

BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION

September 9, 2008
8:45 P.M.

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

Absent: Councilmember Brouwer

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

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

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT –
Auction Ladder Fire Truck –

- After researching the online auction sites approved by the state and discussions with Colleen Ennis and Tom Derienzo, Fire Chief we have decided that the Borough would get a higher value for the ladder truck if we auction it ourselves. Chief Derienzo knows of two departments in the Midwest that would purchase the ladder truck from us based on the recommendation from the manufacturer Pierce.
 - Truck was just recertified
 - Hydraulic system repaired
 - Like new condition
 - Midwest departments will not bid on the truck if place on Ebay or GovDeals

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –
Outdoor Parking Ordinance –

- Request received from resident to change the Borough's outdoor parking ordinance
- Council asked for input from the Zoning Officer
- John D'Anton explained in the memo he had sent to the Council months ago, it was his opinion that there is no problem with the ordinance the problem is and had historically been with the enforcing of
- Mayor Ruschman feels that at this time with pending litigation it would be presumptive of the Council to change the ordinance

- Council discussion that the recommendations from the Zoning Officer are related to this individual case and not Borough wide
- **Council would like to see other issues in town besides this one where there is a problem**
- **Council would like to see greater enforcement of the ordinance throughout the Borough not just this one property**
- Mayor Ruschman stated that he and Gene Vinci are meeting with the neighbor of 21 Pascack Road on Monday who has made an inquiry, a number of times, into purchasing the unimproved portion of East Avenue
 - The Mayor stated that as far as he is concerned there is no change in the Borough's stand on this
 - The Borough is not interested in selling
- Gene Vinci stated that he distributed a Property Maintenance Log
 - Approximately 26 pages
 - He has also requested that enforcement be tightened up
- Housing Task Force will be meeting so that they can get going again
 - Meeting scheduled
- Gene Vinci asked the Police Chief if they would keep a log of properties in the Borough that are not being maintained
 - The Chief agreed
 - Log to be submitted to Zoning Officer and Property Maintenance
 - Council member Wells stated that it was discussed a year ago with the police and to the best of his knowledge not done
- Council discussion on who is driving around town
 - Matt Kent does
 - Mary Rathgeb handles administrative end
 - Anyone, employee or resident can contact Property Maintenance if they see an area of concern

Municipal Building Roof –

- Gene Vinci met with a third vendor
 - Site visit performed
 - 3rd proposal should be submitted prior to next Mayor and Council meeting

Cleaning Service –

- Bill Beattie prepared a list of additional duties the Buildings and Grounds employee is responsible for in addition to cleaning
 - Second quote requested
 - To be discussed further at next meeting

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT –

- Prepare draft of Ordinance for Joint Board for 9/23 meeting
- Prepare resolution for 9/23 meeting memorializing motion made tonight to contract with RPA

COUNCIL CONCERNS –

Councilmember Levinson –

- PRAA - In recognition of the accomplishments of the athletic teams would the Mayor and Council consider certificates for ice cream or pizza? Council President Henning stated that he would consider Barnes & Noble.
 - Council discussion on funding
 - Will be discussed again in the future
- Recycling Bins -
 - We are enforcing our residents comply but we do not provide separate bins throughout the town
 - **Asked Gene Vinci to speak with other administrators when they meet**
 - **Shared purchase options**
 - Council would have to discuss further cost and practicality of locations throughout the Borough

Council President Henning –

- Raised the question on the Terra Cotta pots along Park Avenue
 - He thought they were going to match the teak benches and trash containers
- Councilmember Ciannella stated that the Downtown Beautification Committee decided on the type of planter
- Council discussion on the planters staying out all year
 - Councilmember Ciannella stated that they are designed to be completely weatherproof

Councilmember Maughan –

- Asked for more information on the New Jersey Transit Horn Blowing Policy and Quiet Zone
 - Councilmember Levinson stated that a resident had complained about the excessive horn blowing
 - She contacted NJT and was sent the Horn Blowing Policy which she distributed to all council members
 - If there is something or someone on the tracks they will blow the horn more frequently
 - The establishment of a Quiet Zone is very costly and puts the Borough at risk
- Gene Vinci contact NJT with regard to the same resident who requested the train stop beyond or before the Park Avenue crossing so as to permit the flow of traffic down Park Avenue
 - Gene Vinci was advised by NJT that it falls under their Safety Department and that the Park Avenue crossing is not the same as the Grand Avenue crossing in Montvale that the resident compared it to
 - The train must stop where it does in Park Ridge

Mayor Ruschman welcomed Councilmember Maughan back. Councilmember Maughan thanked the Mayor and Council.

Public Work Session adjourned at 9:20 pm.