

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**
2 **Minutes**
3 **March 16, 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.

9
10 Mayor Mary Heveran asked the assembly to stand while Council President Choi led in
11 the Pledge of Allegiance.

12
13 Council President Choi asked for a moment of silence to remember Mayor Heveran's
14 Mother who passed away on Monday, March 16, 2009, and Councilwoman Raspa-Gore's
15 Father who passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2009.

16
17 **Council Present:** *Mayor Heveran, Councilpersons, Hawkins, Choi, Norgaard,*
18 *Puzzo, Raspa-Gore Raucci*

19
20 **Council Absent:** *None*

21
22 **Also Present:** *Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney*
23 *Jack Terhune, Borough Administrator, Myrna Becker, CFO*

24
25 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

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

29
30 Mayor Heveran noted the Fire Exit.

31
32 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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34 John Kender – 169 Ames Avenue – Mr. Kender expressed concern with the new website.
35 Mr. Kender also asked who the webmaster was for the website. Mr. Terhune responded
36 that he is the webmaster.

37
38 Rachel Stern – 44 Paulin Boulevard – Ms. Stern stated that Cumberland Farms is
39 scheduled for demolition and is concerned about the increase of traffic in the area of
40 Christie Heights Street and Irving Street. Mayor Heveran stated the borough
41 Administrator will look into the issue of traffic.

42
43 **Adoption of Ordinance**

44 Adoption of Ordinance 04-09 entitled:

45 **CALENDAR YEAR 2009 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL**
46 **BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP**
47 **BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**
48 **Public Hearing no one spoke.**
49

50 A motion was made by Councilperson Hawkins seconded by
51 Council President Choi to approve on first reading Ordinance 04-09
52

53 **ROLL CALL** Councilperson, Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, Raspa-Gore,
54 Raucci voted yes. Ordinance 04-09 adopted.
55

56 **PRESENTATIONS**
57

58 Transportation Committee – Matt Brennan, 53 Palmer Place – Mr. Brennan expressed his
59 condolences to Mayor Heveran and Councilwoman Raspa-Gore. Mr. Brennan reviewed
60 the report presented by the Committee. Mr. Brennan requested the report be made
61 available to the public by placing it on the website and making copies available at the
62 Library and at the Recreation Department, as well as in Borough Hall.
63 The Governing Body thanked the Committee for keeping them informed.
64

65 Mabel Reyes -270 Leonia Avenue – Farmer’s Market – Ms. Reyes presented her plan to
66 the Governing Body for a Farmer’s Market to be held from June through September. Ms.
67 Reyes gave Mr. Giblin a contract for vendors for his review and input. The Governing
68 Body feels this will be an asset to the residents.
69

70 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
71

72 Council Meeting, March 2, 2009 – Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the
73 Minutes of March 2, 2009, seconded by Councilman Norgaard. Roll call vote;
74 Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins Norgaard, Puzzo, Raspa-Gore Raucci voted yes, Minutes
75 approved.
76

77 Closed Session March 2, 2009 - Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the
78 Closed Session Minutes of March 2, 2009, seconded by Councilman Norgaard. Roll call
79 vote; Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins Norgaard, Puzzo, Raspa-Gore Raucci voted yes,
80 Minutes approved.
81

82 **RESOLUTIONS**
83

84 Resolution 09-78 was held for a separate by Councilman Puzzo.
85

86 Resolution 09-79 - 09-88 Councilman Raucci made a motion to approve Resolution 09-
87 79 through 09-88, seconded by Councilwoman Raspa-Gore. Roll call vote all in favor
88 none opposed.
89

90 Resolution 09-78 Councilman Puzzo – Councilman Puzzo thanked Myrna Becker, CFO
91 and Jack Terhune, Borough Administrator and the members of the Finance Committee.
92 Given the very tough economic conditions the budget on the municipal side will be a
93 3.24% increase. The Borough will not take a deferral on the payment of pensions and will
94 furlough Borough Hall employees without pay on Fridays. Borough Hall will be closed
95 on Fridays July and August.

96

97 Members of the Governing Body thanked the Finance Committee and Ms. Becker and
98 Mr. Terhune for the work and time they put in on the budget.

99

100 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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102 **Finance, Administration and Personnel** – Councilman Puzzo - Nothing to report at this
103 time.

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105 **Laws and Ordinances** – Councilwoman Raspa-Gore - Will be discussed under
106 unfinished business and new business.

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108 **Police** – Councilman Raucci - Nothing to report at this time.

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110 **Fire** – Councilman Norgaard – Councilman Norgaard reported there were 29 calls for the
111 month of February. Leonia Fire Department received a commendation from New York
112 City for their assistance on 9/11/01.

113

114 **Ambulance** – Council President Choi – Council President Choi spoke about mutual aid.

115

116 **Public Works** – Councilman Hawkins deferred to the Borough Administrator.

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118 **Real Estate and Insurance Committee** – Councilman Hawkins referred to a letter from
119 the attorney from Kulite Semiconductors regarding parking issues.

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121 **Administration** – Mr. Terhune reported the salt dome will be started once the overhead
122 utility lines are moved.

123

124 **Mayor** – Mayor Heveran reported on a program she participated in at the ACS School in
125 honor of Dr. Seuss’s Birthday and presented them with a proclamation. There will be a
126 meeting at the Annex on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, regarding change of use for the
127 Overpeck Park and an art exhibit at the Leonia Middle School on the same evening.
128 Mayor Heveran reported she also attended the awards ceremony with Chief Chace when
129 they received the commendation from NYC. Mayor Heveran asked Chief Chace and
130 Commissioner Norgaard to share the plaque with the public. Mayor Heveran reported on
131 a meeting she attended with Ms. Carol Karels. The meeting was held at the Women’s’
132 Rights Information Center of which Mayor Heveran is Board President.

