

1 **Council Meeting/Work Session**
2 **Minutes**
3 **December 1, 2008**

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 7:35pm*

7
8 Mayor Heveran called the meeting to order.

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

12
13 **Council Present:** *Mayor Heveran, Councilpersons, Hawkins, Choi, Norgaard,*
14 *Puzzo, Raspa-Gore, Raucci*

15
16 **Council Absent:** *none*

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

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 pointed out the Fire Exit.

27
28 **SWEARING IN OF SPECIAL I OFFICERS**

29
30 Mayor Heveran asked Sgt. Jones to give a brief description of the Special I program.

31
32 Sgt. Jones outlined the program for those in attendance.

33
34 Mayor Heveran swore in Christopher Colon, Stephen DiMora and Steven Leon as
35 Special I Officers.

36
37 **PRESENTATIONS**

38
39 Mayor Heveran read and presented a proclamation for Franco's Metro Restaurant in Fort
40 Lee commending them for their donation for the Leonia Health Fair.

41
42 Mayor Heveran presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Councilman Choi owner of
43 Manor Beverage for the "Taste of Leonia" celebration.

47 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

48
49 Justin Greenburg – 186 Glenwood Avenue – three reasons to have a skate board park;

- 50 1. Good Exercise
- 51 2. Freedom not to get into trouble
- 52 3. Safety

53 Mayor Heveran asked Justin how old he was he responded 8 years old. Justin wanted to
54 donate \$20.00 toward the skate park. Mayor Heveran asked him to hold onto the money
55 until it is needed.

56
57 Tom Muir – 404 Pine Hill Road – Mr. Muir asked the Council why construction on Pine
58 Hill on November 21 was allowed to start at 7:10AM and on November 22 at 7:15AM.
59 Mayor Heveran asked Mr. Muir if the Police were called. Mr. Muir said he did not call
60 them. Mr. Terhune will look into the construction going on in the area.

61 Mr. Muir also noted that the repairs to the road are not very well done. Mr. Muir also
62 questioned the way Recreation Commission handles their meeting. He stated they have
63 one public session in the beginning and if someone wants to discuss something later in
64 the meeting they are not given the opportunity. Mayor Heveran deferred to Councilman
65 Raucci who reported that in the coming year this will change.

66
67 Gabe Kover – 48 Linden Terrace – Mr. Kover referred to the letter sent to the residents
68 regarding making a one-way street. Mr. Kover said Woodland Terrace is being used as a
69 shortcut in the mornings. Drivers race through the stop signs on Woodland Terrace and
70 speed down Glenwood Avenue to get to Fort Lee Road. Mr. Kover made some
71 suggestions for the Council to consider. Mr. Kover asked what is being done about the
72 abandoned vehicles on Linden Terrace. Mr. Terhune reported that summonses have been
73 issued.

74
75 Sara Heflin 10 Linden Terrace – There is a ravine near the rear of her home and there is a
76 strong sewerage smell emanating from the ground. Mr. Terhune reported that it was
77 traced with a dye test to a broken sewer pipe in Fort Lee that has been repaired. Ms.
78 Heflin said the odor is still there some days stronger than others it is also coming from
79 the storm drains. Mr. Terhune told her that when the smell is there to call and he will
80 investigate what is occurring.

81
82 Erika Gold – 34 Linden Terrace – Ms. Gold reported the leaves have not been removed
83 from the left side of the street making it difficult to follow the alternate side parking
84 regulations as there is no place to park on the opposite side of the road. Council President
85 Hawkins will address the problem.

86
87 Gabe Kover – 48 Linden Terrace – Mr. Kover reported that in the last four months 2
88 items have been stolen from his property one was a plant and the other was a metal trellis.
89 Mr. Kover reported that cars are parked on Linden Terrace very late at night and in the
90 morning there are plastic bags with what appears to be drug residue. They will hang out
91 there until 3or 4 in the morning. If they are seen by a police officer they are chased away.

92

93 Sara Heflin 10 Linden Terrace – Ms. Heflin noted there are no speed limit signs in the
94 area and speeding is a problem as well as having lines painted on the street.

95
96 Gabe Kover – 48 Linden Terrace – Mr. Kover asked why you can't park within 50 feet of
97 a stop sign. Mr. Terhune explained that first it is a State Law not a Borough law. It is to
98 allow a clear view while turning.

99
100 Mr. Del Guerccio, Appraisal Systems, Mr. Henderson, Tax Assessor and Mr. Apicella,
101 Tax Collector, gave an overview of the Revaluation that is underway. Mr. Del Guerccio
102 also explained and answered questions of the Governing Body concerning meetings to be
103 held, comparables and protocols for those who did allow them in their homes for an
104 appraisal.

