

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of East Hanover held on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 411 Ridgedale Avenue, East Hanover, New Jersey.

The Clerk called the meeting to order.

Present: Councilmembers Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

Councilman Musso took his seat at 7:05 P.M.

Also Present: Administrator C. Richard Paduch and Township Attorney Matthew J. O'Donnell

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman DeRosa gave the Invocation.

Mayor Pannullo read the Public Announcement in which he stated that the meeting had been advertised, the press notified, and the notice posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Adoption of **July 1, July 21, and August 6, 2008** Minutes:

Motion by Councilwoman Jandoli, seconded by Councilman DeRosa to adopt said minutes.

Ayes: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

Abstain: Councilman Colasurdo (July 21, 2008)

**POLICE PROMOTION:**

The Mayor swore in Police Officer Jeffrey Swett to the rank of Sergeant. Chief Hansen, fellow officers, and family members were present to offer their support and congratulations.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

1. Al Farese, 53 Surrey Lane, asked for an update regarding a suggestion he raised at a previous meeting as to a referendum

whether to abolish or continue the Special Improvement District. The Mayor responded that he would agree to this; however, a majority vote of the Council was required to proceed in this matter. Mr. Farese also voiced concerns in connection with the PSE&G issue.

Residents of Castle Ridge Townhomes returned again to address the problematic situation at Castle Ridge shopping plaza. Ronna Gruskin, 48 Castle Ridge Drive, first thanked the Council for their assistance in resolving the noise level and the disturbance by skateboarders at the shopping area. However, she indicated that a noise problem still existed with trucks idling at early morning hours. The Mayor stated that this idling occurrence was an oversight, and the business owner would again be contacted.

Boris Lebman, 19 Castle Ridge Drive and Gail Shayer, 59 Castle Ridge Drive likewise commented in this matter. Another complaint was the persistent noise from street sweepers during unreasonable hours. Also discussed was a potential problem with a new Mexican restaurant concerning garbage, unsightly signs, and loud noise.

Councilman Musso was opposed to commercials on Route 10 using trucks as "billboards" for advertising. The Administrator stated that the Code Enforcement Official was aware of the situation and would be issuing summonses to violators.

Motion by Councilman DeRosa, seconded by Councilwoman Jandoli to close the public input.

Ayes: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

Councilman DeRosa congratulated Sgt. Jeffrey Swett on his well-deserved promotion. He applauded the summer concert series as one of the best, and also cautioned the public to be aware of school openings and the increase in traffic in the community.

Councilman Musso brought up an issue that a resident was denied a vending license after being screened by the Police Department. He then raised a question whether the newly hired Code Enforcement Official was screened. The Administrator replied that the individual was not screened because the position did not fit the primary criteria; i.e., contact with

children and senior citizens or working in recreation. Mr. Paduch further stated that the Township has never screened employees, and there were no such requirements in any Township ordinances.

Councilman Colasurdo echoed Councilman DeRosa's comments with regard to the concerts, and he expressed thanks to Novartis for their sponsorship of this popular summer attraction. He reported on a Fire Department Wetdown he attended in celebration of a new fire engine.

Councilwoman Jandoli announced that the Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter's annual *Mutts Mania* event would take place at Lurker Park on September 28<sup>th</sup> and urged the public to support this worthwhile endeavor.

Mayor Pannullo commented on a terrible fire that recently occurred in Florham Park resulting in the loss of a life. He announced that Holy Family Church in Florham Park would be accepting donations in the name of the *Juliano Family*, the family affected by this tragedy.

The Mayor spoke of the benevolence of our corporate neighbor Novartis and their contributions to the community. In this regard, the Mayor suggested that a banner be placed across Ridgedale Avenue to publicly thank them for their continual support and good will to the Township.

The Mayor announced that bridge construction on Troy Road would be completed by the second week of January 2009. Lastly, a work session was scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. specifically for the matter of the PSE&G power lines. Since this critical issue would greatly impact the community, a special meeting would be scheduled thereafter with PSE&G representatives present.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been referred to members of the Township Council for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Township Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council action and placed on the regular agenda under new business.

