



BOROUGH OF LEONIA
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
~ Minutes ~

305 Beechwood Pl
Leon, NJ 07605
www.leonianj.gov

Lynn Hemmer, Acting Borough Clerk

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

7:30 PM

Borough Annex

A Council Work Session Meeting of the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, Commencing at 7:30 PM

Mayor John DeSimone called the meeting to order.

1. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor DeSimone asked Councilman Knott to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Peter Knott	Council President	Present	
Philip Choi	Councilman	Present	
Gil Hawkins	Councilman	Absent	
I.S. Pak	Councilman	Present	
Doug Salmon	Councilman	Present	
Darryl Whitter	Councilman	Present	
John DeSimone	Mayor	Present	
Jack Terhune	Administrator	Present	
Lynn Hemmer	Acting Borough Clerk	Present	
Brian T. Giblin	Borough Attorney	Present	

3. OPEN MEETING STATEMENT

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

4. PRESENTATION

5. APPOINTMENTS

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chung Chin - Leonia Business owner, inquired about having a tree planted in memory of a friend that resided in the Borough Leonia for more than 10 years. Dong Lee, 427 Washington Terrace. Councilman Choi asked if perhaps the Governing body could get some background regarding the resident. Mayor DeSimone recommended Mr. Chin to go before the Recreation Commission since it involved one of the parks.

Harriet Habib-Puca - 411 Broad Ave Apt C11, Thanked the Governing Body stating that the Borough is shaping up beautifully. From the new parking lot, to the painting of the Borough Annex by the gentlemen that were incarcerated, they did a wonderful job.

Charles Silverstein - 356 Grand Ave, brought to the Governing Body's attention that after

several heavy rain storms there seemed to be a large amount of dirt and stones drifting down the sidewalk on Fort Lee Road making it difficult for pedestrians to walk. Mayor DeSimone will notify the DPW to look into the matter

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council - Regular Council Meeting - Sep 5, 2012 7:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Darryl Whitter, Councilman
SECONDER:	Philip Choi, Councilman
AYES:	Knott, Choi, Pak, Salmon, Whitter
ABSENT:	Gil Hawkins

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Darryl Whitter, Councilman
SECONDER:	Philip Choi, Councilman
AYES:	Knott, Choi, Hawkins, Pak, Salmon, Whitter

8. RESOLUTIONS

1. RES-2012-216 Refunding Developer Escrow Balances

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Darryl Whitter, Councilman
SECONDER:	Peter Knott, Council President
AYES:	Knott, Choi, Pak, Salmon, Whitter
ABSENT:	Gil Hawkins

2. RES-2012-217 Appointment of OEM Coordinator

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Darryl Whitter, Councilman
SECONDER:	Peter Knott, Council President
AYES:	Knott, Choi, Pak, Salmon, Whitter
ABSENT:	Gil Hawkins

3. RES-2012-218 RFP Recreation Ceiling

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Darryl Whitter, Councilman
SECONDER:	Peter Knott, Council President
AYES:	Knott, Choi, Pak, Salmon, Whitter
ABSENT:	Gil Hawkins

4. RES-2012-219 Authorizing Treasurer to Pay Claims

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Darryl Whitter, Councilman
SECONDER:	Peter Knott, Council President
AYES:	Knott, Choi, Pak, Salmon, Whitter
ABSENT:	Gil Hawkins

9. REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Administration and Personnel

Councilman President Knott reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee had met since the last Mayor & Council meeting, however they have been discussing personnel matters and have nothing to bring to the Mayor & Council at this time.

On another note, Councilman Knott was notified by the CFO Myrna Becker that the tax bills are ready to go out and should be mailed in about a week.

Laws & Ordinances

Councilman Darryl Whitter reported that the Laws and Ordinances Committee have nothing to report to the Mayor and Council at this time, but after seeing a memorandum in reference to church signs he feels that a meeting is warranted.

Councilman Whitter believed that the Committee already had given the permission for the church to rehang their sign at the location they are relating to in the memo, now the Baptist Church wants to place a sign.

Councilman Whitter inquired if the committee was required to have a meeting to distinguish the exact sign sizes as opposed to limiting them as to what exactly is being posted by the existing church sign on Grand Avenue.

Administrator Terhune addressed Councilman Whitter's concerns indicating when that matter came up on June 11th, it related to the All Saints Church sign on Park Avenue. At that time the Council realized there are no regulations at all as it relates to the church signs appearances when they were originally placed, it was not an issue until that particular one became an issue and the Council voted to grant permission for that particular sign. Administrator Terhune thought the understanding was that the Laws and Ordinance Committee would consider enacting an Ordinance to regulate any additional signs because there is no regulation specifically for those types of signs.

Police

No report Councilman Hawkins was absent

Fire

Councilman Knott reported that the Fire Commission is planning on meeting Monday, September 24, 2012.

Councilman Knott did report that he had heard that there was a problem with the Captains vehicle, but wasn't sure what the problem was.

On another note Councilman Knott made the Council aware that back on August 25, 2012, in the

early hours of the morning just after midnight there was a horrendous accident out on 95N. Leonia's Police Officers and Fire Department Volunteers responded to a call involving a tractor trailer and a Nissan Altima. The tractor trailer apparently carried the car for about a half a mile before it came to a stop. The vehicle was pinned up against the barrier and partly under the tractor trailer. There were three (3) people in the car with two (2) trapped inside under the tractor trailer, the third person was thrown out of the vehicle. Leonia's Fire Department worked for four (4) hours as it was an incredibly difficult extrication but all of the victims were transported to area hospitals. The Fire Department did a tremendous job as they were also assisted by other area Fire Departments and Mutual Aid that morning. Councilman Knott feels that the Volunteers should be commended for the stellar work that they did on August 25, 2012.

Ambulance

Councilman Pak read the monthly reports for the months of July and August 2012, which is prepared by the Englewood Hospital Emergency Medical services.

July - total ambulance calls 57, as compared to 2011's was 77, Leonia residents 22, non-residents 17. Number of calls between 06:00 - 18:00, was 33; number of calls between 18:00 - 06:00 was 25. Average response time 5:18

August - total ambulance calls 58, as compared to 2011's was 83, Leonia resident 21, non-residents 12. Number of call between 06:00 - 18:00, was 34; number of call between 18:00 - 06:00 was 24. Average response time 6:18

Councilman Pak noted that the response time had increased a bit, is this something that is acceptable? Are the residents complaining? Administrator Terhune replied that his office has not received any complaints in regards to the response times.

Public Works

Councilman Choi has nothing report to the Governing Body at this time.

Borough Administrator

Borough Administrator Terhune informed the Governing Body that construction work on Oakdene Avenue is scheduled to start Monday September 24, 2012.

Wood Park playground is finished

As you are aware the Engineer was authorized to prepare the bid specs for the Recreation Building ceiling as you voted earlier on authorizing the RFP's for the painting.

Administrator Terhune also reminded the Governing Body even though it is listed under unfinished business that the FY2013 DOT Municipal Aid Grant Application is due October 16, 2012. This was spoken about briefly at the last meeting, at this time the Administrator hasn't received any recommendations from the Governing Body, the deadline would be the next meeting to approve a resolution for the engineer to prepare an engineer's estimate outlining the scope of the work and estimated cost which takes some time.

Councilman Whitter asked if the grant is limited to a specific area. Administrator's answer was no. Municipal Aid Grants typically look for secondary roads not dead end streets. Oakdene is the road that is part of the 2012 DOT Grant. If anyone has recommendations please share them.

Mayor DeSimone stated that Paulin Blvd is half paved. Councilman Whitter asked if it pertains to streets, sidewalks or both. Administrator Terhune commented that you can do any or all. The only thing they will not pay for is the sanitary sewer line.

The last thing is the League of Municipalities; the deadline for registration is October 1, 2012, it takes place in November. As you are all aware the Borough no longer funds the expenses affiliated with the League but please feel free to attend.

Mayor

Mayor DeSimone reminded everyone that National Day of Peace was Friday night September 22, 2012. Everyone was invited to attend the service at the church.

Special Bodies

Councilman Salmon,

IT Committee

IT Committee had their last meeting. They have met with most of the departments, including the Police, Fire Department, OEM, Borough Administrator, DPW, and Recreation. The IT Committee put together a service that conducted survey. The service conducted it and analyzed the results, and would like to schedule a presentation to the Governing Body to share the results. Councilman Knott suggested the October 1, 2012.

Shade Tree Commission

For some time now the Shade Tree Commission has been looking into various Bergen County Borough Ordinances in regards to protecting Borough trees. The Shade Tree Commission is looking into programs for educating the public about tree maintenance; they would like to shed some light on the assessment risk.

Councilman Pak inquired how the Shade Tree Commission would educate the public.

Councilman Salmon responded perhaps a public meeting showing a demonstration on how to care for trees, and/or placing articles in the public press promoting the value of trees.

Councilman Knott added that he feels there is a misconception with many residents with trees that once you plant them you don't need to do anything but watch them grow.

Councilman Pak

Recreation Commission

On behalf of the Recreation Commission, Councilman Pak referenced a letter that the Governing Body received from Recreation Superintendent Barbara Davidson commending the employees who worked for the Recreation summer camp program, and the swim pool.

Councilman Pak also added that the Swim pool has been serving the public for 50 years, thanking the people as laid out in the letter. The Recreation Commission would like a formal recognition from the Governing Body, perhaps a proclamation.

Library

Councilman Pak attended the monthly Library Trustees meeting last week, at that time he was informed that one of the Library Trustees will be resigning.

Mayor DeSimone explained that the trustee had to present a resignation letter to him in order for him to appoint someone to take over the position. Councilman Pak will advise them of this.

On another note, Councilman asked why two (2) senior citizens buses were parked in the Library parking which was taking spaces away from anyone that needs to park there. Borough Administrator Terhune explained that the old bus was just there temporarily because of a picnic that the seniors attended last week and two buses were needed to transport them, to his knowledge the old bus was returned to the DPW yard.

Councilman Pak was happy to announce that the Library was financially in good shape actually has \$50,000.00 left over. The Library is considering on reopening on Sundays, but this has not been finalized yet.

Councilman Knott

Historic Preservation Commission

Councilman Knott explained on September 9, 2012 the Historic Preservation Commission invited Doctor Will Lee; a member of the Englewood Historic Preservation Advisory Commission to give a presentation. It was very interesting, he answered numerous questions, and it was good to have input from another municipality about their Historic Preservation.

10. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

11. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. FY 2013 NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant Application

Mayor DeSimone explained that the Administrator already went over the this.

13. NEW BUSINESS

1. American Legion Request of Indoor Shooting Range

Borough Administrator Terhune - reminded the Council that at the last meeting the Mayor & Council received a letter from the American Legion with supporting documents from the Chief of Police. In discussing this with the Borough Attorney, we do have an Ordinance that provides that any operation of a pistol or rifle range or any type of firearm range requires the approval of the Mayor & Council. If the Council decides to approve it we would have to list it on the agenda as a resolution then by appointing it.

Borough Attorney Giblin reminded the Governing Body that he needs permission to draw up a resolution.

Mayor DeSimone opened the subject up for comment among the Council.

Councilman Choi asked before voting he would like some more information on the subject.

Senior vice Commander, Tony Kowidge, 12 high Ave, Middletown, NY, American Legion Post #1, attends the Legion Nationals every year, this year the subject was the 25 year junior sports program which was started in conjunction of the Junior Rifle Association which only engages boys and girls of a certain age. There has been amazing interest because of the recent movies, Olympics, TV. The program enables youngsters to shoot pellet rifles into clay ducts seal in a private box indoors and out. After 25 years in the program there has never been a safety incident, or accident. The only thing that could happen is a miss fire. All safety precautions and safety equipment will be available.

Steve Hutnik, 262 Leonia Avenue, the first thing they will learn will be safety, no firing will be done immediately, will have protective gear, room will be protected. Only certified instructors will be teaching the program. They are looking for 50 students, group A, and group B, six lanes, one shooter, 1 spotter minimum, and two instructors per lanes.

Councilman Knott - requested that Borough Attorney Giblin draw up a resolution for the next meeting.

Councilman Pak - inquired how is it being funded, Mr. Kowidge responded that the specifics have not ironed out yet. It will not be a free program there will be a registration fee.

2. Proposed Loading Zone for Leonia Market

Borough Administrator Terhune - distributed a memo that came from Chief Ziegler indicating he met with the proprietor of Leonia Market who wants to create a loading zone with the three (3) spots in front of the market. Administrator Terhune respectfully recommends that perhaps this is something to be considered by the Laws and Ordinances Committee at the same time they consider the church signs.

Councilman Whitter - at this time asked the members of the Council that are on the Laws and Ordinances Committee if they could come up with a time and date that would be good for all to attend. It was decided that the meeting would take place on September 27, 2012 at 11 a.m.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Agenda and Non-Agenda items)

Harriet Habib-Puca, 411 Broad Ave, voiced her opinion that she is concerned about the discussion of a loading zone in front of Leonia Market. Ms. Habib-Puca feels that when a huge truck is parked in front of the store and a driver is making a right turn, you first have to go into the other lanes to turn and you are also blindsided by the truck which is not good for the pedestrians crossing the street.

Councilman Whitter - explained that the Laws and Ordinance Committee will look at every angle to make it safe for all.

Charles Silverstein, 350 Grand Ave, Chaplin for the American Legion Chapter #1, is in favor of the shooting range going forward because of what it will instill, discipline, and respect for what they will be holding and firing.

Steve Hutnik, 22 Leonia Avenue, was questioning whether or not the Beechwood parking lot was profitable, or not profitable. He asked what the Councils position was on it. Mr. Hutnik asked if the Council would consider changing the hours so the restaurants could benefit from the parking lot.

Councilman Whitter - added that he didn't feel that the .50 cent an hour was deterrent to people coming to Leonia's restaurants. Englewood seems to not have a problem with it. He would like the lot to be utilized, but he doesn't feel the money is the deterrent issue.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

16. CLOSED SESSION

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Darryl Whitter, Councilman
SECONDER:	Philip Choi, Councilman
AYES:	Knott, Choi, Pak, Salmon, Whitter
ABSENT:	Gil Hawkins

17. ADJOURNMENT