

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**
2 **Minutes**
3 **January 21, 2009**

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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 7:34pm*

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8 Mayor Heveran called the meeting to order.

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10 Mayor Mary Heveran asked the assembly to stand while Council President Choi led in
11 the Pledge of Allegiance.

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13 **Council Present:** *Mayor Heveran, Councilpersons, Hawkins, Choi, Norgaard,*
14 *Puzzo, Raucchi*

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16 **Council Absent:** *Councilwoman Raspa-Gore*

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18 **Also Present:** *Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk*
19 *Jack Terhune, Borough Administrator*

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21 **Also Absent:** *Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney*

22 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

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

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27 Mayor Heveran noted the Fire Exit.

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29 **PRESENTATIONS**

30 Proclamation – Jose Alvarez (held for a later date)

31
32 Plaque – Artie Van Zilen – Mayor Heveran and Councilman Hawkins presented a
33 plaque to Mr. Van Zilen on his retirement from the Department of Public Works
34 for his 30 years of service to the Borough of Leonia.

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36 Appraisal Systems – Mr. John DelGuercio, President of Appraisal Systems, and
37 Mr. Timothy Henderson, Tax Assessor for the Borough answered questions of the
38 Governing Body and explained how the figures were determined for the recent
39 revaluation of the borough.

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41 Chief Ziegler – Chief Ziegler presented a report to the Governing Body on the
42 activities of the Police Department for the year 2008.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Anthony Saitta, 130 Vreeland Avenue, Superintendent of Public Works – Thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing Mr. Van Zilen on his retirement. Mr. Saitta also congratulated Mr. Van Zilen for his dedication to the Borough of Leonia and the Road Department.

Mr. Ernest Liberatore, 121 Woodridge Place – Congratulated Councilmen Hawkins and Raucci on their re-election. Mr. Liberatore expressed his opposition to the redevelopment proposed for the TV Clinic property.

APPOINTMENTS

Borough Attorney – GG – Councilman Puzzo made a motion to appoint Mr. Giblin as Borough Attorney, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. All present voted yes.

Tax Attorney – II – Council President Choi made a motion to appoint Mr. Robert Drexel as Tax Attorney, seconded by Councilman Puzzo. All present voted yes.

Board of Health Members – E and F – Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve Resolutions E and F, seconded by Councilman Norgaard. All present voted yes.

Board of Adjustment Members - A through D – Councilman Puzzo made a motion to approve Resolutions A through D, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All present voted yes.

Borough Historian – bb – Councilman Hawkins made a motion, seconded by Councilman Norgaard to approve Resolution bb. All present voted yes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Meeting/Work Session, December 15, 2008 – Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve as amended the Minutes of December 15 2008, seconded by Councilman Raucci. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins Norgaard, Puzzo, Raucci voted yes, Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Minutes approved.

Closed Session – December 15, 2008 - Council President Choi made a motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes of December 15, 2008, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo Raucci, voted yes, Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Minutes approved.

Reorganization Minutes – January 5, 2009 – Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Councilman Norgaard, made a motion to approve the Reorganization Minutes of January 5, 2009. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo Raucci, voted yes, Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Minutes approved.

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RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 09-51 was pulled for discussion by Councilman Puzzo - The Governing Body discussed the use of translators at Borough Hall and by the Recreation Department. After a brief discussion it was decided the program would be done on a trial basis and revisited after six months.

Resolution 09-45 was pulled for discussion by Councilman Raucci - Councilman Raucci stated this resolution was a way of paying respect to Officer Chung for serving in Afghanistan.

Councilman Raucci, seconded by Councilman Norgaard, made a motion to approve Resolutions 09-41 – 09-52. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins Norgaard, Puzzo, Raucci voted yes, Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Resolutions approved.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Due to the many presentations of the evening, Mayor Heveran asked if any members of the Council had a report that was pressing or could they be held until February. Councilman Norgaard reported there were pressing issues that needed to be discussed regarding the Fire Department.

Finance, Administration and Personnel –

Laws and Ordinances –

Police –

Fire – Councilman Norgaard – Councilman Norgaard reported there were 30 calls for the month of December. The pagers are still being used, but the members of the fire department are also receiving text messages on their cell phones for fire calls. This procedure is fairing very well for the department. Councilman Norgaard requested two Ordinances to be created for the next meeting. The first would be for a 2.8% increase for LOSAP; the second for an increase in standby pay to \$25.00 per hour. The Governing Body discussed the requested increase for standby pay. The Borough Attorney will prepare an Ordinance authorizing an increase in Stand-by Pay. The Borough Attorney will prepare a resolution authorizing an increase for LOSAP.

Ambulance –

Public Works –

Real Estate and Insurance Committee –

Administration –

Mayor – Mayor Heveran reported she received a letter of resignation from Mrs. Nina Gaetjens from the Historic Preservation Commission.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) Yamato (Councilman Puzzo) Held for Closed Session.

138 b) Snow Removal Ordinance (Borough Administrator) – Mr. Terhune gave
139 explanation as to why this issue was placed on the agenda. Councilman
140 Raucci suggested the ordinance should be changed regarding parking on
141 the streets when snow covered. The Governing Body discussed various
142 options. This will be discussed again at the meeting of February 2, 2009.
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144 c) NJ Transit/Northern Branch Corridor (Borough Administrator) Mr.
145 Terhune reviewed the letter he received from NJ Transit. Mr. Terhune will
146 file an OPRA Request to the State and request a copy of DEIS report.
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148 **NEW BUSINESS**

149 a.) List of People Who Need Snow Shoveling (Mayor Heveran) - Mayor
150 Heveran reported to the Governing Body she had received a phone call
151 from a senior citizen who needed assistance shoveling snow. The council
152 discussed various ways this could be handled. Councilman Puzzo will
153 contact Dr. Josefsberg for a possible plan of action.
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155 b) Reappointment of Don Smartt (Councilman Puzzo) - Councilman Puzzo
156 requested the reappointment of Mr. Donald Smartt for another six months.
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158 At this point in the meeting Councilman Hawkins made a motion to
159 extend the meeting another 15 minutes until 10:15, seconded by
160 Councilman Raucci. All present in favor none opposed.
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162 After a lengthy discussion by the Mayor and Council, Councilman Puzzo
163 made a motion, seconded by Councilman Raucci to approve the
164 reappointment of Mr. Don Smartt under the Non-Fair and Open Process.
165 Roll call vote; Councilmen Hawkins, Puzzo and Raucci voted yes. Council
166 President Choi and Councilman Norgaard voted no. Councilwoman
167 Raspa-Gore was absent. Resolution approved. Mayor Heveran asked to
168 have Mr. Smartt attend the February 2, 2009 meeting of the Governing
169 Body.
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171 c) 2009 Road Program (Borough Administrator) Mr. Terhune reviewed the
172 proposed Capital Road Program that will be presented to the Capital
173 Budget Committee.
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175 d) Fire Department Stand-by Pay (Councilman Norgaard)- discussed under
176 reports.
177

178 **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

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180 Introduction of Ordinance 01-09 entitled;

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182 **AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF VREELAND AVENUE**
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184 **Motion** was made by Council, seconded by Council to introduce on fist reading
185 Ordinance 01-09

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187 **ROLL CALL** Councilpersons, Hawkins, Choi, Norgaard, Puzzo, Raucci voted
188 yes. Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Ordinance 01-09 Introduced

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190 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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192 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

193 No Comments made.

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195 Before the Council adjourned to Closed Session, a motion was made by Council
196 President Choi, seconded by Councilman Hawkins, to extend the meeting an additional
197 15 minutes, until 10:30 PM. All present in favor, none opposed/

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199 **CLOSED SESSION**

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201 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to go into Closed Session seconded by Councilman
202 Norgaard to discuss the following:

203 Litigation: 604 Main Street Stipulation of Settlement, Negotiations
204 Personnel: Borough Administrator, DPW Contract

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206 All in favor none opposed.

207
208 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to go into Open Session for the purpose of approving
209 Resolution 09-53 through 09-55, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All present in favor
210 none opposed.

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212 **OPEN SESSION**

213 Resolution 09-53 – Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Council President Choi made a
214 motion to approve Resolution 09-53 authorizes Borough Attorney Giblin to proceed with
215 the stipulation of settlement regarding the project known as 604 Main Street.

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217 Roll call vote: Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Puzzo, Raucci voted yes, Councilman
218 Norgaard abstained; Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Resolution 09-53 adopted.

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221 Resolution 09-54 – Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Councilman Raucci made a
222 motion to approve Resolution 09-54 authorizes Borough Attorney Giblin is hereby
223 authorized to negotiate with Hansen Realty regarding the Yamato/Texaco Property

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225 Roll call vote: Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, Raucci voted yes,
226 Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Resolution 09-54 adopted.

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228 Resolution 09-55 Council President Choi, seconded by Councilman Norgaard, made a
229 motion to approve Resolution 09-55, regarding the DPW contract.

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231 Roll call vote: Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard. Puzzo, Raucci voted yes,
232 Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Resolution 09-55 adopted

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234 **ADJOURN**

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236 Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All in
237 favor none opposed.

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239 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned
240 at 10:40PM

241

242 Respectfully submitted,

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245

246 Fran Lehmann

247 Borough Clerk