 Moore Avenue: Mr. Weimer spoke about the involvement of the
69 Transit Committee.
70

71 Leah Roland, 186 Crescent Avenue: The Governing Body has “their heart in the right
72 place.” This is a real opportunity for Leonia’s growth and to move into the 21st Century.
73

74 Victor Gamboa, 490 Hazlitt: Mr. Gamboa stated he is in support of the Light Rail.
75

76 Arthur Bergman, 24 Meadowview: Mr. Bergman stated flooding is still an issue.
77

78 Mary Miraglia, 45 Linden Terrace: Mrs. Miraglia stated she did not participate in the
79 survey. Light Rail is a good idea for the whole community and Bergen County. Not sure a
80 parking garage is necessary.
81

82 Ezilda Rohan, 218 Van Orden: Ms. Rohan is concerned about the construction of an
83 overpass. Who is going to manage the parking garage? Mr. Gordon explained.
84

85 Harriet Pucca, Broad Avenue (Leonia Senior Housing): Ms. Pucca stated the light rail is
86 very quiet and clean.
87

88 Charles Silverstein, 356 Grand Avenue: Mr. Silverstein worked for Kulite for seven years
89 when they were in Ridgefield. Their machines are very sensitive. Mr. Silverstein is not in
90 favor of Light Rail but knows it is coming. There is no need for a station.

91
92

93 **RESOLUTIONS**

94

95 Resolutions -

96 Councilman Salmon requested 12-99 be pulled for discussion.

97

98 Resolution 12-99 - Councilman Salmon stated there are two ways of expressing things;
99 demand or accept. If the Council values light rail, we need to be careful and consider the
100 options carefully. He strongly prefers “kiss & drop” with access to Englewood and back.
101 We need a parking garage. If Leonia does not accept project, it may not be funded. The
102 Council will not accept Kulite being damaged. If we push for quiet zones the Borough is
103 liable for all accidents that occur as a direct result of the quiet zone.

104

105 Councilman Choi – Councilman Choi stated he was glad to hear the communities’ views.
106 The Council has to do what is right for the community.

107

108 Councilman Hawkins – Councilman Hawkins thanked the Transit Committee for their
109 report. Councilman Hawkins spoke about conditions from New Jersey Transit. The real
110 only choice the Borough has is if we want a station or not.

111

112 Councilman Pak – Councilman Pak spoke about the viability of a parking garage which
113 will still cause issues for Kulite. Mr. Gordon responded to Councilman Pak.

114

115 Councilman Whitter – Councilman Whitter stated the Council has been charged with what
116 is right for Leonia; defending Kulite because they are great neighbors. Councilman
117 Whitter does not agree with “kiss & drop” by Station Parkway. Councilman Whitter does
118 not have an issue with “kiss & drop” concept. He is not in favor of a parking garage. The
119 Council needs to have a say where the Borough wants it and help Kulite. Keep traffic on
120 Fort Lee Road and a 200 space parking garage in the south west quadrant if we have to
121 accept a parking garage.

122

123 Council President Knott – Think about the mass transit opportunity and support light rail.
124 The Council needs to do the right thing and see that it happens. Leonia also has a very
125 good employer in town, Kulite, and we have to do everything to protect them. If Leonia is
126 obliged to have a parking facility, the northwest quadrant has always been the favored
127 location. The current road and bridge work that has been in the works for several years
128 would be ideal for the inclusion of a parking garage in the southwest area.

129

130 Mayor DeSimone – Mayor DeSimone asked for a “kiss and drop”, insists on a bridge for
131 the High School, Kulite is not to be added to or built on, no added traffic on Willow Tree,
132 a quiet zone, and parking on the West side of the tracks.

133

Mayor would like the recommendation for the grade separation removed.

134 Resolution 12-98 – A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by
135 Councilman Choi, to approve Resolution 12- 98. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Knott,
136 Choi, Hawkins, Pak, Salmon and Whitter voted yes.
137
138 Resolution 12-99 – Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Council President Knott, made a
139 motion to adopt the report as written. Councilman Pak abstained; Knott, Hawkins, Salmon,
140 Councilman Whitter voted yes. At which point Councilman Whitter then changed his vote
141 to no. Councilman Choi voted no. Resolution 12-99 approved as presented.
142

143 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

144 Roland Weimer, 329 Moore Avenue – Mr. Weimer stated he did not agree with the actions
145 taken by the Council.
146

147 Jeff McCartney, 201 Oratam Terrace – Mr. McCartney does not understand why a trestle
148 was agreed to. There will be horns sounding 240 times an hour.
149

150 Kathleen Treubig, 419 Golf Course Drive – Ms. Treubig said the Council voted to succeed
151 and move forward, limited to what can be asked for and what can be demanded. It is a
152 place to talk and negotiate.
153

154 Robert Leap, 201 Oratam Terrace – Mr. Leap inquired if anyone consulted an engineer.
155 Mr. Gordon talked to NJ Transit several years ago. The total length of the trestle would be
156 1/3 of a mile.
157

158 Harriet Pucca, Broad Avenue - Ms. Pucca stated the Council has just “sold Leonia down
159 the river” and Leonia will not be getting anything out of it.
160

161 Ezilda Rohan, 218 Van Orden - Ms. Rohan asked if the Borough goes for the quiet zone,
162 would the Borough be accepting liability. Ms. Rohan said she finds that quite disturbing.
163

164 Councilman Whitter stated given the comments from the public, we should make edits on
165 the document.
166

167 Councilman Whitter made a motion for reconsideration on Resolution 12-99, seconded by
168 Councilman Choi; Roll call vote. All in favor none opposed.
169

170 Councilman Pak suggested seeing how Kulite would react to the northwest quadrant.
171

172 Councilman Hawkins explained why he is in favor of leaving the parking garage in the
173 northwest quadrant on Fort Lee Road. Perhaps the Borough should not respond to the
174 DEIS. The Council is trying to come to a consensus at this meeting.
175

176 A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Council President Knott to
177 keep the grade separation in the report. The vote for **grade separation staying in the**
178 **report** was Councilperson Knott, Hawkins, Pak, and Salmon voting yes; Councilmen Choi
179 and Whitter voted no. Grade separation remains. Councilman Whitter made a motion to

180 consult Kulite to verify that parking in the northeast quadrant would be detrimental to
181 them. If it is found to be detrimental to Kulite, the Borough would be open to the
182 southwest quadrant with a parking garage of 400 cars. Seconded by Councilman Salmon.
183 All in favor none opposed.

184 A motion was made by Councilman Whitter to change the written report as amended,
185 seconded by Councilman Hawkins. Roll call vote. All in favor none opposed.

186
187 Mr. Bergen asked for a clarification of the southwest quadrant. Council President Knott
188 explained.

189
190 Ingrid Brennan, 53 Palmer Place; Mrs. Brennan thanked the Governing Body for their
191 input.

192
193 Charles Silverstein inquired about the number of tracks that will be there. Mr. Gordon
194 explained the track configuration.

195
196 Ernest Liberatore, 121 Wood Ridge Terrace; Mr. Liberatore inquired about the grading in
197 the area.

198
199 Roland Weimer, 329 Moore Avenue; Mr. Weimer spoke and stated he does not agree with
200 the changes that were made by the Governing Body.

201
202 Brad Wilds, 157 Glenwood Avenue; Mr. Wilds would like to know what the Council's
203 walk away point is and know how to negotiate with NJ Transit.

204
205 Leah Roland, 186 Crescent Avenue: Mr. Roland said she does not agree with Mr. Weimer.
206 Mrs. Roland is also impressed with how the process worked. A vote was taken and the
207 Council realized that the public wanted to reconsider certain aspects and the Council had
208 the guts and the courage to do it. Thank you very much.

209
210 Ingrid Brennan, 53 Palmer Place: Mrs. Brennan spoke about a document that was
211 submitted by Councilmen Hawkins and Knott to NJ Transit on January 26th. They were
212 representing the Council. Mrs. Brennan feels the document should be rescinded. It was not
213 voted on by the Council. Mrs. Brennan asked for an opinion. Mr. Giblin is not familiar
214 with what was submitted. Councilman Hawkins explained what was submitted.
215 Council President Knott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman
216 Hawkins. All in favor none opposed.

217
218 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at
219 4:00 PM

220
221
222 Respectfully submitted,

223
224 Fran Lehmann
225 Borough Clerk