

Council Meeting
March 13, 2012

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, in the Council Chamber, Hillsdale, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order 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 13th day of March 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 and Giancarlo. Also in attendance Borough Attorney Paul. Absent: Councilmember Hanlon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Capawana, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the Council Meeting of March 6, 2012, were approved as presented.

OATHS OF OFFICE: Mayor Arnowitz administered the Oath of Office to Leslie Becker, Councilmember

Borough Clerk Sandt administered the Oath of Office to Stephen Cooke, Fire Department Cadet Company

COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIST 2012 (REVISED)

A motion to approve the revised Council Committee List for 2012 was made by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hanlon

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. BOARD OF FIRE OFFICERS SEEKING APPROVAL OF STEPHEN COOKE INTO THE FD CADET COMPANY.

Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Frank, and unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION:

1) Tier Two Use Charges - Bergen County Utilities Authority.

Mayor Arnowitz said this is to charge high end users in Hillsdale for sewer charges. A number of surrounding towns are presently doing so.

Administrator DeJoseph said we reviewed our exempt properties, schools. BCUA charges for flow based on usage of sewage per residential house, commercial buildings, houses of worship, schools and exempt properties. He spoke with the BCUA and comprised a list which is very accurate and breaks down sewage costs based on water in from United Water. He presented this to the Council as a revenue stream in the budget. The total billing for last year was \$23,740. That is the sum the town is paying to the BCUA for sewage for these exempt properties. This total is actually for 2010, billed for 2011. The new list is not available as yet.

Mayor Arnowitz said if this is adopted we have to charge everyone or do we pick and choose.

Administrator DeJoseph said that is the decision to be made by the Council.

Mayor Arnowitz said these are all tax exempt properties, what about high end users that are not tax exempt properties.

Administrator DeJoseph said when he spoke to the BCUA last year, he checked on our supermarkets but they do not meet the qualifications.

Mayor Arnowitz suggested that the Council consider this and place it on the Agenda for another meeting. In the meantime the Borough Attorney could provide a ruling. Also, he was informed that Montvale billed Pascack Regional High School and they are paying the bill. We are providing services for the high school and all other costs yet it should be the responsibility of all four towns. He wanted to be informed if we can pick and choose.

Administrator DeJoseph said in most areas in the State, residents are billed for sewage based on usage per individual user. This is included in Hillsdale's taxes, it is a lump sum. The people listed are not being charged for sewage and every other taxpayer in town is paying their sewage bill and that is the purpose of presenting this to the Mayor and Council.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING:

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

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

He asked if a list of the users will be made public. He asked the worth of the Pascack Valley property if it was assessed. He asked for the increases in salary for Recreation Department and the swim club.

Councilmember Frank said the salary increases are zero but there were one or two adjustments, however, he did not have details.

Our Recreation Director was unable to be present this evening and she has the details.

Mayor Arnowitz said we will be adopting the ordinances next month and we should know the numbers beforehand so that everyone knows how to vote.

Mr. Murphy (Contd).

He asked about the agreement for the Administrator/Finance Officer. He asked the amount of money per the contract.

Mayor Arnowitz said the total compensation is \$95,000; he opted out of health benefits and whatever the state allows to opt out, he will be entitled to.

Mr. Murphy (Contd).

He asked about the accessibility improvements to the Council Chamber.

Mayor Arnowitz said by law we have to bring the court and Council Chamber up to code for handicapped accessibility and this will be paid for with a grant.

Mr. Murphy (Contd).

He asked about the agreement with the Regional School District.

Mayor Arnowitz said we will be a distribution point with regard to a disaster program for medications so we had to sign an agreement with the County and the high schools.

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

ORDINANCES:

Ord. No. 12-05
(Introduction)
Establishing
2012 Stonybrook
Swim Club
Salaries

At the Mayor's request, the Borough
Clerk read by title only proposed Ordinance
No. 12-05 as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE
STAFF OF THE HILLSDALE SWIMMING POOL
COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 2012.

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

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. 12-05:

Ayes: Councilmembers Giancarlo, Capawana, DeRosa and Frank
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Becker

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

ORDINANCES:

Ord. No. 12-06 (Introduction) Establishing 2012 Recreation Department Salaries	At the Mayor's request, the Borough Clerk read by title only proposed Ordinance No. 12-06 as follows: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE HILLSDALE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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Mayor Arnowitz asked the Council if there was any discussion on the proposed ordinance.

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Ordinance No. 12-06:

Ayes: Councilmembers Giancarlo, Capawana, DeRosa and Frank

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilmember Becker

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Mayor Arnowitz read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

12060 Payment of Bills was introduced by Councilmember Capawana, seconded by Councilmember Frank.

12061 Raffles License - PVHS PFO, Calendar Raffle was introduced by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

12062 Raffles License - St. John the Baptist Church, Off Premise Merchandise Raffle was introduced by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

12063 2012 Tax Overpayment, Bl. 2012, Lot 602; Bl. 2307, Lot 12, was introduced by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

12064 Authorize Mayor to Sign Employment Agreement with Administrator/CFO was introduced by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

12065 Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement with Bergen County Department of Health Services was introduced by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

12066 Award Accessibility Improvements to Council Chambers was referred to a Special Meeting to be held on March 16, 2012.

