

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**  
2 **Minutes**  
3 **November 7, 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 *Jack Terhune, Borough Administrator, Lynn Hemmer, Deputy*  
17 *Borough Clerk*

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 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

26 Hector Castro, 428 Christie Lane – Mr. Castro spoke about the branches on the side streets  
27 from the storm in October. Some of the roads are impassable due to people putting the  
28 branches directly into the street. Mr. Castro feels there should be no more free parking in  
29 Leonia. Mayor Heveran told Mr. Castro that the trees limbs and debris are being picked  
30 up. Mayor Heveran explained the parking rules for Elm Place Parking Lot and the fee that  
31 is charged for the lot.  
32

33 Diana Damon, Fort Lee Road - Ms. Damon came to the meeting to discuss her claim  
34 which had been denied by the JIF. Mayor Heveran explained there was nothing the  
35 Borough could do for her. Mr. Terhune explained the discussion he had with Ms. Damon.  
36

37 Herbert Dorfman, 319 Park Avenue - Mr. Dorfman spoke about the damage from the  
38 storm on October 30, 2011 and Hurricane Irene.  
39

40 Mrs. Dorfman, 319 Park Avenue - Mrs. Dorfman inquired why it has taken five days to get  
41 the trees cleaned up. Mr. Terhune responded that people are now cleaning out their  
42 backyards after the DPW has cleaned up the streets. Some streets have been done three  
43 times. The clean-up is on going.  
44

45 Ryan Maxwell, 203 Glenwood Avenue - Mr. Maxwell stated the DPW did a pretty good  
46 job with the removal of branches. Mr. Maxwell spoke about Mr. Patti offering to pay for a  
47 lawsuit and have the Board of Adjustment attorney represent the Board. Mr. Giblin stated  
48 there are no changes; he is representing the Borough. Mr. Maxwell inquired about the TV  
49 Clinic Property. Councilman Knott said he recently spoke to the owner about pulling the  
50 demo permits. Mr. Terhune reported that all the fees have been paid. Councilman Raucci  
51 expressed concern about the scaffolding and netting which needs to be approved by the  
52 Building Inspector.

53

54

55 **PRESENTATION**

56

57 **APPOINTMENT**

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59 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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61 Minutes of October 17, 2011 – A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by  
62 Councilman Choi to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2011. Roll call vote; all in favor  
63 none opposed.

64

65 Closed Session Minutes October 17, 2011 – A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins,  
66 seconded by Council President Raucci, to approve the Closed Session Minutes of October  
67 17, 2011. Roll call vote; all in favor none opposed.

68

69 **RESOLUTIONS**

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71 Resolution 11-207 – Councilman Hawkins asked for an explanation. Mr. Terhune  
72 explained the Bond Anticipation note is for the capital expenditures approved by the  
73 Capital Budget Committee.

74

75 Resolution 11-215 – Councilman Hawkins asked for an explanation. Mr. Terhune  
76 explained this is a utility and the funds from a utility can only be used by the utility.

77

78 Resolution 11-211 – Councilman Choi asked why a new tree truck was being purchased.  
79 Mr. Terhune stated the truck is old and is used on a daily basis. This has been requested for  
80 replacement for a number of years and was approved by the Capital Budget Committee.  
81 Councilman Choi inquired about garbage trucks. Mr. Terhune said they are ok.

82

83 Resolutions 11 207- 11-215– Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the above  
84 noted resolutions, seconded by Council President Raucci. Roll call vote; all in favor none  
85 opposed.

86

87 Council President Raucci made a statement; “The Borough hired people to make the  
88 streets clear and safe and to give PSE&G access to the downed wires. Is the town going to  
89 make any restitution? No it is not possible. The storm was totally unprecedented.”

90

91 Councilman Knott reported the DPW and Downes Tree Service are doing a pretty good  
92 job of cleaning up the tree limbs. Mr. Terhune explained that people are still bringing out  
93 trees from their backyards and placing them on the curb.

94 Councilman Hawkins asked to have the DPW, Police, Fire and OEM present at the next  
95 meeting. Councilman Hawkins applauds the job being done by the town and Mr. Terhune  
96 for assisting in the clean-up.

97 Councilman Choi asked for an update. Mr. Terhune reported that Edgewater sent a tree  
98 truck, crew and chipper for three days. Downes Tree Service has had two crews here  
99 everyday. The Borough has had five crews out working on clean up and garbage has  
100 continued to be picked up as well. Cliffside Park has a new chipper that they lent the  
101 Borough for use in the clean up.

