

Council

Meeting

June 8, 2010

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on
Tuesday, June 8, 2010, 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 8th day of June 2010. 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 DeJoseph, Hanlon and Schiavone. Absent: Councilmembers Giancarlo and Weinstein. Also in attendance Borough Attorney Paul.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon, the minutes of the Council Meeting of May 11, 2010, Special Meeting of May 17, 2010, were approved as presented.

PRESENTATION: Pascack Pi-oneers.

A demonstration of the robot and the main purpose of the soccer game were also given at this time by the Pascack Pi-oneers.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. TIM & SANDRA PANTELLO REQUESTING PERMISSION TO LOCATE A SHED ON BOROUGH EASEMENT.

Received and filed on motion by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone, and unanimously carried.

Borough Attorney Paul said the Council can discuss and give preliminary approval but it would have to be subject to a licensed document which would further protect the Borough.

Councilmember DeJoseph moved to approve this based on the information provided by the Borough Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone, and unanimously carried.

2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Arnowitz stated that we have not received state approval for our budget. We are scheduling a meeting for June 22 to approve the budget. We will proceed with the Public Hearing as advertised.

Mayor Arnowitz opened the public hearing on the 2010 Municipal Budget at this time and invited comment from the audience.

Alfred J. Murphy, Jr., 5 Cherry Place -

He congratulated newly-appointed Mayor Arnowitz. He asked for an explanation for the Amending Resolution for the 2010 Budget. He saw a problem with the appropriation of surplus which is up 40% over last year and is a significant amount of money. Next year's budget will have to provide funds to make this up. He said 4% is an unacceptable tax increase. He made reference to the unemployment rate upon community, approximately 300 to 350 residents who are out of work and an additional 200 who are under employed. There are over 30 homes under foreclosure procedures. The budget for both the high school and the local district were significantly rejected by the voters. He asked if an individual retires two years from now, will they convert their appropriate amount of money to the rate they are being paid in 2014 or is it calculated on the basis of the money that they were making at the time they were being accumulated. He also stated that in this budget there is 5.3% increase in salaries and wages. He hasn't heard of any freezes, reduction in hours, give backs or lay offs; this is happening in the communities around us. You should not be piling on to the taxpayers. He noted that last year for Centennial Field, we spent over \$37,000 for electricity on top of two millions dollars spent to construct Centennial Field. Are we getting money back from the organizations who are using the lights there? He asked why there was no money this year from the River Vale day camp. He asked how much it costs the community for cops in the school.

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

RESOLUTION:

Resolution to Amend 2010 Budget.

Borough Clerk Sandt read the Resolution Amend the 2010 Budget, Amendment #1.

Motion by Councilmber DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Hanlon and Schiavone
and Mayor Arnowitz.

Nays: None

Mayor Arnowitz said last evening Councilmembers Hanlon, Weinstein, Schiavone and Mayor Arnowitz attended the Pascack Valley High School Board meeting at Hills. This was in regard to changing the formula for how the cost per student is determined. Woodcliff Lake along with Montvale are proposing that the formula be based purely on the student population and not the ratables. He is against that and hopefully everyone in Hillsdale is against that because it will affect how much we spend on the schools. A vote was taken last night; Mr. Murphy voted against it, everyone else voted for it. The argument is that their lawyers are advising that this is the direction how they must proceed. We will have the expense of holding a referendum on September 15. If one town votes against it, the whole matter is moot. If Hillsdale votes it down but the other three towns vote for it, then it does not pass. We hope to defeat this because it will affect us dramatically.

Councilmember Schiavone said Mayor Arnowitz gave a very good presentation and argument but the Woodcliff Lake Mayor who is for this change presented himself. She thanked Al Murphy for being the only one who voted no, we will have to educate everyone to understand the ramifications.

Borough Clerk Sandt pays for the brunt of the referendum, the Borough has some expenses also.

Councilmember Hanlon said she did not expect anything more from the meeting other than what was said. She complemented Mayor Arnowitz for his presentation.

Mayor Arnowitz said hosting a school in Hillsdale is a large

expense and we lose the ratable that would be there. He used the example that if the high school were not there, we could potentially have the Woodcliff Lake BMW there. We would spend more money on taxes for the school, but it would cost us less money because we would have a huge ratable. They have to take this into consideration if they want to change the formula. The resource officer, all the expenses we incur, from fire, police, ambulance; Montvale presented the School Board a bill for sewers. Having 600 plus students plus the faculty is a large expense that the taxpayers of Hillisdale incur for sewer costs. Why should we incur this while Woodcliff Lake and River Vale do not. Woodcliff Lake is getting the best of all worlds, they don't host the school, they have a tremendous amount of ratables and they don't pay us anything for it.

If this fails, this Council should pursue the reimbursement of expenses for the loss of the ratable. He then would not have a problem with the per student basis because we would be paid in that fashion. He encouraged everyone to get the vote out against this referendum. Assemblywoman Vandervalk will assist us and we found it amusing that the Governor is saying we should be researching and looking at merging and sharing of services. How can they talk about changing the formula, it is not sensible in today's economy.

Councilmember DeJoseph said if something happens, we should look at some sort of pilot payment from the school.

Councilmember Hanlon said everyone needs to vote, this is very important to everyone who lives in Hillisdale.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING:

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

Marisa Cefali, 6 Manson Place -

She lives adjacent to the Patterson Street esplanade property. She and her neighbors have been receiving certified letters from the DEP about the wetlands being developed. Walsky, owner of the property, is requesting a reduction of some of the transition area of the wetlands. She and her neighbors looked at the plan. He submitted plans to the DEP and the plan consists of 122 parking spaces, a four story building. The certified letters she received indicated residential condominium development but when she looked at the plans at the Zoning Board, it says apartments/condominium development. She has 15 calendar days to respond to the certified letter from the DEP. There is an Item 6 which says all construction is to conform to the Borough of Park Ridge specifications. Mr. Statile had made a note on this page but did

not indicate anything about Park Ridge. We are talking about a flood area and she has seen times when there is a lake there and this man is asking for a change in the transition area. She asked if the Borough is sending any response to this application.

Mayor Arnowitz responded a four story building is against our Code, they need a variance. He needs the Council approval; he needs Planning/Zoning Board approval. Last time this took place, the Council denied any changes. We don't want any changes in the wetlands.

Councilmember Schiavone said first our Borough Engineer responds and when he does, we are provided with the application and his letter.

Mayor Arnowitz said he did not believe all that property is industrial, that would have to be changed.

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

ORDINANCES:

Ord. No. 10-07	At the Mayor's request, CFO Henderson	
(Adoption)		To
Exceed	read by title only proposed Ordinance	
Municipal		
Budget	No. 10-07 as follows:	
Appropriation		
Limits & to	ORDINANCE TO EXCEED MUNICIPAL BUDGET	
Establish	APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH	
Cap Bank	A CAP BANK.	

Mayor Arnowitz confirmed that copies of the ordinance have been posted in the Municipal building and that no written objections to the ordinance had been received.

Mayor Arnowitz then opened the public hearing on the proposed ordinance and asked if anyone in the audience cared to discuss it.

Alfred J. Murphy, Jr., 5 Cherry Place - He said this is either the third or fourth time he has objected to this ordinance. Council should be bound by state limitations on what you can appropriate. Giving you this flexibility takes away from trying to run a tight ship.

Motion by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Ordinance No. 10-07:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Hanlon and Schiavone

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmembers Giancarlo and Weinstein

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

Ord. No. 10-08	At the Mayor's request, CFO Henderson
(Introduction)	read the title only on proposed Ordinance
Amending the	No. 10-08 as follows:
Land Use Code	
Definitions	AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE, DEFINITIONS
Section	SECTION, FLOOR AREA RATIO (F.A.R.)

Mayor Arnowitz asked the Council if there was any discussion on the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Schiavone said the ordinance has not been changed, it is just further definition. The Borough Engineer presented this to the Council last week which is clarifying the Ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Ordinance No. 10-08:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Hanlon and Schiavone

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmembers Giancarlo and Weinstein

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Mayor Arnowitz read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

10079 Payment of Bills was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10080 Liquor License Plenary Retail Consumption Renewal was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10081 Liquor License Plenary Retail Distribution Renewal was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10082 Authorizing Settlement of Tax Appeal for Block 1603, Lots 1, 2&3; Block 1007, Lots 14 & 15 was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10083 Authorizing Settlement of Tax appeal for Block 504, Lot was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10084 Authorizing Tax Collector to Issue Estimated Tax Bills was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10085 Emergency Temporary Budget (2) was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

Councilmember DeJoseph requested that Resolution 10083 Authorizing Settlement of Tax Appeal for Block 504, Lot 2, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve all Resolutions with the exception of 10083 was made by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Hanlon, and Schiavone

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmembers Giancarlo and Weinstein

Councilmember Arnowitz referred to 10083. He said this Resolution will be on the Agenda for the Special Meeting to be held on June 22, 2010.

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

LAST GO ROUND

Councilmember DeJoseph said he spoke to Kevin Glynn from Community Life to hopefully put "My Hillsdale" either hyperlink or direct download going forward. He does so with other communities and it would be beneficial. Certain residents have a problem getting "My Hillsdale" so it will be put on the website for residents to review. It would be an additional way for residents to view it to keep for recycling schedules, etc.

Councilmember Hanlon said we do get extra copies at the borough hall and she brings the extras to the senior lunches because a lot of the seniors do not receive "My Hillsdale."

Mayor Arnowitz said this is a free of charge publication, something

that we paid for years ago.

Councilmember DeJoseph congratulated the Pascack Pi-oneers for their hard work and accomplishments. He asked for a Resolution to be placed on the Agenda for July for a grant for the Green Team. We are applying for a \$25,000 grant.

He wants a cell tower discussion in July; vendors are interested on going on town property in one or two locations. This will also be placed on the Agenda for discussion so the public could provide their comments.

Mayor Arnowitz said a cell tower will go before the Planning Board so we can get their opinion and the public would have an opportunity to speak also.

Councilmember DeJoseph said it is a large source of revenue for Hillsdale. It can go on Garden State Parkway property or United Water property and Hillsdale would lose potential revenue and still have to look at a cell tower.

Mayor Arnowitz said it is possible that it could go on private property; the ordinance we have has not been challenged.

Councilmember DeJoseph said all spending for 2010 needs to be thoroughly evaluated. The budget will hopefully be passed if the state approves it, but during the year we are going to look for savings. He would like the Citizens Advisory Committee come back and present their plan to the Finance Committee and to the Mayor.

Mayor Arnowitz said that was done about four years ago and he would like to review it and incorporate a lot of it into the coming years.

Councilmember Schiavone congratulated Mayor Arnowitz. She was unable to attend the meeting when he was sworn in and offered her congratulations. Councilmembers Giancarlo and Weinstein were unable to attend the meeting this evening due to medical reasons.

Councilmember Hanlon said the Pascack Pi-oneers were a welcome addition to our Parade two years in a row. The senior picnic today is the last until September. On behalf of the seniors, she thanked the Mayor and Council to continue having our senior lunches.

Mayor Arnowitz said the seniors do pay for that, they either donate food or they pay \$2.00 which is given to the food pantry. That was a decision made by prior Councils and it is a nice thing to do.

Councilmember Hanlon said she and Lois Kohan placed several buckets downtown for Hillsdale Helping Hillsdale and she has collected food

from them. We have received between \$40.00 to \$70.00 mostly from the Iscreamery patrons. She thanked people for their generosity.

CFO Henderson said she was happy to see what can be done with fixing some of the problems we have in purchasing, realign it and this will also help with the reduction of expenditures.

Mayor Arnowitz said our Finance Chairman will start working immediately on the new budget. We need to move in a very fast, efficient manner and late August he wants a list of recommendations for everything to be presented to the Council.

A presentation was made at the high school on music and how the music department uses the computer program and if the students did not have the laptops it would impossible to do this. He was so impressed to see students performing at that rate; one person played the trumpet and another, through computer enhancement, his arrangements and music that he wrote himself. Teenage children are so advanced in our society and without the laptop program and he hoped the message would get, possibly by televising their meetings.

Councilmember Hanlon wanted more awareness on the part of the school board to televise. They have the technology and all these good things; it was amazing, not just the music but the awards these students received. It was only shared by fellow students and their parents and not the public. There is more to the high school than laptops and sports.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

6-8-10

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk

