



BOROUGH OF LEONIA
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
~ Minutes ~

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

Lynn Hemmer, Acting Borough Clerk

Monday, December 17, 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 requested Council President Knott lead the Governing Body 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	Present	
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 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 / DISCUSSION

1. Proclamation-Mary Connor, Library

Betty Carillo thanked the Governing Body for allowing the Library Board of Trustees to honor a long time member of the board, Ms. Mary Connor. Ms. Connor was a loyal member of the Library Board for over 25 years, never missing a meeting, always pushed the Library to do its best for the residents. Several Trustees were in attendance: Director Deborah Bigelow, Ron Aldridge, and Mary Ellen Tucker. Ms. Carillo read a resolution that the Library Board of Trustees passed at their last meeting.

Mayor DeSimone read a proclamation from the Governing Body.

5. APPOINTMENTS**6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Tom Gerecs - 334 Crescent Ave., family recently moved to Leonia, has two small children not yet school age. Mr. Gerecs was concerned about the entrances to the schools specifically ACS where the entrances are all open and no one keeps track of who is entering the building. Mr. Gerecs would like to see more security, especially due to the recent events that have taken place.

The Governing Body advised Mr. Gerecs that they felt this is an issue that should be taken up with the Board of Education.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**8. RESOLUTIONS****1. RES-2012-251 Tax Judgment, 334 Crescent Ave B1311, L8**

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

2. RES-2012-252 Tax Judgment, 334 Crescent Ave, B1311, L8

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

3. RES-2012-253 Authorizing 2012 NJDOT Change Order No. 1 - Oakdene Ave

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

4. RES-2012-254 Current Accounts Payable Canceled to Surplus

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

5. RES-2012-255 Canceling Checks to Misc Revenues

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

6. RES-2012-256 Authorizing a Raffle License for the Lions Club of Leonia

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

7. RES-2012-257 Revised Resolution 2012-249

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

8. RES-2012-258 Authorizing the Treasurer to Pay the Claims List

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

9. RES-2012-259 Authorizing the CFO to Make Transfers

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

9. REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Administration and Personnel

Councilman Knott - no recent meeting to report about, but the CFO is working on the budget. At the same time Councilman Knott advised the Governing Body that there are several personnel issues at hand but the Committee is not prepared to discuss them at this time.

Another issue that has come up is Councilman Whitter, Councilman Hawkins, and Councilman Knott recently met with the Meadowview Condominium Association, in relation to the reimbursement the Borough gives to the Association. For example: hydrants, lights, snow removal, leaf removal, etc.

The Councilman suggested that the Association supply the Governing Body with a breakdown of what they are paying currently and the Personnel & Finance Committee will review it.

The original agreement was from the year 2000, and it was reviewed in 2008. They feel the amount is inadequate to compensate for the out goings. The Committee will meet to come up with a solution that satisfies both, the Association and the Borough which may require a new agreement and resolution.

Laws & Ordinances

Councilman Whitter - no report

Police**Leonia Police Department****Memorandum**

To: Police Commissioner Gil Hawkins

From: Chief Jay E. Ziegler

Subject: Synopsis of Leonia Police Operations- January to November 2012

Date: December 17, 2012

The following is a synopsis of our operations for January through November 30, 2012.

Calls for Service- 10,300**Burglaries-** 39**Motor Vehicle Accidents -**260**Motor Vehicle Summonses Issued-** 5,150

Crime Rate: The New Jersey State Police released their 2011 Crime Report statistics on December 15, 2012. In 2011 Leonia's crime rate increased by 79%. The increase is mostly attributable to the significant rise in burglaries from 19 to 43.

Staffing: There are currently 17 Police Officers in the Leonia Police Department. Our staffing ratio is 1.91 Officers per 1,000 residents. The average staffing ratio for Bergen County municipalities is 2.2 officers per thousand residents. Using the County average Leonia should have 20 Police Officers.

SRO: I have previously advocated for a School Resource Officer for our school district. A School Resource Officer is a regular police officer assigned to the schools; responsible for school safety, DARE, relationship building, and serving as the juvenile officer. The recent events in Newtown CT highlight the need for not only additional police officers for the department as a whole but specifically for a police officer assigned to the school. The cost for such an officer for a three year period is approximately \$225,000.00. This would cost the average Leonia taxpayer \$25.00 per year to fund this position.

Police Station: The Police facility continues to be unsafe, in violation of various State and Federal Laws and wholly inadequate as a police station. Plans should commence immediately for its replacement.

School Violence/Workplace Violence: The Leonia Police Department has been well ahead of the curve in regards to training to combat an active shooter event such as the most recent one in Newtown CT. I have personally developed and implemented an Active Shooter Training Program for the Leonia Police Department. All of our police officers have been trained through this system. Several of our officers have attained Active Shooter Instructor Certification through the National Tactical Officers Association. Many of our officers are certified Firearms Instructors, Assault Rifle Instructors, and Simunition Instructors. We continuously train in our schools and are prepared to intervene effectively should such a horrible event ever happen in our community. We have worked with the schools on developing their physical security and on developing the operating procedures they would use in a crisis.

Fire

Councilman Knott - Fire Committee has not met but they do anticipate a meeting before the end of the year

Ambulance

Council Pak - No report

Public Works

Councilman Choi - No report

Borough Administrator

Borough Administrator Terhune extends his thoughts and grief for the parents and residents of Newtown Ct. In all of his years in

Law Enforcement and Government he has never read, seen, witnessed anything as horrific that occurred on Friday in Newtown Ct. Our prayers and condolences go out to the whole community.

At this time the Administrator commends Sgt. Tamagny, Palisades Park Police Offices, DeSotto, and Lee all of whom responded to a very delicate and difficult situation two (2) weeks ago on Sunday. No other comment can be made because of the ongoing investigation.

At this time Administrator commended Acting Borough Clerk for her ability to learn and grasp the new system (IQM2). Several residents have commented on the fact that they can easily obtain the agenda, minutes, and watch the video of the meeting.

On another note, the roof on the rec center is half done, the painter for the ceiling has started the inside work and has 2 weeks to finish.

Suggested the Governing Body review the meetings schedule for 2013. At the same time needs some tentative dates for a special meeting concerning disciplinary hearing for a Borough employee.

In ending, the Administrator hopes that the Governing Body and residents of the Borough of Leonia have a very safe and happy Holiday.

Mayor

Mayor DeSimone - Wishes everyone a very Happy and Healthy Holiday.

The Mayor also informed the Governing Body that he will perform four (4) marriages on Thursday.

Special Bodies**Recreation - Councilman Pak**

The following is a report that Councilman Pak read from Superintendent Davidson:

A synopsis of last night's meeting for your review.

1. The rates for the credit card fees were dropped due to the diligence of the CFO. This rate will lower our credit card fees for both pool and recreation programs.
2. The recreation roof will be starting this week and the ceiling will begin to be repaired and painted immediately after. All work needs to be done on or before January 14th.
3. The proposed ice Rink is on a hold for opening until the weather drops below 40 degrees. Will be constructed by Commission and placed in Wood Park on the softball infield.
4. A lot of time was spent on the Parks Walk review and all items found on your review in packet are being handled by the DPW and Rec. Staff.
5. The Commission voted unanimously to host the elections for 2013 if it is the wish of the Council and the Board of Elections.
6. The Commission holiday party will be at Dante's this year, November 18th, spouses invited, and the Mayor and Mr. Terhune are invited as well. It is a pay as you go and BYOB.
7. The Lighting detection System was reviewed and the Commission believes more information needs to be seen before signing with any one company. The cost is prohibitive at this point to split between Borough and BOE.

Library - Councilman Pak

Library, Budget went up by 1.9% which includes benefits.

Betty Carillo's term is up, wants to be reappointed but because of by-laws she is unable to be the chairperson. Thank the Governing Body for their support for the last several years as library Chairperson.

Councilman Hawkins mentioned that the permits have been approved for the Overpeck preserve.

Councilman Knott - commended the Recreation Department for the outstanding work that was done for the annual tree lightning.

Environmental Commission - Councilman Salmon -

No report to give

Shade Tree - Councilman Salmon -

Shade Tree Commission is working on their 2013 budget. Reported that for some reason fifty (50%) of the residents have refused to have trees planted on their right of way.

10. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

11. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

1. ORD-2012-16 Amending Chapter 123-23.1, "Swimming Pool Fees"

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

2. ORD-2012-17 Adjustment & Amending Chapter 37 Entitled "Land Use Procedures"

Councilman Hawkins wants it to go on record that he is against this Ordinance being adopted. The Borough of Leonia has a strong Council and a weak Mayor form of Government. The problem with the Ordinance is it gives all the power to the Mayor to appoint the members of the Planning/Zoning Board. He does not have a problem with the administration, remembers when problems did exist with the administration. Councilman Hawkins feels to turn over the power to appoint by Mayor without the consent of the Governing Body is a bad in balance of this form of Government for the future.

Councilman Knott agrees with Councilman Hawkins, but believes that no Ordinance is written in stone. If the Governing Body finds this Ordinance is a problem they can always revise it and go back to having two boards again. No ordinance is irreversible.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 1]
MOVER:	Peter Knott, Council President
SECONDER:	Darryl Whitter, Councilman
AYES:	Knott, Choi, Pak, Salmon, Whitter
NAYS:	Gil Hawkins

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

Planning Board/Zoning Board Recreation Commission

1. IQM2 - Councilman Knott

Councilman Knott - As Administrator Terhune commented on the IQM2 that has been in use since June/July 2012, which allows the Governing Body to record the meeting on live webcast and also archive the recording, agenda, and minutes. Makes finding matters easily accessible. One thing Councilman Knott would like to suggest in the possibility of other committees to start also using the system. Two Committees that Councilman Knott suggests is the Planning/Zoning Board, and/or the Recreation Commission meetings.

14. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Agenda and Non-Agenda items)**
15. **CORRESPONDENCE**
16. **CLOSED SESSION**
17. **ADJOURNMENT**