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Special Bodies

Councilwoman Raspa-Gore thanked the Governing body for approving the Resolution opposing the reduction of Library Aid. Councilwoman Raspa-Gore reported that because of budget cuts the Library will be closed on Sundays beginning April 1st and no new books for adults will be purchased for the remainder of the year. The Library will link their website with the Borough's.

Historic Preservation – Councilman Norgaard reported Dudley Allen's daughter will be present at the renaming of Lakeview Park to Dudley Allen Park this will be done after the park is refurbished.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Introduction of Ordinance 05-09 entitled;
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 49-4 TITLED "TABLE OF ORGANIZATION" BY DELETING AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 49-4 AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW ORDINANCE 49-4, "TABLE OF ORGANIZATION".

Motion was made by Council, seconded by Council to introduce on fist reading Ordinance 05-09

ROLL CALL Councilpersons, Hawkins, Choi, Norgaard, Puzzo, Raspa-Gore Raucci voted yes. 5. Ordinance 05-09 Introduced

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

Adoption of Ordinance 03-09 entitled:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 40 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, COUNTY OF BERGEN, ENTITLED "POLICE"
Public Hearing no one spoke.

Motion made by Council President Choi, seconded by Councilman Raucci to adopt on final reading Ordinance 03-09

ROLL CALL Councilperson, Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, Raspa-Gore, Raucci voted yes Ordinance 03-09 adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Personnel Policies – (Councilwoman Raspa-Gore) Councilwoman Raspa-Gore reviewed the changes. The Council agreed and asked Mr. Giblin to prepare the Ordinance for introduction in April.
- b) Site Plan Review and Escrow Fees – (Councilwoman Raspa-Gore) Councilwoman Raspa-Gore reviewed the recommendations of the Committee. The Council discussed the recommendations and sent the proposed changes back the Planning Board for input

- 182 c) Property Maintenance – Temporary Containers – (Councilwoman Raspa-
183 Gore) The Council discussed the proposed ordinance. No decision was
184 made.
- 185 d) Floor Area Ratio– Councilwoman Raspa-Gore) Councilwoman Raspa-
186 Gore is waiting for a memo from Mr. Alampi, Attorney from the Planning
187 Board, regarding the ordinance with a further explanation.
- 188 e) Fees and Escrow – (Councilwoman Raspa-Gore) The Council discussed
189 the recommendations and sent the proposed changes back the Planning
190 Board for input.
- 191 f) Linden Terrace Traffic Issues (Councilwoman Raspa-Gore) The Laws and
192 Ordinances Committee recommended no changes to this area.
193

NEW BUSINESS

- 195 a.) Zoning Ordinance – Building Height (Mayor Heveran) After a discussion
196 by the Governing Body the Ordinance was not introduced. No action to be
197 taken.
198

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

203 Deborah Bigelow, Library Director, 227 Fort Lee Road – Ms. Bigelow expressed her
204 condolences to Mayor Heveran and Councilwoman Raspa-Gore on the lose of their loved
205 ones. Ms. Bigelow thanked the Governing Body for adopting the Resolution opposing the
206 budget cuts recommended by the League of Municipalities for Libraries. Ms. Bigelow
207 referred to an article in the New York Times, Sunday, March 20, 2009 edition that
208 showed Library use is up. Ms. Bigelow stated the Library will assist with the Wall Mart
209 Grant application.
210

211 Betty Carillo 350 Sylvan Avenue – Mrs. Carillo extended her condolences to Mayor
212 Heveran and Councilwoman Raspa-Gore and thanked them for coming to the meeting.
213 Mrs. Carillo with the extra cuts to the Library Budget there will need to be layoffs in the
214 Library staffing.
215

216 John Kender - 169 Ames Avenue – Mr. Kender spoke again about putting more
217 information on the website.
218

219 Ingrid Brennan – 53 Palmer Place – Ms. Brennan feels that it would be safer if the
220 benches along Broad Avenue were facing the sidewalk instead of the street. Ms. Brennan
221 brought to the attention of the Governing Body a Property Maintenance issue 183 Broad
222 Avenue is in disrepair and the chairs with the balls on them across from Lakeview Park
223 are an eyesore. Mayor Heveran stated they are allowed by ordinance to have the chairs
224 and balls on their front lawns. The issue of 183 Broad Avenue will be given to the
225 Property Maintenance Officer.
226

227 Barbara Marchant - 128 Spring Street – Mrs. Marchant expressed her condolences. Mrs.
228 Marchant thanked the Governing Body for their support regarding light rail. Mrs.
229 Marchant thanked the DPW for an outstanding job this year with the removal of snow.
230 However there is an apartment complex on Grand Avenue that continuously plows the
231 snow onto Spring Street.

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233 Theresa Tietjen – 134 Palisades Avenue – Mrs. Tietjen expressed her condolences to
234 Mayor Heveran and Councilwoman Raspa-Gore. Mrs. Tietjen expressed concern
235 regarding the possibility of having third party billing for the ambulance service.

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237 **CLOSED SESSION**

238

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

241 Personnel

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243 All in favor none opposed.

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Open Session

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247 Resolution 09-89 – Councilman Puzzo seconded by Councilman Raucci made a motion
248 to approve as discussed Resolution 09-89 dealing with layoffs of personnel to be
249 prepared by the Borough Attorney. Roll call vote all in favor none opposed.

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251 **ADJOURN**

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253 Councilman Raucci made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Norgaard. All
254 in favor none opposed.

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256 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned
257 at 10:10PM

258

259 Respectfully submitted,

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262

263 Fran Lehmann

264 Borough Clerk