

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**
2 **Minutes**
3 **July 6, 2009**

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 7:34pm.*

7
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 Present:** *Mayor Heveran, Councilpersons, Choi Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo,*
14 *Rauci*

15
16 **Council Absent:** *Councilwoman Raspa-Gore*

17
18 **Also Present:** *Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney, Jack Terhune, Borough*
19 *Administrator; Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk*

20
21 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

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

25
26 Mayor Heveran noted the Fire Exit.

27
28 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

29
30 Vanessa Marks – 220 Vreeland Avenue – Ms. Marks spoke about the dog run in
31 Lakeview Park. She expressed concern about spending funds on the park with off-leash
32 hours and allowing dogs to defecate and urinate in the park.

33
34 Danyel Competiello – 119 Vreeland Avenue – Ms. Competiello proposed a compromise
35 for Lakeview Park. As a member of the Recreation Commission, she has heard the same
36 complaints many times. Ms. Competiello suggested the money be spent on additional
37 playground equipments, swings, slides, etc. A four-sided fenced in area for the dogs. The
38 park was underutilized in the past because of the playground equipment.

39
40 Gail O’Hara – 139 Lakeview Avenue – Ms. O’Hara feels this compromise is a good idea.
41 She does however, feel that there should be no off leash hours in the park.

42
43 Debra Wright – 600 Broad Avenue – Mrs. Wright explained that she has signed several
44 complaints against dog owners. Within the last week there were two large black St.
45 Bernard’s off leash in the park at 11pm at night and she notified the police, however, they
46 were gone by the time they arrived.

47 Rae Kornblitt – 596 Broad Avenue – Ms. Kornblitt stated this is a small neighborhood
48 park. It is a great place to go and play ball with your children. The dog that recently bit a
49 man in the park was not from Leonia but Englewood. The picnic table cannot be used by
50 anyone as the dog owners let their dogs stand on it. The neighborhood people want their
51 park back.

52
53 Alberto Castro – 592 Broad Avenue – Mr. Castro explained that he attended the
54 Recreation Meeting and the reason for the underutilization is the current structure. It is
55 not for younger children and the basketball hoops were removed. The park needs to be
56 returned to the neighborhood.

57
58 Victoriano Panaligan – 588 Broad Avenue – Mr. Panaligan asked why it is so hard to put
59 the dogs in Overpeck Park. Put them back on the leash in Lakeview Park.

60
61 Christine Scafidi – 24 Linden Terrace – Ms. Scafidi thanked the Council for having the
62 “No Trespassing Sign” removed. But what has happened in essence, is the area is now
63 privatized.

64
65 Mayor Heveran gave a brief history of the “off – leash hours” in Lakeview Park. The
66 Governing Body has listened to the concerns of the residents. The grant money is going
67 to make it more of a compromise by creating a buffer zone between the dog area and the
68 play area.

69
70 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

71
72 Minutes – Council Meeting, June 15, 2009 – A motion was made by Councilman
73 Hawkins to approve as amended, the Minutes of June 15, 2009, seconded by Councilman
74 Norgaard. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo and Raucci
75 voted yes. Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Minutes approved as amended.

76
77 Closed Session – June 15, 2009 – A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins to
78 approve the Closed Session Minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Norgaard.
79 Roll call vote, Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, and Raucci voted yes,
80 and Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Minutes approved.

81
82 Closed Session – May 18, 2009 - A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins to
83 approve the Closed Session Minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Norgaard.
84 Roll call vote, Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, and Raucci voted yes,
85 and Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Minutes approved.

86
87 **RESOLUTIONS**

88
89 Councilman Hawkins requested Resolution 09-138 – 09-141 be held for discussion and
90 09-142-09-144 be held for a separate vote.

91

92 Councilman Raucci asked to have resolution 09-151 placed on the agenda for the testing
93 of the Yamato property.

94
95 Resolution 09-135, 09-136, 09-137 and 09-145-09-151 – A motion was made by
96 Councilman Puzzo, seconded by Councilman Norgaard to approve the above
97 Resolutions. Roll call vote; Councilpersons, Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, and
98 Raucci voted yes, Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Resolutions approved.

