

BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
MAOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION

July 22, 2008
8:25 P.M.

Present: Mayor Ruschman, Council members; Henning, Wells, Ciannella, and Levinson

Absent: Council members; Brouwer and Maughan

Also Present: Kelley O'Donnell, Acting Borough Clerk
Gene Vinci, Borough Administrator
Colleen Ennis, CFO

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

ENGINEERING REPORT –

- Drainage Improvements – LeRoy Place
 - Held over to 2009

- Mader Place Drainage Improvements –
 - Plans and Specs Complete
 - Waiting for John D'Anton to hear back from the residents

- 2008 Road Resurfacing Project –
 - Pre construction meeting held with D & L Paving
 - Anticipated starting this week
 - Postponed due to extreme heat
 - Gene Vinci stated that the letters had been sent to the residents notifying them of the work
 - Eve Mancuso stated that they had received a few calls
 - Typical concerns

- 2008 Road Improvements – Curbs, Drainage and Sidewalks
 - Waiting for John D'Anton to confirm specifications
 - Will coordinate with the clerk timetable for bid date

- Councilman Wells inquired into the drainage problem with the property adjacent to the railroad tracks
 - Eve Mancuso stated that the property owner is getting quotes

- The property owner has agreed to pay, but will check with the Borough that there will be no conflict with the Borough's plans for the walkway
- Gene Vinci stated that the Borough still has not received approval for the amendment to the lease with NJDOT
 - Councilman Wells stated the frustration in trying to make a simple improvement of a walkway and the length of time it is taking
 - Gene Vinci stated that the Grant application is pending
 - Once the lease is approved the Borough can move forward

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT -

- USPS – Bulk Mail –
 - Letters sent to Senators Lautenberg and Menendez
 - In response to letter sent to Senator Menendez call received from Consumer Affairs Department at the USPS
 - Bulk mail will still be centralized as it is fiscally more responsible
 - On-hold for now until they are better prepared
 - **Newsletter will be sent through Park Ridge Post Office**
- Recycling -
 - Recycling insert with tax bills
 - Information will be in Borough Newsletter
 - Supply of inserts to Lou Turli to distribute at the Recycling Center
- Block Party – 115-119 Mountain Avenue
 - Saturday, August 9th (Rain date Sunday, August 10th)
 - Resident is requesting permission
 - Copy of letter sent to Police Department
 - It is my understanding that the Police handle the arrangements
- OPRA Requests –
 - Large request received from an attorney's office for Building Department files for the Bears Nest
 - Almost complete
 - John D'Anton reviewed the drawings requested
 - Government Records Council does not consider all plans public information
 - Staples is making the large format copies
- State Testing Results for Synthetic Turf at Memorial
 - Resident requested a copy of the letter from the state
 - Has not picked it up yet
 - Gene Vinci has contacted the manufacturer and they will be conducting additional testing

- **Copy of letter received from New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services regarding the screening conducted at the field at Memorial was given to Kathryn Berger of the Community Life newspaper**
- Non-Residential Development fees –
 - State has passed a bill increasing the fees to 2.5%
 - Copy forwarded to John D’Anton’s office
- Subpoena served on the Borough yesterday by Christopher Christie
 - Asking for any and all information pertaining to the Borough’s involvement with:
 - Governmental Grants Consulting
 - Dennis Oury
 - Law Office of Dennis Oury
 - Joseph Ferriero
 - Leonard Kaiser
 - David Spatz
 - Copy sent to John D’Anton’s office
 - Laura will speak to him on Wednesday 7/23/08
 - OPRA request received in June from The Record requesting same
- Borough of Park Ridge has had no dealings with any of the parties listed
- **Council discussion on a letter sent to the editor of The Record**
 - **All towns served subpoenas are mentioned**
 - **Never any follow up story mentioning the towns that were never involved**

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –

- Grants –
 - County Applications filed by Burgis Associates 6/27/08 for Park Improvements and Property Acquisition
 - Veterans Park
 - Forest Avenue
 - NJDOT Application filed for Improvements
 - 5th Street and Storms Avenue
 - Award of \$21,450 approved from DCA for DPW shared efficiency study by Pascack Valley towns
 - NESC to conduct study
 - Old Tappan lead agency
- Firehouse Exterior
 - Waiting on finalized plans and specifications
- Cleaning Service –
 - Quote solicited from National Maintenance Service - \$28,000

- Need to get additional quotes
- Outdoor Parking Ordinance –
 - Request received from residents to amend outdoor parking ordinance
 - Dispute amongst neighbors
 - Police involvement
 - Councilman Wells agrees it needs to be addressed
 - Question on clarification of the language
 - Council President Henning suggested checking with the Police for their input and recommendation
 - Councilman Wells suggested getting the Zoning Officer’s input as well
 - **Council President Henning asked that copies of the ordinance be made and that the Administrator, Police Chief and Zoning officer meet to discuss recommendations**
- Water Hydrant Charges – to be discussed at a later date
- Montvale Mass Transit Initiative
 - Gene Vinci and Councilwoman Levinson attended a meeting in Montvale
 - **Montvale would like to form a sub-committee to look at the options**
 - Representatives were there from NJDOT
 - Reluctant to change the schedule
 - **Interested in shuttle service for the corporate employees**
 - Councilwoman Levinson stated that NJDOT is considering a shuttle service from the Ramsey Train Station
 - **NJDOT will conduct a survey**
 - Corporate representative were present from
 - Sony
 - Hertz
 - Mercedes
 - BMW
 - Perfect Limo
 - Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce was notified but not present
 - Corporate Employees did speak up at the meeting
 - **There are approximately 23,000 corporate employees in our area**
 - Outnumber residents

COUNCIL CONCERNS –

Councilmember Wells –
None at this time

Councilmember Ciannella –

- Hoped everyone had the opportunity to see the flowers and benches
- Containers should be received August 19th

- Would like to see a **photo of the project for the newspaper with the Mayor and Council and Beautification Committee volunteers**
- All present agreed

Councilmember Levinson –

- PKRG –
 - Asked if position had been filled
 - Gene Vinci stated that there is an employee that is interested but he has not heard back from Ned Barber.
- Noise Ordinance –
 - Resident questioned the earliest a lawnmower can be used
 - Council advised that she direct the resident to the Zoning Officer
- Recreation –
 - Status of trailers
 - Mayor Ruschman stated that Councilman Brouwer was looking into it
 - Municipal Pool will need one as well when the bathrooms are renovated
 - Concert will be Held August 30th at Colony Field
 - Steve Hopper will send notice to Gene Vinci
 - Mayor Ruschman suggested posting notice at the pool with Concert specifics
 - Looking to create a code of conduct for Summer Day Camp
 - First Friends would like one as well
 - Council recommendation that First Friends create their own code of conduct to enforce as they are separate from the Borough
 - Stipend for the Director
 - Councilwoman Levinson would like to recommend that the Mayor and Council consider a stipend
 - Clerk informed those present that an email has been sent to Pascack Valley Clerks for information on their recreation committees/departments
 - Will discuss further when information received

Council President Henning –

- Met with the owner of **Park Ridge Deli**
 - Located at the small mall on Kinderkamack Road
 - Wants to put **tables outside on the sidewalk**
 - She has a letter from the landlord and certificate of insurance
 - She was told she needed to go before the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a variance

- Council President Henning stated to those present that he thought that they were trying to help the businesses in the Borough, not make things difficult
- Gene Vinci distributed copies of the Borough Ordinance on Outdoor Dining
 - Mayor Ruschman explained the history of this ordinance
 - Means of helping to develop the Business District
 - Kinderkamack Road and Park Avenue
- Councilman Wells stated that what the deli owner is asking for is a site plan change
 - A change in a site plan must be recognized by a board
 - The Board can recognize compliance, it is not necessarily a variance that needs to be granted
 - Councilman Wells further stated that it is the law for commercial properties.
 - An amended site plan must be submitted
 - Must have Board approval
 - Mayor and Council could also revise the Ordinance if they feel it is too restrictive
 - Councilman Wells stated that the law does allow for subtle changes to a site plan without Board approval
 - Landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Councilman Wells suggested Council President Henning discuss this with John D'Anton
 - **Council President Henning asked Gene Vinci to get copies of outdoor dining ordinances from Hillsdale and Emerson**
 - Councilman Wells suggested getting input from board attorney John TenHoeve
 - **Mayor Ruschman will contact John TenHoeve**
- **In response to an email received from a resident, Council President Henning will look into the properties which are available adjacent to the High School.**

Mayor Ruschman invited Councilwoman Ciannella to attend a meeting Friday 7/25 at 11:00 am with Joan Valas regarding the Office of Emergency Management.

Public Work Session adjourned at 9:10 pm.