105
106 **RESOLUTIONS**

107
108 Resolution 08-245 Councilman Puzzo asked this Resolution be held for discussion.

109
110 Resolutions 08-241 – 08-244 and 08-246 – 08-248 – Councilman Norgaard seconded by
111 Councilman Choi made to approve Resolution 08-241 - 08-244 and 08-246 – 08-248.
112 Roll call vote all in favor none opposed. Resolutions approved.

113
114 Resolution 08-245 – Councilman Puzzo asked if the bids had been scaled down. Mr.
115 Terhune responded they were significantly scaled down since Teaneck decided not to join
116 in the construction of the salt dome. A discussion was held by the Governing Body
117 whether to proceed with the construction of the Salt Dome or look for an alternative such
118 as a shared service with another community who would house the salt. After a lengthy
119 discussion Council President Hawkins made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman
120 Raspa-Gore to approve Resolution 08-245. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins,
121 Choi, Raspa-Gore and Raucci voted yes; Councilmen Norgaard and Puzzo voted no.
122 Resolution 08-245 adopted.

123
124 Yamato – Councilman Puzzo

125
126 **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

127
128 **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

129
130 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

131 a) **Yamato/Texaco** (Councilman Puzzo) Councilman Puzzo had nothing to
132 report. Mr. Giblin reported at the request of the Council he is trying to arrange
133 a meeting with the property owners to a Council Meeting.

134 b) **Water Usage** - Councilman Puzzo deferred to Mr. Terhune. Mr. Terhune
135 reported the response to the letters that were sent out to homeowners resulted
136 in residents finding they had leaks and or defective water meters. Mr. Terhune
137 asked the Council they wished to notify the commercial properties. The
138 Council discussed various options on ways to move forward.

- 139 c) **Long Term Disability** – Councilman Puzzo stated this will be discussed on
140 Personnel and Finance.
141 d) **Skate Board Park** – Mayor Heveran reported that the Council did not want to
142 spend tax dollars on the park but this is a project she is very much in favor of
143 and is hoping that it will come to fruition.
144 e) **NJ Sustainable Communities** – Council President Hawkins explained the
145 new program that is being offered by the State.
146 f) **Woodland Terrace** – Mayor Heveran stated that she feels it is outrageous
147 that the Police Department cannot enforce the speeding on Woodland Terrace.
148 The Council discussed making the streets one-way. By doing, this it making
149 the streets one way could be problematic for emergency vehicles.
150

NEW BUSINESS

- 152 a) **Parking Fund** – Mr. Don Smartt explained the necessity for the “Fund”.
153 Borough Attorney Giblin explained the process for setting up such a fund.
154 b) **School Bus Service to the Ferry** – Mayor Heveran explained she spoke to
155 the Mayor Merse of Edgewater and she explained the buses sit empty in
156 Edgewater in the morning these buses potentially could take residents to the
157 ferry. The Governing Body discussed the idea.
158 c) **Leaves Left in Street** – Mr. Terhune referred to an e-mail sent by a resident.
159 The biggest problem this year is the leaves all came down at one time.
160 At this point in the Meeting Council Present made a motion to extend the meeting
161 for a half-hour. All in favor none opposed.
162 d) **Farmer’s Market** – Mayor Heveran explained she has been in contact with a
163 person who would coordinate a farmer’s market. Mayor Heveran asked the
164 Council if they preferred June to October or July to October. The Farmer’s
165 Market would be held on Saturdays. After a brief discussion the Council
166 agreed to June through Oct.
167

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- 172 Leslie Germain 425 Woodland Place – Mrs. Germain Spoke about the traffic on
173 Woodland Place.
174
175 Gabe Kover – 48 Linden Terrace – Mr. Kover thanked the Council for the work they do.
176 Mr. Kover spoke about the pick up of leaves.
177
178 Sara Heflin 10 Linden Terrace – Ms. Heflin received two tickets because she could not
179 move her car because the leaves had not been removed on the opposite side of the street.
180
181 Erika Gold – 34 Linden Terrace – Ms. Gold stated a luncheonette would be a wonderful
182 asset to the Borough.
183

184 Ryan Maxwell 213 Glenwood Avenue – Mr. Maxwell feels the skate park is a good idea.
185 Mr. Maxwell also spoke about the water usage program.

186
187 Council President Hawkins made a motion to extend the meeting for another 15 minutes.
188 All in favor none opposed..

189
190

191 **CLOSED SESSION**

192

193 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Councilman
194 Raucci to discuss the following:

195

196 604 Main Street

197 All in favor none opposed.

198 **ADJOURN**

199

200 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Norgaard to adjourn.
201 All in favor none opposed.

202

203 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned
204 at 11:40PM

205

206 Respectfully submitted,

207

208

209

210 Fran Lehmann

211 Borough Clerk