12067 Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement with PV Regional School District was introduced by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

12068 Appointing Qualified Purchasing Agent and Increase Bid Threshold was introduced by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

Mayor Arnowitz removed 12066 from the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve the foregoing Resolutions except for 12066 was made by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Capawana.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Councilmember Frank said with regard 12066, a summary from our Borough Engineer indicates that the recommending of a contractor, one of whom is about half of all the other bidders (six), the high being \$121,000, the rest in the \$90,000 range and this one at \$52,000. Perhaps this should be discussed with the Borough Engineer to make sure this proposal is complete and that we understand how this work is going to be done without disrupting both the court and the Council.

Mayor Arnowitz said the law states we must take the low bidder and in the past we had work done in the police department and awarded the bid to the lowest bidder and they did a terrible job. We have to be sure of the contractor who will do the work.

Administrator DeJoseph said last week he went to the County to discuss our project to make sure it is pre-approved by Community Development as we will receive the grant from that department. They know this contractor, our engineer knows this contractor, Stonybrook used them for their ramp work, however, beyond that he has no knowledge of this contractor.

Councilmember Frank said in December we talked quite a bit about redoing the Council Chamber and we got a grant and nothing was being done on it. We brought in drawings of three different layouts, we all agreed to make layouts similar to this without changing the dais, and we voted that would be the way we would go. Then he was informed the package went out to bid. We never had the opportunity to review it, never got the chance to discuss what was in that package, and now we have bids on it. He could not be expected to vote on it because he has no idea what it is.

Councilmember Capawana was not comfortable voting on this either.

Mayor Arnowitz said the Resolution does not have a motion or a second, it will be placed on the Agenda.

Administrator DeJoseph said we will have a budget meeting to introduce our budget shortly; we can discuss this at that time.

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Administrator DeJoseph said we will have a meeting on Friday, March 16, at 4:30 PM for budget introduction and discussion of the bid.

Councilmember DeRosa met with the Board of Education last night as transition from Councilmember Hanlon to Councilmember DeRosa.

Councilmember Giancarlo said last week we approved some bicycle racks downtown and it has a lot to do with our Green Team who put a lot of work into that. This happens with a lot of dedication and hard work and it needs to be acknowledged. He also welcomed Councilmember Becker.

Councilmember Becker thanked everyone and said she will try her best to help the citizens of Hillsdale.

Councilmember Giancarlo said Bob Sandt is a gentleman, all around good guy, a friend, and wealth of knowledge. The downtown sign was a product of his mind; he was seen on election nights working and tallying votes until 10PM and 11PM and here at the meetings, some of which go too long. Bob Sandt will be missed and very hard to replace.

Councilmember Capawana congratulated Leslie Becker and welcomed her. He thanked Bob Sandt for everything.

Councilmember Frank also welcomed Leslie Becker and said the Council will provide any help she would need. In his period on the Council over two years, he has found that Bob Sandt remains aloof and does his job which can be a very, very difficult job. He has done a great job and it is appreciated. He wished everyone a Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

Mayor Arnowitz said he has known Leslie Becker a long time. He knows she will make a great Council person; she is very detailed, very precise and is very pleased that she took the opportunity to help Hillsdale and help this Council get through these trying times.

With regard to Bob Sandt, he took on the position with absolutely no knowledge of the position. He had no government training and in a very, very short time, Bob Sandt knew more of what was going on in the Borough of Hillsdale than most Council people he has served over the past 18 years. He is proud to consider him as a friend, is pleased to have worked with him over the years because Bob is an outstanding gentleman. Mr. Sandt was also a member of the Hillsdale Fire Department and went through the ranks and served as Chief that is not an easy task. He also served as Treasurer of the Fire Department for the longest time and his work was meticulous as it was here at the Borough. He said the town thanks him, the Mayor thanks him, and he will be missed.

Borough Clerk Sandt said he loved working here. We got through some trying times and thanked everyone.

Mayor Arnowitz said the Borough is holding a Retirement Party at Seasons on Wednesday, March 28, everyone is invited.

CLOSED MEETING

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

OPEN MEETING

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

Mayor Arnowitz said the improvements to Council Chamber will be discussed on Friday at the Budget Hearing. He will get a report from the Engineer.

Mayor Arnowitz said we do not have any plans for shared services.

Borough Attorney Paul said on the side of caution another topic should not be discussed at this time. It could be discussed on Friday.

ADJOURNMENT

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

3-13-12

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk