

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**
2 **Minutes**
3 **April 16, 2012**
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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*

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13 **Council Absent:** *Councilman Pak*

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

20 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin
21 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.
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23 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

24 None
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26 **PRESENTATION**
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28 **APPOINTMENT**
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30 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

31 Minutes of April 2, 2012 – A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by
32 Council President Knott, to approve the Minutes of April 2, 2012. Roll call vote. All in
33 favor none opposed.
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35 **RESOLUTIONS**
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37 Resolution 12-149 – Councilman Hawkins asked for a clarification of Resolution 12-149.
38 Councilman Hawkins asked what happens if after the opening of Oakdene Avenue, what if
39 homes from Palisades Park are connected to the Borough’s sewer line. Mr. Terhune
40 explained that the line was televised and none of the homes were connected. If one is
41 connected, then it has been done illegally and the Borough of Palisades Park will be billed
42 accordingly. Councilman Hawkins inquired about the backflow check valves that
43 homeowners have installed. Is there any need to continue? Mr. Terhune stated he doesn’t
44 see a need once it is repaired, but does not see a downside to having one. Councilman

45 Hawkins inquired if there was anything in the contract that will give an impingement on
46 storm water. Councilman Hawkins stated that if the road is opened the Borough needs to
47 make it right. Soft cost is budgeted at \$26, 000. Mr. Terhune explained that with a DOT
48 Grant the project management can be charged to the grant. However, not the fees for
49 preparing the specifications and design work.

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51 Resolutions 12-146 through Resolutions 12-149 – A motion was made by Councilman
52 Hawkins, seconded by Councilman Choi, to approve the resolutions. Roll call vote: Knott,
53 Choi, Hawkins, Salmon and Whitter voted yes. Councilman Pak was absent. Resolutions
54 approved.

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56 **Standing Committees**

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58 Finance Administration & Personnel- Council President Knott stated the Finance
59 and Personnel Committee met. Personnel issues were discussed and will be
60 addressed at a later date.

61 Laws & Ordinances – Councilman Whitter said the Committee has not met.

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63 Police – Councilman Hawkins stated the Police Department has been very busy and
64 the report was not completed for this meeting. Councilman Hawkins reported on a
65 construction accident that occurred on Saturday, April 14, 2012. Councilman Choi
66 spoke about the five burglaries that occurred on Broad Avenue. Mr. Terhune
67 explained that this was done by the same individual who also burglarized several
68 businesses in Englewood. Mr. Terhune also explained that he has spoken to the
69 Police Department and they are looking to put surveillance cameras on Broad
70 Avenue. The specifications will be prepared from the proposals that have been
71 solicited. Councilman Whitter said he has spoken with Lt. Rowe and perhaps the
72 businesses would be willing to contribute.

73 Fire Department – Council President Knott. There were 30 fire calls in March, and
74 84 calls for the first quarter, totaling 100 calls for the year.

75 Ambulance – Councilman Pak was absent.

76 Public Works – Councilman Choi read a report prepared by Mr. Villareal which
77 included a report of two sewer back-ups. Councilman Whitter inquired where the
78 back-ups were. Mr. Villareal stated they were in the rear of the Lakeview
79 Apartments in the Borough lines. Councilman Hawkins commended Mr. Villareal
80 for the outstanding job he has been doing in the absence of Mr. Saitta.

81 Borough Administrator –Mr. Terhune reported two testing wells were damaged with
82 the work being done on the Beechwood Place lot. An Eagle Scout is meeting with
83 the Sculpture Committee. The Scout would like to build benches around the trees.
84 Mrs. Brennan would like to institute an Adopt a Planter program along Broad
85 Avenue. The Governing Body agreed.

86 Mayor –Mayor De Simone reported that he did two weddings since the last meeting
87 and threw out the first pitch on Opening Day for Baseball and Softball.

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Special Bodies.

Councilman Salmon reported the Shade Tree Commission has received the resignation from David Dolch. Councilman Hawkins would like the Shade Tree Commission to protect the trees on private property. Councilman Salmon stated that this has been discussed by the Commission and they want to review the Ordinance from Tenafly first.

Council President Knott reported that the Historic Preservation Minutes from March were approved. Victor Gamboa-Gonzalez and John Roynan attended a workshop at Drew University regarding historic preservation. Diana Damon is going to put Historic Commission information on Face Book.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Introduction of Ordinance 11-12 entitled:
BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AND NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$618,550 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE VARIOUS GRANTS, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title

Councilman Hawkins inquired about Page Eight, Section B on various appropriations in the Ordinance. Councilman Hawkins asked if the \$100,000 was for the ambulance building and what would happen if the Council decides it is not going to do anything with the building. Mr. Terhune explained that the funds could be canceled by resolution. Councilman Whitter asked about the funds allocated for Wood Park. Mr. Terhune explained the process.

A motion was made by Councilperson Choi seconded by Council President Knott, to approve on first Reading Ordinance 11-12.

ROLL CALL Councilperson, Knott, Choi, Hawkins, Salmon, Whitter voted yes. Councilman Pak was absent Ordinance 11-12 introduced.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

Adoption of Ordinance 10-12 entitled:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 49 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, COUNTY OF BERGEN, ENTITLED "POLICE"

Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title

Public Hearing

A motion was made by Councilperson Whitter, seconded by Councilperson Hawkins, to approve on final Reading, Ordinance 10-12.

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ROLL CALL: Councilperson, Knott, Choi, Hawkins, Salmon, Whitter voted yes, Councilman Pak was absent. Ordinance adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Charles Silverstein, 356 Grand Avenue - Mr. Silverstein thanked Mr. Villareal for his prompt attention to the manhole on Fort Lee Road.

Mary Miraglia, 45 Linden Terrace – Ms. Miraglia spoke about the drainage problems from a home on Warwick Lane. Mrs. Miraglia and her neighbors would like to meet with Mayor De Simone. Mrs. Miraglia also noted there were no Planning Board approvals and no site plan approvals. Mr. Porrino was the inspector at the time. Mr. Terhune will arrange a meeting with the Planning Board Engineer and the Borough Engineer to inspect the property.

Leah Roland, 186 Crescent Avenue – Mrs. Roland stated that there is a misconception in town that the reduction in Police Officers has resulted in more break-ins. She would like something written assuring residents that this is not the case. More officers on duty does not mean that there will be fewer break-ins. Councilman Salmon reported that with the change to twelve (12) hour shifts there have been more arrests and overtime is down. Council President Knott spoke about the Police. Mrs. Roland does not feel the Borough gets enough good press.

Steve Hutnick, 262 Leonia Avenue – Mr. Hutnick asked why the word perpetrator is not used and the word actor is. Mr. Giblin explained.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Hawkins made a motion to go into Closed Session seconded by Council President Knott.

ADJOURN

Councilman Whitter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. All in favor none opposed.

As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Lehmann

