

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**  
2 **Minutes**  
3 **November 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 7:34 pm.*

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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, Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard,*  
14 *Puzzo, Raspa-Gore, Raucchi*

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16 **Council Absent:** *none*

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

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21 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

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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.

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26 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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28 Cliff Eddens – 219 Overlook Avenue – Mr. Eddens voiced his opposition to dogs running  
29 off leash in Dudley C. Allen Park. Mr. Eddens presented the Governing Body with a  
30 petition of residents who are also in opposition. Mayor Heveran thanked Mr. Eddens.

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32 Arthur Bergman 24 Meadowview Court – Mr. Bergman congratulated Councilman Choi  
33 on his re-election and Dr. Knott on his election to the Council. Mr. Bergman suggested  
34 the Governing Body petition the State to install a light at the intersection of Grand  
35 Avenue and Station Parkway.

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37 David Roland – 186 Crescent Avenue – Mr. Roland expressed concern over the signs that  
38 are being posted in Leonia. Perhaps as part of the Garage Sale Permit it should be  
39 changed to read if you put up a sign you are responsible for removing the sign. Mayor  
40 Heveran stated that signs are regulated and they are not permitted for a garage sale except  
41 for one on your property.

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43 Dr. Peter Knott – 117 Wood Terrace – Dr. Knott stated he agreed with Mr. Bergman  
44 regarding the traffic from Station Parkway onto Grand Avenue. Mayor Heveran  
45 congratulated Dr. Knott on his election.

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**PRESENTATION**

Time Warner Cable – Dennis Lincoln, Esq. – Striker, Tams and Dill and Marion Boynkin, Manager Government Relations Time Warner Cable; Mr. Lincoln explained the franchise will be up in April 2010 and a public meeting needs to be held. Members of the Governing Body asked questions regarding public access and the ability to record council meetings. Members of the Governing Body also stated that less and less is being offered by Time Warner Cable and many residents are switching to FIOS.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes November 2, 2009 – Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve as amended, the Council Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2009, seconded by Councilman Norgaard. Roll call vote: Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, Raspa-Gore and Raucci voted yes. Minutes approved.

Closed Session Minutes November 2, 2009 – Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Norgaard the Closed Session Minutes of November 2, 2009. Roll call vote: Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo Raspa-Gore and Raucci voted yes. Minutes approved.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mayor Heveran asked Mr. Terhune to explain Resolution 09-216. Mr. Terhune reviewed the Resolution for the Governing Body.

Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Councilman Raucci made a motion to approve Resolutions 09-214 through 0-217. Roll call vote: Councilpersons Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo Raspa-Gore and Raucci voted yes. Resolutions approved.

Mayor Heveran read into the record the Resolution for Dudley C. Allen.

**REPORTS**

**Standing Committees**

Finance Administration & Personnel- Will report under New Business  
Laws & Ordinances Councilwoman Raspa-Gore – Will report under unfinished business.

Police - Councilman Raucci – Councilman Raucci reported that Corporal Ponsi’s retirement has been finalized. His final day is November 30, 2009. The Police Commission is looking at another possible retirement in an effort to downsize the Police Department.

Fire Department – Councilman Norgaard – There was 37 calls in October. One of the Firemen was doing some work in the firehouse; he was using

91 the saws-all and severed his left thumb. The thumb was reattached but will  
92 not know for three weeks if the reattachment was successful.  
93 Ambulance – Council President Choi - no report.  
94 Public Works – Councilman Hawkins – Everything is going well with the  
95 leaf pick-up. Hopefully all the leaves will be picked up before the snow  
96 starts. Councilman Puzzo inquired if the Borough is prepared for the  
97 winter ice and snow with sufficient salt? Councilman Hawkins replied  
98 with new salt storage facility the salt that was left from last year is in there  
99 and hopefully new salt has been ordered and is there also. Councilman  
100 Hawkins also reported on the street closures in the area of Paulin  
101 Boulevard where the gas mains are being replaced. The leaves are being  
102 cleaned up as well as they can be as the roads are basically dirt and stone.  
103 Real Estate and Insurance – Councilman Puzzo – The committee met last  
104 Wednesday and reviewed the Draft of the Economic Development portion  
105 of the Master Plan.  
106 Borough Administrator – Mr. Terhune reviewed the correspondence he  
107 disseminated. Mr. Terhune thanked Councilmen Puzzo and Raucci for the  
108 contribution by the Sports Boosters for Sylvan Park. The Sports Boosters  
109 is going to cover the Borough portion of the Grant.  
110 Mayor – Mayor Heveran – Mayor Heveran reported on a luncheon for  
111 “We Care” to raise funds for women who find they are in need of  
112 assistance due to circumstances in their lives. Mayor Heveran has been  
113 involved with them for 30 years as a recipient early on and now as  
114 Chairperson. Mayor Heveran explained what the organization does. Mayor  
115 Heveran reported she is in the process of preparing the press release for a  
116 Town Wide Meeting to be held on December 1, 2009 at ACS School the  
117 topic of the Meeting will be Light Rail. Mayor Heveran reported she plans  
118 on having a total of four meeting each with a different topic.  
119 Special Bodies – Councilman Raucci reported that Recreation through the  
120 issuance of permits for Sylvan Park has brought in almost \$11,000 in  
121 revenue.  
122 Overpeck Preserve – Councilman Hawkins reported the plans are in  
123 Borough Hall for the light and the bridge across the waterway.  
124 Councilman Hawkins has reviewed the plans. A letter was received from  
125 the DEP regarding the proposed parking lot for the dog park in Overpeck  
126 Park, regarding deficiencies in the plans. Councilman Norgaard as if the  
127 bridge was a two (2) way bridge. Councilman Hawkins said it was  
128 difficult to tell from the plans.

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130 **Introduction of Ordinances**

131 **Introduction of Ordinance 19-09 entitled:**

132 **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA TO**  
133 **ENTER INTO A FIVE YEAR LEASE WITH THE LEONIA SPORTS**  
134 **BOOSTERS**

135 Borough Clerk Read the Ordinance by Title  
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137 **Motion** made by Councilman Raucci, seconded by Councilman Puzzo to adopt on  
138 first reading Ordinance 19-09

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140 **ROLL CALL** Councilperson, Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, Raspa-Gore,  
141 Raucci voted yes. Ordinance 19-09 introduced.

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143 **Introduction of Ordinance 20-09 entitled:**  
144 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 123 TITLED “FEES” BY ADDING**  
145 **ARTICLE IV POOL MEMBERSHIP FEES.**

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147 Borough Clerk Read the Ordinance by Title

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149 **Motion** made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Councilwoman Raspa-Gore  
150 to adopt on first reading Ordinance 20-09

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152 Councilman Norgaard expressed concern about not allowing senior citizens. Mr.  
153 Terhune explained this is the second year that non residents are being permitted.  
154 Mr. Giblin explained the difference. Councilman Norgaard was in agreement.

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156 **ROLL CALL** Councilperson, Choi, Hawkins, Norgaard, Puzzo, Raspa-Gore  
157 Raucci voted yes. Ordinance 20-09 introduced.

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159 **Adoption of Ordinance**

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161 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 162 a) **Elm Place Parking Lot Fees** – Councilwoman Raspa-Gore stated it is a  
163 pleasure to see the lot looking so beautiful. Councilwoman Raspa-  
164 Gore reported the committee met and Councilman Norgaard recused  
165 himself from the discussion because of a conflict. Councilwoman Raspa-  
166 Gore reported there was a meeting in April with several people regarding  
167 the lot. Currently the fees are \$50.00 a year for a car and \$100.00 for a  
168 commercial vehicle. The Committee is proposing \$200.00 a year for non-  
169 commercial passenger vehicles and \$300.00 per year for commercial  
170 vehicles. The Governing Body had a brief discussion regarding the fees.  
171 Mr. Giblin to prepare an Ordinance for the next meeting.
- 172 b) **Sign Ordinance** – Councilwoman Raspa- Gore reported that Laws and  
173 Ordinances met and reviewed the request. After careful consideration and  
174 wanting to maintain the character of the Borough the Committee does not  
175 recommend changing the Ordinance at this time. Councilman Hawkins  
176 explained his view regarding the request and noted that the local Real  
177 Estate Office have not come before the Governing Body to request a  
178 change.
- 179 c) **Station Parkway/Grand Avenue** – Councilman Hawkins agrees with Mr.  
180 Bergman that there is a traffic problem at this intersection. Traffic cues up  
181 whether making a left or right turn or going straight. Councilman Hawkins  
182 proposed putting up temporary right-turn only signs. This should not cause

183 additional traffic on Park Avenue as was suggested by a former  
184 Councilman when this was discussed previously.  
185 Councilwoman Raspa-Gore agrees with the suggestion she opposes  
186 another light on Grand Avenue. Councilwoman Raspa-Gore felt it would  
187 make it more difficult to cross Grand Avenue. Mayor Heveran asked if  
188 DOT approval was needed to put up a light. Mr. Giblin stated the Borough  
189 Engineer would have to review the intersections, sign off and apply to the  
190 DOT for a traffic light at the intersections. Mr. Terhune reported there is  
191 an up coming DOT meeting on pedestrian safety on Grand Avenue.

## 192 NEW BUSINESS

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- 195 a) **2010 Municipal Budget** – Councilman Puzzo noted for everyone the  
196 following increases in the 2010 Municipal Budget: PFRS Pension going  
197 up 20% an increase of \$84,000; PERS an increase of \$26,000; SS increase  
198 of \$19,000; health insurance a 28% increase of \$250,000 that is a  
199 \$500,000 impact on the budget before the contractual increase for police  
200 and white collar. The State has put a 4% cap levy on the budget. There a  
201 few things that can be done one reopen contract negotiations; furloughing  
202 the entire work force for 26 days. \$3,000,000 needs to be cut from the  
203 preliminary budget. The police make up 25 to 30% of the budget at  
204 3,000,000; the DPW is less than the police at \$800,000. There may need to  
205 be a cut in services looking at services for garbage collection and shopping  
206 for new health insurance. Mayor Heveran stated that Councilman Puzzo  
207 has been saying for months this was going to be a tough year than last year  
208 but did not think things would be as bad as they are.

## 209 CORRESPONDENCE

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212 Mayor Heveran reported that Leonia is one of 30 municipalities in the state to  
213 attain the status of Sustainable Community.

214 Mayor Heveran referred to a letter from Ms. Potharis regarding the parking at  
215 Leonia retirement senior housing. Ms. Potharis thanked Mayor Heveran Councilman  
216 Raucci, Lt. Rowe and Mr. Saitta for their assistance in getting the temporary handicap  
217 parking in place.

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219 Councilman Hawkins referred to a letter from Mr. Popalardo regarding the  
220 railroad crossing on Fort Lee Road by the Overpeck Park. Mr. Popalardo thanked Mr.  
221 Terhune, Councilman Hawkins and Lt. Rowe for making sure the crossing was repaired.

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223 Mr. Giblin reported on a meeting that he and Mr. Terhune had with  
224 representatives of T-Mobile regarding the installation of a mono-pole at the DPW. Mr.  
225 Giblin suggested changing the Ordinance from 125 feet to 150 feet that would allow  
226 other carriers to utilize the pole.

227 Mr. Giblin also reported that the Borough will soon receive the \$30,000 from T-  
228 Mobile for the antennas on the roof of the fire department

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Arthur Bergman – 24 Meadowview Court – Mr. Bergman thanked the Governing Body for their considerations of Station Parkway. Mr. Bergman suggested that perhaps the no right turn could be done during morning hours and evening hours during rush hour.

Ernest Liberatore – 121 Woodbridge Place – Mr. Liberatore is a “Green Consultant” thanked the Mayor and Council for obtaining the “Sustainable Community” Certification as one of the 30 in the State it is a great honor. Mr. Liberatore also stated he is honored to attend the luncheon on behalf of the Borough with members of the Green Team when the award is presented.

**CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman Norgaard, seconded by Councilman Hawkins, to go into Closed Session to discuss; litigation.

**OPEN SESSION**

Councilman Puzzo made a motion to go back into Open Session, seconded by Councilman Norgaard to discuss Liquor License. All in favor none opposed.

Mr. Giblin reviewed with members of the Governing Body the current Liquor License Ordinance of the Borough. Mr. Giblin explained to the Council that an Ordinance needs to be in place before the Borough can auction the license he will have it prepared for the next meeting. Mr. Giblin will contact the Alcohol Beverage Control to obtain the necessary paperwork to apply for a Plenary Retail Consumption License. Mr. Giblin reported the going rate for this type of license is \$500,000.

Council President Choi asked if the current Ordinance could also be amended to allow for the sale of distilled spirits be sold on Sunday. Mr. Giblin asked the members of the Governing Body to review the current Ordinance and advise him of any changes they wish to make. Councilman Hawkins asked to see some other ordinances from neighboring communities. Mr. Giblin will forward those to members of the Council.

**ADJOURN**

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

As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Lehmann  
Borough Clerk