

BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION

February 23, 2010
9:24 P.M.

Present: Council President Levinson, Council members; Kane, Maughan (via telephone), Viola, Maguire and Mayor Ruschman (via telephone)

Absent: None

Also Present: Robert Mancinelli, Borough Attorney
Helene Fall, Administrator
Colleen Ennis, CFO
Kelley O'Donnell, Borough Clerk

Acting Mayor Levinson read the compliance statement earlier as required by the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

Councilmember Viola left the meeting

Mayor Ruschman stated that he wished to appoint Councilmember Maguire to work with Councilmember Maughan on the Finance Committee.

- Councilmember Maughan suggested waiting an additional 2 weeks until after the election
 - Councilmember Maughan stated that the other liaison roles had not been filled
 - Council President Levinson has been working with the other boards and committees when required as Acting Mayor
 - Mayor Ruschman feels this appointment is necessary at this time with Budget meetings scheduled to start this Saturday
 - Councilmember Maughan and Mayor Ruschman discussed the Finance Committee appointment at this time
 - Mayor Ruschman stated that regardless of the outcome of the Special Election he wished to appoint a Democrat to the committee; and Councilmember Maguire was the Democrat
 - Councilmember Maughan asked Rob Mancinelli if the Mayor could make this appointment unilaterally
 - Rob Mancinelli stated that the Mayor can
 - Councilmember Maughan stated that he objects to the appointment
 - **Mayor Ruschman advised Councilmember Maughan that he wished to meet with him the week of 3/1**

Councilmember Viola returned to the meeting approx. 9:40 p.m.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Eve Mancuso present

- Eve Mancuso asked the Council if the Ordinance introduced this evening for \$400,000 represented the total monies the Council intended to spend on the 2010 Road Improvement Program
 - Council advised the \$400,000 represented the Borough's estimated share in the PV Coop Program for 2010
 - Roads to be included as discussed at Mayor and Council meeting of 2/9
 - Lawn Street, Cascade Street and Colony Avenue
 - Alternates would be North First Street and North Maple Avenue
 - Helene Fall advised Eve Mancuso that she would email the info to her and they could discuss it Thursday
 - Report from Azzolina & Feury
 - **Eve Mancuso recommended including Mader Place if funds are available**
 - Councilmember Viola advised the Council of a 7 lot subdivision approved on Lawn Street
 - Eve Mancuso advised the Council that they could eliminate the top 100-200' of Lawn Street if they wished
 - Council discussion on changing scope of work
 - **Council agrees to original scope of work**

Leroy Place

- Estimate submitted to complete the work - \$11,050.69
 - Colleen Ennis stated that the Borough had allocated some funds but not enough
 - Insufficient funding at this time
 - Helene Fall advised no response has yet been received from residents
 - Next step would be metes and bounds for easements
 - Advertise receipt of bids

Improvements to Mill Pond

- Bill Beattie and Eve Mancuso to meet with Dave Terry of Leggette, Brashears & Graham to review Mill Pond dredging
 - Will include Bergen County Mosquito Control in discussions
 - Councilmember Kane suggested to the Council the development of a watershed
 - Availability of Federal Funding if regional project
 - Eve Mancuso recommended pursuing if the County could not help
 - Paperwork for Federal Funding very intensive
 - Council discussion on keeping the material dredged
 - Borough would need to gather soil samples and topo survey while pond is empty
 - Council discussion on "settling basin"
 - Eve Mancuso will discuss with LBG; environmental engineers

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- **Housing Task Force**
 - Helene Fall has gathered additional information from neighboring communities as requested

- Proposing change in fees
 - Penalty for non-compliance
 - Rob Mancinelli stated that Borough Ordinances are permitted to reflect penalties up to \$1,000
 - He further advised that it is a maximum - discretion of the court
- **Fire Prevention Fees**
 - Fire Official John Hansen prepared a comprehensive report
 - Current Borough Ordinance does not comply with State
 - Helene Fall recommends change in ordinance
 - Rob Mancinelli stated that he had spoken with John Hansen regarding 3 family residential
 - State has jurisdiction
 - Elena Rega, Technical Assistant will put together a list of 3 family homes
 - Helene stated that the Borough officials would like to inspect for Fire Prevention and Building Maintenance
 - Rob Mancinelli to check if state has exclusive jurisdiction
 - **Ordinance to be introduced 3/15**
- **Community Hospice of Bergen County**
 - Bucking for Dollars
 - Council agrees if Police Chief has no objections
- **Citizen Donations**
 - Article in February 2010 NJ League of Municipalities
 - Municipality creates a list of items for direct donations or funding towards
 - Helene Fall asked the Council if they were interested
 - Helene Fall will put list together as she reviews Capital Budget
 - Looking for alternate means to fund
 - Council President Levinson – very interested
 - Councilmember Maguire – very interested
 - Helene Fall stated that she will pursue the project
 - Borough will need to create a policy for equal access to donate
- **2010 Census Press Release**
 - Council agrees to Press Release and posting on Borough Web Site
- **Recycling Bins – Grant Opportunity**
 - Helene Fall has reviewed with Bill Beattie and Lou Turli
 - Standard Receptacle
 - Do not have the Coca-Cola name on them
 - Proposed submission includes up to 15 bins
 - If received Borough would do a Press Release
 - **Council agrees to submission of Grant**

Councilmember Viola recommends removing the Library Exterior from the Agenda

No further discussions at this time

COUNCIL REQUEST

Councilmember Maughan stated that Hillsdale was added to the Debt Schedule

Approximately 1/3 of Park Ridge's

Population is greater

Settlement with Sal Car helped pay down the Borough's debt

Colleen Ennis emailed tax and utility delinquencies to Councilmember Maughan

Councilmember Viola stated that the Borough's debt keeps growing

Finance Committee needs to look at

Council discussion on Budget, Capital and debt

Finance Committee was asked to make a recommendation to pay down debt

Councilmember Viola asked if this Council could legislate a maximum Borough debt

Rob Mancinelli advised the State sets a maximum

Colleen Ennis advised the Borough would never want to reach that maximum

Councilmember Maughan advised State Law would prevail

Council discussion on setting goals

Public Work Session adjourned to Closed Session at 10:16 p.m.