102

103 Councilman Hawkins reported that previously there was only one dispatcher on duty at  
104 any given time. After moving to 9-1-1 Communications with the County, there is more  
105 than one person taking 9-1-1 calls. If the Borough had not made the switch our dispatchers  
106 would not have been able to handle the volume of calls and many would not have gotten  
107 through.

108 Councilman De Simone stated that at the last Senior Citizen meeting people were stating  
109 they could not get through on 9-1-1. Mr. Terhune explained that some calls are not  
110 emergencies. People use 9-1-1 for non-emergencies and this causes delays.

111 Councilman Whitter commended the DPW with tree clean-up and still maintaining regular  
112 clean-up of garbage etc.

## 113 **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

114

## 115 **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

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## 117 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

118 a) Beechwood Place Parking Lot Fees - Councilman Whitter reported on the  
119 meeting held by Laws and Ordinance regarding the proposed fees for the  
120 Beechwood Place Parking Lot. The Committee recommends \$.50 for one  
121 hour or a maximum of \$1.00 for two hours between the hours of 6:00AM  
122 and 10:00PM. A cash only kiosk would be installed. This would safeguard  
123 the lot so it would not be used by commuters parking there overnight.  
124 Councilman Knott agrees a minimal fee needs to be established so the lot  
125 does not become a park and ride. Both Councilman Knott and Councilman  
126 Choi agreed it should be cash only. Councilman Choi stated it is a small lot  
127 and the borough will need to control the use. Council President Raucci  
128 questioned about usage on weekend and holidays. Councilman Whitter  
129 stated fees would be charged on weekends. Mr. Terhune stated it would  
130 hurt business because the lot will be used by others and cars would be left.  
131 Councilman Hawkins opposes the fees. He feels it will open the door to  
132 meters on Broad Avenue. Councilman Hawkins feels the lot will sit empty  
133 if people have to pay to park there. Councilman Whitter said it would be a  
134 shame when the parking lot is full of commuters. Councilman Whitter does  
135 not feel the lot will be empty. Councilman Knott the Borough needs checks

136 and balances, there is one night a week the lot will used for court or  
137 recreation. Councilman De Simone would like ten spaces for commuters at  
138 \$10.00 per day. Councilman Choi stated he understands Councilman  
139 Hawkins opinion, but there needs to checks and balances. The Council has  
140 an obligation to the public. Councilman Hawkins stated he thinks the  
141 concept of keeping the commuters out is a red herring. It can be handled  
142 with enforcement. Mayor Heveran thanked everyone for a healthy  
143 discussion. The Ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting.

144 b) Vacancies in Downtown District – Councilman Choi reported on a forum  
145 held on October 26, 2011;  
146 1) Reinstate Merchants Association  
147 2) Discuss traffic issues with East Bergen Regional Mayor’s Association  
148 3) Attract downtown businesses

149 c) Webcasting IQM2 – Councilman Knott stated he has received a lot of  
150 positive feedback. Councilman Knott found only one other company which  
151 is located in California. IQM2 is willing to provide two months free.  
152 Councilman Hawkins expressed concern with downloading Borough  
153 business on his personal computer. He wanted to know the legality of it.  
154 Councilman Choi felt the Governing Body should not rush into this but  
155 rather discuss it further. Councilman Knott reported that Bloomfield is  
156 happy with minutes track.

157  
158 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 159 a) Maintenance of South End of Grand Avenue - Council President Raucci  
160 stated the maintenance of these properties is horrendous and should go to  
161 property maintenance. (This item will be held for the meeting of November  
162 21, 2011)

163  
164 **CORRESPONDENCE**

165  
166 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

167  
168 Doug Salmon, 220 Harrison Street - Mr. Salmon spoke about the three storms in the last  
169 two months and that possibly this may become the norm. Mr. Salmon should look at their  
170 home owner’s policies. The utility companies should be putting utilities underground.

171  
172 Theresa Tietjen, Palisades Avenue - Mrs. Tietjen inquired if there was a fine for excessive  
173 garbage.

174  
175 **CLOSED SESSION**

176 Litigation DPW, Board of Adjustment, Zoning Officials Hours, T-Mobile

177  
178 **ADJOURN**

179 Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council  
180 President Raucci. All in favor none opposed.

181 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at  
182 10:15 PM.

183  
184 Respectfully submitted,

185  
186  
187 Fran Lehmann  
188 Borough Clerk

189  
190 ***THE PRECEDING IS A CONCISE STATEMENT INTERPRETED BY THE***  
191 ***BOROUGH CLERK AND MAY NOT INDICATE THE PRECISE INTENT OF THE***  
192 ***GOVERNING BODY. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ARE TAPED AND***  
193 ***AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH CLERK.***