99
100 Resolution 09-138 - 09-141 – Councilman Hawkins explained that he did not feel he had
101 enough information to make an informed decision regarding these resolutions.
102 Councilman Hawkins would like an actual copy of the judgment handed down by the
103 judge and his reason for awarding the judgments. A motion was made by Councilman
104 Puzzo, seconded by Councilman Raucci to approve Resolution 09-138 - 09-141. Roll call
105 vote; Councilpersons Choi, Norgaard, Puzzo and Raucci voted yes, Councilman Hawkins
106 voted no; Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Resolutions approved.

107
108 Resolutions 09-142 - 09-144 – Councilman Hawkins requested a separate vote.
109 Councilman Puzzo seconded by Councilman Norgaard made a motion to approve
110 Resolution 09-142 – 09-144. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Choi, Norgaard, Puzzo and
111 Raucci voted yes; Councilman Hawkins abstained, because he is a fireman;
112 Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent. Resolutions approved.

113
114 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

115
116 **Finance, Administration and Personnel** – Councilman Puzzo – Councilman Puzzo
117 reported the Finance Committee is continuing to meet on the 2010 budget which is
118 already starting at a deficit for 2010. Some of the recommendations that had been made
119 for this year will definitely be in effect next year. Mr. Terhune stated he would like to
120 address the budget sooner than later.

121
122 **Laws and Ordinances** – Councilwoman Raspa-Gore – Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was
123 absent no report.

124
125 **Police** – Councilman Raucci – Councilman Raucci reported that on Saturday, July 4th
126 while on traffic detail, a Police Officer was hit by a drunk driver. The officer was not
127 seriously injured. Councilman Raucci commended all the emergency services for an
128 outstanding job done by them during the carnival.
129 The trial drop-off by ACS School was a success and will be implemented on a permanent
130 basis.

131 Councilman Raucci thanked Mr. & Mrs. Dreyer for their continued support of the Leonia
132 Police Department and the Borough.

133 Budget meetings are on going and as far as the Police Department is concerned they will
134 not be exempt. There maybe contract renegotiations, furloughs and/or layoffs.

135
136 Councilman Hawkins asked if the Borough could sue the driver of the car that hit the
137 Police Officer to offset expenses. Mr. Giblin stated no and explained the law.

138

139 **Fire** – Councilman Norgaard – Councilman Norgaard reported there were 28 calls for the
140 month of June. The Mutual Aid meeting will be held at the Leonia Fire Department on
141 July 14. Both Mayor Heveran and Councilman Norgaard will be in attendance. The Fire
142 Department is still looking for ways to purchase turn-out gear.
143 The fireworks and carnival were great.

144

145 **Ambulance** – Council President Choi – Council President Choi recognized the services
146 of the Ambulance Corps at the carnival. Two people were injured and taken to the
147 hospital. There were also 12 minor calls.

148

149 **Public Works** – Councilman Hawkins - Councilman Hawkins there is nothing to report
150 at this time.

151

152 **Real Estate and Insurance Committee** – Councilman Puzzo there is nothing to report at
153 this time.

154

155 **Administrator** – Administrator Terhune reported the State Aid figures have been
156 released. There may be a need to have a special meeting to adopt the 2009 Budget. Mr.
157 Terhune acknowledged Council President Choi’s stewardship while Mayor Heveran was
158 on vacation. Council President Choi brought lunch for all the Borough Hall employees
159 one day and it was greatly appreciated by all.
160 The paving of the Elm Place lot has been completed. The striping is as follows; 50 red
161 striped spaces, these spaces are designated as permit parking only between the hours of
162 7:00AM and 6:00PM Monday through Friday, except holidays; 5 blue marked spots for
163 handicapped parking, one of which will be for handicapped van parking; 4 spaces will be
164 striped green. These are for 15 minutes parking to go into the stores. The remainder of the
165 lot will be striped in white and will be designated as not to exceed two hour parking
166 Monday 7:00AM to Friday 6:00PM except holidays. The landscaping will be done on
167 July 7th. All the signs have been ordered.

168

169 The Salt Dome was inspected by the DEP and approved.
170 Mayor Heveran asked about Schor Avenue. Mr. Terhune said it needs to be done by
171 Ordinance. There will be a draft ordinance for the meeting of August 3rd.

172

173 Councilman Hawkins thanked Mr. Terhune for the Salt Dome. Councilman Hawkins
174 asked about the fines from the DEP. Mr. Gibling explained that at this point in time the
175 Borough is holding out for no fines as the Borough was actively attempting to make this
176 project a shared service with other municipalities.

177

178 **Mayor** – Mayor Heveran thanked Councilman Puzzo for his work on the Elm Place Lot.
179 Mayor Heveran also thanked Council President Choi for acting as Mayor while she was
180 on vacation. Mayor Heveran also thanked Mr. Terhune for saving the Borough money by
181 doing the Elm Place Lot when it was done.

182 Mayor Heveran reported that in talking with other Mayors in the area, it is going to be
183 tougher next year with regards to budgets.

184
185 August 4th is National Night Out. Mayor Heveran urged everyone to come out and join
186 all the emergency services in this family oriented night in the fight against crime.

187
188 Leonia Retirement Housing – Mayor Heveran referred to a letter from Mr. Rick Pumo
189 reporting that priority will be given to local residents. This has been a long battle but
190 thanks to Mr. Matt Brennan and Mr. Rick Pumo, it is finally over.

191
192 **Special Bodies**

193
194 Councilman Norgaard announced the date for the renaming of the Lakeview Park to the
195 Dudley Allen Park is, September 20th.

196
197 Councilman Raucci thanked Mr. Terhune, and the recreation director for their part in
198 averting a problem for the Dinner Dance for the Sports Boosters. The event was moved to
199 the Recreation Building because of inclement weather.

200
201 Councilman Raucci thanked Fire Chief Ron Chace for an outstanding job at the carnival
202 and fire works.

203
204 **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

205
206 Introduction of Ordinance 10-09 entitled:
207 **AN ORDINANCE TO FIX OR REPORT SALARIES, WAGES OR**
208 **COMPENSATION AND TO ESTABLISH SALARY & WAGE RANGES**
209 **OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS OF**
210 **THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND**
211 **STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING AND**
212 **RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2009.**

213
214 **Motion** made by Council Hawkins, seconded by Council President Choi to adopt
215 on first reading Ordinance 10-09

216
217 **ROLL CALL** Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Puzzo and Raucci voted yes,
218 Councilman Norgaard abstained, Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent.
219 Ordinance 10-09 introduced.

220
221
222 **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

223 Adoption of Ordinance 09-09 entitled;
224
225 **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF**
226 **LEONIA BY CHANGING EXISTING SECTIONS 190-4, 190-5 AND 190-7.**

227 Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by title.
228 Public Hearing

229 Danyel Competiello – 119 Vreeland Avenue – Ms. Competiello questioned the
230 amount of parking spaces. Councilman Hawkins explained how the Laws and
231 Ordinances Committee decided on the number of spaces be utilized.
232

233 **Motion** made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Council President Choi to
234 adopt on first reading Ordinance 09-09
235

236 **ROLL CALL** Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Puzzo and Raucci voted yes,
237 Councilman Norgaard abstained, Councilwoman Raspa-Gore was absent.
238 Ordinance 09-09 adopted.
239

240 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

241

242 a) Linden Terrace Pathway – Mayor Heveran – Mayor Heveran deferred to Mr.
243 Giblin. Mr. Giblin reported that the property is owned by the Borough.
244 According to the Tax Map and the survey the area was part of another street
245 and vacated at another point in time. Mr. Giblin is waiting for a report from
246 the title company and will report back when it is received.
247

248 b) Station Parkway – Mayor Heveran explained she had received an e-mail from
249 Mr. Bergman regarding the concerns he had previously brought to the
250 attention of the Governing Body. Councilman Hawkins reminded everyone
251 that this had been discussed in the past by a previous Council and there were
252 concerns raised at that time about the school on Park Avenue. Councilman
253 Puzzo would like to hear recommendations from the Police and the Borough
254 Engineer. Councilman Norgaard would like to keep the recommendations in
255 house to save funds and just hear from the Police. The Governing Body
256 agreed with his recommendation. Mr. Terhune will forward the issue to the
257 Police Department for their review.
258

259 c) Lakeview Park – Mayor Heveran stated there are many concerns about the
260 park. Many residents have come before the Governing Body. Mr. Terhune
261 explained the extent of the project, fencing, shrubs etc. The amount of the
262 grant is \$28,000 and the Borough is responsible for half of the funds. Mr.
263 Terhune stated trying to meet the needs of all the residents in the area. There
264 is a need to make the park usable by all. Mayor Heveran will continue to be
265 vigilant and asked the residents to do the same. If you see a dog on the tables
266 call the police.
267

268 **NEW BUSINESS**

269

270 a) 400 Willow Tree – Councilman Hawkins – Councilman Hawkins went to the
271 open house at the above address. It has been the idea of several Councils for a
272 long time to have a new Borough Center. This building would fill the needs
273 for the Borough. It could potentially house the fire department, ambulance

274 corps, recreation, the court and all of the Borough offices. Councilman
275 Hawkins explained the many possibilities for the building.

276
277 b) Renewal of Cleaning Contract – Mr. Terhune – Mr. Terhune explained the
278 cleaning contract expired the contract expires the end of August. The Cleaning
279 Company has offered to continue for one more year at the rate they are
280 currently paying to clean the building. The Governing Body agreed a
281 resolution will be prepared for the meeting of August 3rd.

282
283 **CORRESPONDENCE**

284
285 Mayor Heveran reported the Governing Body has been receiving many letters from
286 residents in the area of Lakeview Park regarding the off-leash hours.

287
288 Mayor Heveran noted for all that a report was on the desk from Mr. Peters regarding
289 property maintenance issues. This will be received on a regular basis.

290
291 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

292
293 Vanessa Marks - 120 Vreeland Avenue – Expressed concern about the amount of spaces
294 in the Elm Place Parking Lot. Ms. Marks asked how many spots were lost. Mr. Terhune
295 stated that when the renovations were done the State law requires there be more
296 handicapped spaces made available, one of them being van capable. All that taken into
297 consideration, only one spot was lost.

298 Lakeview Park Ms. Marks asked everyone to work together. Perhaps some of the money
299 could be used for swings and decrease the area for dogs.

300
301 Peter Knott – 117 Wood Terrace – Mr. Knott suggested the area behind the pool on
302 Sylvan. Perhaps they would be willing to pay a fee.

303
304 Rae Kornblitt – 596 Broad Avenue – Ms. Kornblitt stated when you make off-leash hours
305 you automatically make a Bergen County dog run, which has been mismanaged. Please
306 look for some place else in Leonia.

307
308 Danyel Competiello – 119 Vreeland Avenue – Ms. Competiello thanked the Governing
309 Body for listening to all the citizens.

310
311 Debra Wright – 600 Broad Avenue – Mrs. Wright asked if the Governing Body was
312 aware that when a DPW employee was cleaning the park with a weed cutter he was
313 covered in dog feces and had to leave work to shower and change.

314
315 Ingrid Brennan – 53 Palmer Place – Mrs. Brennan congratulated the Governing Body on
316 the Leonia Retirement first for Leonia residents. Mrs. Brennan also thanked the
317 Governing Body for their resolution regarding the parking in Overpeck Park. Mrs.
318 Brennan is going to share it with other groups. Mrs. Brennan also thanked the Governing
319 Body for their patience with Lakeview Park.

320 Dwayne Wright – 600 Broad Avenue – Mr. Wright asked if it is healthy and safe to have
321 off-leash hours in all the parks. Mr. Wright agrees with Mr. Knott. Why not move the dog
322 run to behind the pool away from the people.

323

324 **CLOSED SESSION**

325

326 Councilman Hawkins made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Councilman
327 Raucci to discuss the following: Litigation

328

329 A motion by Councilman Raucci second by Councilman Puzzo to reopen the public
330 portion of the meeting, all in favor none opposed.

331

332

Open Session

333

334 Councilman Raucci reported on the meeting for a liquor license. Asked the Governing
335 Body how they wanted to proceed. A discussion was held if the members wanted to put
336 the idea for a vote in the next election. No decision was made.

337

338 **ADJOURN**

339

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

342

343 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned
344 at 10:00PM

345

346 Respectfully submitted,

347

348

349

350 Fran Lehmann

351 Borough Clerk