- 92a-2008 - Resolution Re: RL:1335 - Tip Off Club HPHS
- 92b-2008 - Resolution Re: RL:1336 - EH Cooperative Nursery School
- 92c-2008 - Resolution Re: RL:1337 - EH Cooperative Nursery School
- 93 -2008 - Resolution Re: Refund Tax 2008 (7 Castle Ridge Dr)
- 94 -2008 - Resolution Re: Refund Water/Sewer (11 Homestead Ave)
- 95 -2008 - Resolution Re: Collective Bargaining Agreement with Association of Employees of Public Works
- 97 -2008 - Resolution Re: Application to Local Finance Board in Connection With the Issuance of General Improvement and Water/Sewer Utility Bonds
- 98 -2008 - Resolution Re: Issuance of Water/Sewer Utility Bonds in the Principal Amount of \$1,260,000
- 99 -2008 - Resolution Re: Issuance of General Improvement Bonds in the Principal Amount of \$3,876,000
- 100 -2008 - Resolution Re: \$5,136,000 General Obligation Bond Sale Consisting of \$3,876,000 General Improvement Bonds and \$1,260,000 Water/Sewer Utility Bonds

Motion by Councilwoman Jandoli, seconded by Councilman Musso to adopt the foregoing resolutions.

Ayes: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

**COMMUNICATIONS and DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

• **Letter from Richard Loehwing Re: Public Service**

The letter of thanks was read for the record.

• **Letter from Cheryl & Robert Jeannette Re: Decorative Wall**

The Administrator explained that the Land Use and Planning Department denied the application because garden wall was constructed on Township property. Mrs. Jeannette said that railroad ties were replaced with garden wall along the property line and furthermore, she was not aware that the Township Council had to grant permission. The Attorney clearly stated that this was an encroachment on Township property and would necessitate the Council's approval for an easement. Mrs. Jeannette was advised to contact John Orlich, Director of Land Use, for submission of the proper requirements in order to proceed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**40-2008 - Resolution Re: EH Community Partnership (SID)  
2008 Revised Budget**

Since Councilman DeRosa was very vocal regarding the original budget submitted, he referenced a letter from the Partnership's accountant that basically supported his unyielding stance, "the Partnership shall submit a detailed annual budget for approval by resolution of the governing body." He noted that the Council previously received a budget with mere line items requesting \$894,000, which was in clear contrast to the itemized budget now presented totaling \$400,325.

Based on the newly revised budget, Councilman DeRosa entertained a motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Jandoli, to approve the said resolution.

Before roll call, Board member Mario Accumanno thanked Mr. Paduch and District Manager Robyn Morgan for their assistance, and also acknowledged the Board members for their efforts to greatly reduce expenditures for the year. Consequently, a revised design for phases two and three was prepared for the same cost as originally proposed for only phase two. Unfortunately, Mr. Accumanno said no construction would be started this year because of legal problems and budget delays.

Before casting a vote, Councilman Musso acknowledged the Board members that resigned; John Graeber, Marie Peter, Jim Stabenow, and Chuck Kramer and thanked them for their dedication and hard work.

Ayes: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

More discussion followed in this matter. Councilman DeRosa strongly believed that it was important for the Township to have a forensic audit, especially with the resignation of four Board members and the District Manager. He, therefore, entertained a motion to retain an independent auditor; he said it was the Council's obligation to take an overall view of the SID operation before proceeding and before appointing new members. Councilman DeRosa emphasized that it was customary practice with any business to have an audit done when there was a major transition of leadership.

Considering there was no second to Councilman DeRosa's motion, the Mayor directed the Administrator to obtain prices from independent auditors for the next meeting. The Council was in agreement to postpone any action until that time.

**Introduction: Ordinance No. 16-2008 - Establish a Table of Organization and Ranges of Compensation for Township Employees**

The Clerk announced that she had Ordinance No. 16-2008, entitled "*AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND RANGES OF COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST HANOVER.*"

Motion by Councilman DeRosa, seconded by Councilwoman Jandoli that Ordinance No. 16-2008 be introduced by title, adopted on first reading, placed on file in the Clerk's office, and set down for public hearing on October 7, 2008.

Ayes: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

The Mayor stated the ordinance would be published according to law.

**96-2008 - Resolution Re: Closed Session**

Motion by Councilman Colasurdo, seconded by Councilman DeRosa to adopt said resolution.

Ayes: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

The Council went into Closed Session at 8:35 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 10:30 P.M.

Present: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Motion by Councilman DeRosa, seconded by Councilman Colasurdo to pay bills in the amount of \$4,469,348.42.

Ayes: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Councilman Musso, seconded by Councilwoman Jandoli to adjourn meeting.

Ayes: Councilmembers Musso, Colasurdo, DeRosa, Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

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MARILYN J. SNOW  
Township Clerk

We attest these minutes to be true and correct:

\_\_\_\_\_ MAYOR PANNULLO  
\_\_\_\_\_ COUNCIL PRESIDENT JANDOLI  
\_\_\_\_\_ COUNCILMAN DEROSA  
\_\_\_\_\_ COUNCILMAN MUSSO  
\_\_\_\_\_ COUNCILMAN COLASURDO