

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**  
2 **Minutes**  
3 **September 19, 2011**  
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 7:30 pm.*

7 Mayor Heveran called the meeting to order.

8 Mayor Mary Heveran asked everyone to stand while Council President Raucci led in the  
9 Pledge of Allegiance.

10 **Council Present:** *Mayor Heveran, Councilpersons, Raucci, Choi, De Simone,*  
11 *Hawkins, Knott, Whitter*

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

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

17  
18 **Absent:** *Jack Terhune, Borough Administrator*  
19

20 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

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

23  
24 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
25

26 Joyce Raspa-Gore, 326 Crescent Avenue; Ms. Raspa-Gore expressed her gratitude to Mr.  
27 Terhune and the DPW in the prompt way they removed the tree that came down during  
28 Hurricane Irene.

29  
30 Charles Silverstein, 356 Grand Avenue; Mr. Silverstein reminded everyone that the  
31 "Friends of the Leonia Library" will be having a sale of used books on October 1 and 2.  
32

33 Leonel Morales, 189 Grand Avenue; Mr. Morales inquired when the stipends and clothing  
34 allowance for the ambulance corps would be paid. Councilman Choi stated he would  
35 report on the subject later in the meeting.  
36

37 **PRESENTATION**  
38

39 **APPOINTMENT**  
40

41 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

42 Minutes of September 7, 2011 – A motion was made by Council President Raucci,  
43 seconded by Councilman Hawkins, to approve the Minutes of September 7, 2011. Roll call  
44 vote; all in favor none opposed.

45  
46 Closed Session Minutes September 7, 2011 – A motion was made by Councilman  
47 Hawkins, seconded by Council President Raucci, to approve the Closed Session Minutes  
48 of September 7, 2011. Roll call vote; all in favor none opposed.

49  
50 **RESOLUTIONS**

51  
52 Councilman Whitter would like more detail regarding Verizon bills, and United  
53 Federation. Mayor Heveran suggested that in the future if questions arise regarding items  
54 on the Bill List, Mr. Terhune should be contacted before the meeting.

55  
56 Resolution 11-191- Councilman Choi commended the tax appeal attorney for his work.  
57 This is the revenue that the Borough needs.

58  
59 Resolutions 11 186- 11-191– Council President Raucci made a motion to approve the  
60 above noted resolutions, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. Roll call vote; all in favor  
61 none opposed. Councilman Whitter abstained on the bills for Verizon.

62  
63 **Standing Committees**

64  
65 Finance Administration & Personnel- Councilman Knott reported the budget  
66 requests were disseminated to each department as well as the Capital Budget  
67 requests for the 2012 Budget. There will be a meeting on September 27, 2011 of the  
68 Committee to start work on the Budget.

69 Laws & Ordinances – Councilman Whitter reported the Committee has not met  
70 since the last meeting. Councilman Whitter reported that the committee is going to  
71 look into the Parking Ordinance and to see how it can better be enforced.  
72 Councilman Hawkins asked if this was an interpretation of the current Ordinance.  
73 Councilman Whitter explained that some differences have occurred. A letter has  
74 been sent by the Code Enforcer and has been ignored. A discussion was held over  
75 who should be enforcing the Ordinance. Council President Raucci stated it is the  
76 timing of the enforcement and the lag time in the follow-ups that have caused some  
77 of the issues.

78  
79 Police – Councilman Hawkins read a report with comparisons of the year 2010 and  
80 in the number of tickets that have been written up to June 30, 2011. Councilman  
81 Hawkins reported that overtime is down. The Police Department is still short one  
82 officer. The Police Committee is considering changing the system regarding  
83 detectives and increasing the detective bureau by one (1). Councilman Knott asked  
84 when the plate reader would be activated. Councilman Hawkins stated the problem  
85 is being worked on. He also noted that switching to twelve (12) hours shifts is the  
86 reason for the increase in tickets. Council President Raucci stated the public is  
87 concerned how the new dispatching is going. Councilman Hawkins stated it is  
88 working very well. The Fire Department had some glitches but those are being  
89 worked through. Councilman Choi reported he has seen more patrols on the streets.

90 Fire Department – Council President Raucci reported on a meeting of the Fire  
91 Committee. The Fire Department came to them with a request for one of the  
92 ambulances that is scheduled to be auctioned. They would like to upgrade their  
93 current Mobile Dispatch Vehicle. All the work transferring the equipment from the  
94 current vehicle will be done by the Fire Dept. with the funds they have in their  
95 operating expenses. The Committee is recommending that the older of the two  
96 ambulances be given to the Fire Department. Councilman Hawkins noted that the  
97 Mobile Command Vehicle was used recently during Hurricane Irene and is utilized  
98 throughout the County. Council President Raucci would like to review the stand-by  
99 duty ordinance that was introduced and tabled last year. During Hurricane Irene a  
100 State Wide State of Emergency was in effect. There were five (5) trucks out and 27  
101 personnel on call for two days. There have been some frequency issues with  
102 dispatches and there are on-going discussions to see if there are other channels that  
103 can utilized.

104 Ambulance – Councilman Choi reviewed the report from Englewood Hospital. The  
105 Ambulance Committee will meet with members of the ambulance corps to discuss  
106 the stipend at 6:00PM. Mr. Tappen will be in attendance.

107 Public Works – Councilman De Simone reported on the hurricane damage. The DPW  
108 did an excellent clean-up of the trees that came down and branches that fell. There  
109 was some damage to the athletic fields that will be repaired. Councilman De Simone  
110 will be meeting with Mr. Saitta regarding snow removal as it is one of the issues that  
111 will be discussed during street parking. Members of the Council agreed that this  
112 needs to be addressed in light of what occurred last year where cars were not moved  
113 for days and the roads could not be plowed curb to curb.

114 Borough Administrator - Mr. Terhune was absent.

115 Mayor – Mayor Heveran attended the 9/11 Memorial with Councilmen Knott and  
116 Hawkins. The ceremony was very well done. Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> is  
117 International Day of Peace at the Methodist Church. It starts at 5:00PM at the Peace  
118 Pole at the High School and everyone will the walk to the Peace Pole at the  
119 Methodist Church. There will be speakers at the Methodist Church. On September  
120 25, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM there will be a “Meet the Artist” event at the American  
121 Legion.

122 Special Bodies - Council President Raucci reported the Sports Boosters Carnival will  
123 be held September 21<sup>st</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> in Overpeck Park.

124 Councilman Knott reported the Historic Preservation met on September 12<sup>th</sup> and  
125 welcomed the new members.

126 Mayor Heveran Announced the Health Fair will be held October 1<sup>st</sup> at the ACS  
127 Elementary School.

128 Councilman Hawkins announced that he designed the 9/11 memorial at the Police  
129 and Fire Academy memorializing Emergency Services.

130 Councilman Choi reported on the Memorial held for Andy Kim by the Library. This  
131 year Councilman Choi’s family prepared the wreath for Andy Kim and invited his  
132 family to attend. Mr. Kim helped Councilman Choi in the laying of the wreath.

133 Councilman Choi also participated in the 3,000 rings at the American Legion. The  
134 last bell rung was for Andy Kim. Councilman Hawkins was present and Councilman  
135 De Simone was also in attendance. It was a very moving ceremony.

136 **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

137

138 **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

139

140 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

141 a) Beechwood Place Parking Lot – Council President Raucci would like to  
142 have either meters or a kiosk. Council President Raucci would like Laws &  
143 Ordinances to review options for the lot. He would like to encourage use of  
144 the lot with turnover during the day. Would not charge after 6:00 PM.  
145 Council president Raucci would like this to be as simple and easy as  
146 possible. Councilman Hawkins stated he would oppose any fees for  
147 parking.

148

149 b) Ambulances – Council President Raucci asked the members of the  
150 Governing Body how they felt about giving the oldest ambulance to the  
151 Fire Department, as was earlier proposed in the meeting. The consensus of  
152 the Council was to give the oldest ambulance to the Fire Department.  
153 Mayor Heveran agrees with the decision because the members of the Fire  
154 Department are willing to do all the work. She stated that this would in fact  
155 save the Borough money.

156

157 **NEW BUSINESS**

158 a) Communications Officers Separation Agreement – Councilman Hawkins  
159 would like to offer them a small package. Councilman Hawkins recommended they  
160 receive their health benefits for the remainder of the year. The Police Committee discussed  
161 this in their meeting and it was a unanimous agreement that it could be done with the  
162 money that is in the Budget. Council President Raucci commended Kathy Viviani for the  
163 outstanding job she did, not only during her regular duties but also dispatching.  
164 Councilman Knott stated that this request should come to the Finance Committee.  
165 Councilman Hawkins stated the funds are there. Mayor Heveran would like a memo from  
166 Mr. Terhune stating the funds are there. A resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

167

168 Mr. Giblin read the Resolution into the record.

169 **Resolution 11-192** Council President Raucci made a motion, seconded by  
170 Councilman Hawkins, to approve Resolution 11-192, giving the oldest ambulance  
171 to the Leonia Fire Department as a Mobile Command Vehicle. Roll Call Vote; all  
172 in favor none opposed.

173

174 **CORRESPONDENCE**

175 Mayor Heveran read a letter from Elizabeth Randall, regarding a new program being  
176 offered to Bergen County Veterans. There are forms available to receive cards that will  
177 make it possible for veterans to receive discounts.

178

179 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

180 Charles Silverstein, 356 Grand Avenue; Mr. Silverstein advised the Council that the signs  
181 by the Library are overgrown with branches and are not visible. Mr. Silverstein also spoke  
182 about the sidewalks which are raised by the Methodist Church causing a hazard for people  
183 walking and also in wheelchairs. He has assisted a lady in a wheelchair that was stuck  
184 because of the condition of the sidewalk. There is a lot of broken glass on the corner of  
185 Grand Avenue and Fort Lee Road, on the Grand Avenue side.

186  
187 Leonel Morales, 189 Grand Avenue; Mr. Morales spoke about the uniform allowance and  
188 the stipends for the ambulance corps. Mr. Morales also brought to the attention of the  
189 Governing body there was no hand washing at the carnival last year.

190  
191 Ryan Maxwell, 203 Glenwood Avenue; Mr. Maxwell stated he is recording the meeting  
192 for it to put on line. Mr. Maxwell questioned the urgency to act on the Jack Peters matter at  
193 the last meeting. Mr. Giblin stated the Governing Body cannot comment because Mr.  
194 Peters would need to receive another "Rice Notice." Mr. Maxwell asked if a senior citizen  
195 can still be placed on a list to have the DPW pick-up their garbage in the back. Mayor  
196 Heveran advised that the residents need to contact the Borough Administrator who is  
197 maintaining a list and will notify the DPW.

198

199 **CLOSED SESSION**

200

201 **ADJOURN**

202 Councilman Choi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council President  
203 Raucci. All in favor none opposed.

204 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at  
205 9:20 PM.

206

207 Respectfully submitted,

208

209

210 Fran Lehmann

211 Borough Clerk

212

213 ***THE PRECEDING IS A CONCISE STATEMENT INTERPRETED BY THE***  
214 ***BOROUGH CLERK AND MAY NOT INDICATE THE PRECISE INTENT OF THE***  
215 ***GOVERNING BODY. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ARE TAPED AND***  
216 ***AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH CLERK.***