

Council Meeting
February 14, 2012

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on
Tuesday, February 14, 2012, in the Council
Chamber, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by
Mayor Arnowitz who also led the Salute
to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING

Borough Clerk Sandt stated, "This is a Meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 10th day of January 2012. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Review, Pascack Press, The Record and Community Life; a copy was posted on the bulletin board outside of this meeting room and provided to any interested parties.

Please notify the Municipal Clerk for any disability requirements necessary for attendance at Mayor and Council meetings. The fire exits are located through the double doors to your left. Please silence all cell phones and pagers.

ROLL CALL:

Borough Clerk Sandt called the roll those present being as follows: Councilmembers Capawana, DeRosa, Frank, Giancarlo and Hanlon. Also in attendance Borough Attorney Paul.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the Council Meeting of February 7, 2012, and Closed Meeting of February 7, 2012, were approved as presented.

PROCLAMATION: Read Across America

APPOINTMENT: Jack Stubbs "Chairman Emeritus" to the
Environmental Commission

Mayor Arnowitz asked the Council to consider for approval - Resolution 12049 - Appointing Chairman Emeritus of the Environmental Commission was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Capawana, DeRosa, Frank, Giancarlo and Hanlon

Nays: None

Jack Stubbs thanked the Council for the recognition. He said it would not be possible to do the job we do at the Environmental Commission without the cooperation, support and enthusiasm of the Council. That has been the history of the Commission from its inception. He also mentioned the cooperation of the Borough Engineers we have had in the past and future. He said the members over the years have been dedicated, wonderful people.

Councilmember Hanlon thanked Jack Stubbs for 15 wonderful years she served with him on the Environmental Commission. She congratulated Jack and the Commission for last year's Pancake Breakfast, it was the best one we ever had and it was run with volunteers.

Mayor Arnowitz thanked Jack for his time and thanked the Environmental Commission for everything they do. He wanted to get back to planting Maple Trees so that future generations can tap them for maple syrup.

Jack Stubbs said this spring we will get more maple trees in town and that will be one of our priorities. We want to get the children involved. The pancake breakfast started with the children tapping the trees, giving the sap to the teachers, boiled down and judged, then used for the pancakes.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Arnowitz said he was informed that Discussion No. 2 has been removed from the Agenda and remove Resolution 12051 - Interlocal Agreement with Woodcliff Lake for a Qualified Purchasing Agent.

- 1) County Co-op Purchasing of Electric & Gas.

Administrator DeJoseph said he and two local Administrators went to the County last week who are getting involved with a program whereby all municipalities are allowed to join into the Co-op Program to pay 8-1/2 cents for electricity. We are currently paying 10.2 cents in Hillsdale. There is a 100% swing in the contract so we are not obligated to stay there. If it does not

work out well for us in a month or two, we could leave the program. He was trying to get a packet for the Council this evening, but he hasn't received a full packet as yet. He will bring this to the Council in March and a Resolution to join the County Co-op Program for buying electricity and natural gas.

Mayor Arnowitz said this is not a small change; our annual gas and electric bill is over a quarter of a million dollars for the Borough of Hillsdale. Any savings will add up.

3) Interlocal Agreement with Westwood for CFO support, as Needed.

Mayor Arnowitz said when Administrator DeJoseph was hired as the CFO/Administrator, the search committee and Council felt that in the beginning he needed some support to get through this budget and get everything rolling.

Administrator DeJoseph said we came to an agreement with Westwood which will amount to \$75/hour, not to exceed \$6000 for this year, for financial mentoring as well as help with the software.

Mayor Arnowitz said this was not listed under Discussion, but at the last meeting it was brought to his attention that a number of Council members want to meet down below for our second meeting of the month. It would still be a public meeting, we would adopt ordinances and resolutions if needed, but the discussion would be held below so that we can face each other when we talk. One problem he sees is that in the past we had problems with the microphones and unless we can solve that, we cannot meet down there because the transcriber cannot transcribe.

At the first meeting in March, we will have to choose one of three names to fill the last open seat on the Council. He said at an open meeting the public must be allowed to speak and it is very difficult to have the public speak to you while you are sitting at the table. We can try it.

Councilmember Hanlon was very pleased to hear this; we are going to be in the process of redoing the audio/sound system, etc. Perhaps we should wait until that has been installed. She asked how long before the renovations will take place.

Mayor Arnowitz said we are still talking about the plans.

Administrator DeJoseph said the bid specs were prepared today and contractors are beginning to pick them up.

Mayor Arnowitz spoke with the Judge who said this area has to become bigger because of the paper work the Judge and Planning

Board deal with.

Councilmember Giancarlo asked if there will be allowances for microphones down below?

Administrator DeJoseph will be meeting with the vendor and court administrator; there will be complete microphone revamping, moving the cabinet into the back room as well as putting in two ports in the ground with a couple of receptacles for microphones as well as something in front of the dais. We should be able to have four microphones down there.

Mayor Arnowitz said we do need a camera with better video.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Arnowitz opened the meeting to the public and invited comment from the audience.

Sonya Kinzler, Norwood -

When people give presentations they often have written material and they give copies to the Mayor and Council. It would be very helpful if they made additional copies for the press. Sometimes the presentation is a booklet with figures and information.

Councilmember Giancarlo said we don't know in advance who would be speaking at a meeting.

Councilmember Hanlon said she will give Sonya her copy.

After a discussion with the Council, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

ORDINANCES:

Ord. No. 12-04 (Introduction) Adopting Vehicles and Traffic Chapter of Code	At the mayor's request, the Borough Clerk read by title only proposed Ordinance No. 12-04 as follows: ADOPTING THE REVISED CHAPTER 292, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE.
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Mayor Arnowitz asked the Council if there was any discussion on the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Frank said the biggest impact of this ordinance will be our parking fines which are lower than average. Once this

ordinance is adopted we will be increasing our parking fines and advised the public to be careful where they park.

Mayor asked the Borough Clerk to read the resolution adopting the ordinance on first reading.

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Ordinance No. 12-04:

Ayes: Councilmembers Giancarlo, Hanlon, Capawana, DeRosa
and Frank

Nays: None

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Mayor Arnowitz said we have adopted Resolution 12049 and are removing 12051, Interlocal Agreement with Woodcliff Lake for a Qualified Purchasing Agent.

Mayor Arnowitz read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

12043 Payment of Bills was introduced by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12044 Authorize Mutual Aid to Fire Departments was introduced by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12045 To Comply with the Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code was introduced by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12046 Raffles License, Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Assoc., Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle was introduced by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12047 Designating Official Signatures was introduced by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12048 Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate, Block 701, Lot 3, was introduced by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12050 Interlocal Agreement with Westwood for Support of Financial Operations was introduced by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

Motion to approve the foregoing Resolutions was made by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Capawana, DeRosa, Frank, Giancarlo
And Hanlon

Nays: None

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Councilmember Giancarlo congratulated Jack Stubbs for 43 years of service.

Councilmember Frank said AARP is offering free tax help for senior citizens and the information can be found on the Hillsdale website or call 201-666-0840.

Our Reval is in process of getting approved. We are finalizing our requests for proposals. The budget is in the process and the Finance Committee is working with the Administrator and we should meet the deadline of getting it to the State on time. We are committed to keeping tax increases below the Cap.

With regard to pedestrian safety, the public needs to pay attention and not jaywalk. Our Police Department is issuing warnings at this time at Broadway but at some point of time, if you are jaywalking in the commercial district in Veterans Park you may end up getting a ticket. He has seen instances of people just walking along and not paying attention.

Councilmember Hanlon reminded the seniors that the luncheon will be held tomorrow. With regard to jaywalks, she almost hit someone the other day, they are flying across Broadway and not looking. She said Hillsdale Avenue going over to West Hills Deli is worse and very dangerous.

She conducted the pre-Memorial Day Parade meeting and met with members of various departments who are involved in the Parade. We will meeting early May again; the letters have gone out to the schools and we will be choosing the theme. We have a very strict deadline and this was mentioned at the meeting.

Administrator DeJoseph said there are letters going to homeowners about tax appeals and potential tax refunds.

Borough Clerk Sandt sais the announcements look very official and unless you read the document or post card, the fine print says it is an advertisement. Many residents are coming to the borough hall

questioning what this is all about.

Administrator DeJoseph said the Borough of Hillsdale is not sending letters nor is the County or the State. They list your lot and block and it looks very official, some are from P.O. boxes in Trenton. We will have information posted on the website and printed in the local newspapers as well with that information and with details plans of the Reval in the next few weeks.

Mayor Arnowitz wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. He has been advocating that the water company meet with the Planning Board to present their project. That is imperative that that be done. In that vein, he received a phone call from the Vic-President, Rich Henning, of United Water on Friday asking that the Mayor meet with him and the Borough Attorney and their attorney to discuss the project. Mayor Arnowitz said he had no desire to meet with them, he could meet with us at the Planning Board. His exact words were "we really have to meet to so that both of us can avoid costly litigation." Mayor Arnowitz said he would speak with the Borough Attorney; he spoke to the Borough Attorney on Friday and he advised it was perfectly alright to meet with them. He asked Mr. Henning if he could bring the Borough Engineer and they refused and they refused his request to bring OEM. The meeting would consist of the water company's lawyer, himself, our attorney and the Mayor.

He plans at the meeting, the date to be arranged, to get a list of equipment and due to the project at the dam, our emergency services needs; police, fire and ambulance to do whatever they have to do there, whether it is a rescue or any kind of accident. There will be expenses that will be incurred by the Borough for traffic control. A year ago, Mr. Henning advised that Hillsdale would be eligible for a grant from the water company to get training for our firefighters in swift water rescue and swift water rescue gear. It is quite expensive, about \$2500 for the year and an additional fee for the training. They are planning for 10 classes per year with 10 people attending.

He wanted to be certain that everyone was aware that this is being done in the open, he is not meeting with anyone behind closed doors or making some sort of deal with them. He assured the Council and the public that at no time will he agree to anything other than to arrange for the grant, pay for the equipment, and come to the Planning Board. They must come before the Planning Board, they must adhere to the law set by the DEP, which is they have to adhere to all borough ordinances.

He walks daily and is frustrated by the number of bottles and cans that he picks up along the streets. Today he picked up five plastic bottles and one beer can in front of the church and asked the residents to refrain from throwing refuse from cars and on the

sidewalks. We do not have the equipment or personnel to pick up the refuse.

CLOSED MEETING

Motion to go to Closed Session was made by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon, and unanimously carried.

OPEN MEETING

A motion to go to Open Session was made by Councilmember Giancarlo seconded by Councilmember Hanlon, and unanimously carried.

Councilmember Frank said last meeting was a very heavy Agenda and this meeting a light Agenda. That is a pattern that we are running into. He thought we should find a way to equalize.

Mayor Arnowitz said we had problems in the past because vendors would not sell to us because it took so long for us to pay bills and that is the solution that came up. He is leaving it up to Councilmember Frank to find a solution.

Councilmember Giancarlo said the deadline for spring Baseball/Softball extended to February 26, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

2-14-12

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk

