

Executive Meeting of Mayor and Council March 3, 2005

PRESENT: Mayor DeIorio, Councilmembers Badillo, Harms, Murphy, Matarante and Zeglarski; Blake Johnstone, Esq. (sitting for Borough Attorney Bill Lane); Finance Officer Greg Mayers; and Borough Engineer Ed Dec

ABSENT: Councilman Rubilla (sick)

Mayor DeIorio called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and said it is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as required by law.

All contracts awarded by Mayor and Council must comply with the affirmative action requirements of P.L. 1975, C127. (NJAC 17:27).

As required by the Fire Prevention Code, he indicated the fire exits and the procedure to be followed in case of fire.

Deputy Borough Clerk Donna Corrigan read a short prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Copy of Resolution adopted by the City of Rahway supporting Senate Bill-S1023 and Assembly Bill A-1835, which require the State to reimburse municipalities for payment of exempt disabled veterans property taxes. (Received and filed).

Copy of Resolution adopted by the Borough of Garwood opposing Assembly Bill A-2121 and Senate Bill S-911, which would expand local responsibilities under the Condo Services Act. (Received and filed).

Copy of Resolution adopted by the Township of Union opposing Assembly Bill A-3529, which would permit double recovery with regard to work injury events. (Received and filed).

Request from Roselle Park Girl Scouts to distribute flyers the week of April 17 to April 22, 2005 in connection with their annual "Baby Bundles" project. This has the approval of the Police Department. (Referred to Council).

**Councilman Matarante moved to grant permission to the Roselle Park Girl Scouts to distribute flyers the week of April 17 to April 22, 2005; seconded by Councilman Badillo and adopted.**

Copy of Resolution adopted by the Township of Clark opposing Assembly Bill A-3680, which would loosen the caps on school district spending. (Received and filed).

## REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MAYOR

Mayor DeIorio thanked the Roselle Park School system for participating and inviting him to participate in the “Read Across America” program. He said he was able to visit all three schools and found it especially fun, since some of the Dr. Seuss books are tongue twisters and when he fumbled over a few words the children were able to help him out.

## REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS

### Borough Engineer

Borough Engineer Ed Dec said two street reconstruction projects will be going out for bid in March and construction should start in April. He said residents will be notified when the project begins. Mayor DeIorio asked about the train station project and Mr. Dec said they are waiting for the transaction of the real estate deal to go through which has to be approved by NJDOT before the Borough can go out to bid. Councilman Zeglarski asked about Chester Avenue and Mr. Dec explained that when the street was under reconstruction, a sprinkler head was broken, and the contractor will be back in April to fix it. When Councilman Zeglarski asked what would happen if he doesn't fix it, and Mr. Dec said it would go on the maintenance log because they did not want to work on it during the winter months. Councilman Zeglarski said since it has been a couple of months, he suggested giving them until May 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Matarante asked about the Acker property sub-division saying the grant for the fence has been approved and was wondering when that was going to be done. Mayor DeIorio said the grant was approved several months ago and asked the Finance Officer to send a copy of the grant packet to Mr. Dec. Councilman Matarante asked for an update on the Doctor's office parking lot on Galloping Hill Road. Mr. Dec said he did not think it was a construction issue and Councilman Matarante asked him to put something in writing. Councilman Badillo said the apron is in line with a dumpster that they load and unload continuously and said he and the Borough Engineer felt that contributed to the deterioration of the apron. Councilman Matarante thanked him for the quick answer on 133 E. Grant Ave. He gave Mr. Dec a video tape taken by Mr. Shinstuhl of the sinkhole on Spruce Street, which is causing a sewerage backup at one of the homes. Councilman Badillo asked when work can begin once bids are taken and accepted, and Mr. Dec said April or May. Councilman Badillo said the Walnut Street sanitary sewer project from E. Colfax to E. Grant is going to be done starting April 5<sup>th</sup>. He asked if the fence for the bike path was scheduled to begin April 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dec said it was and noted that the Little League fence would be replaced in March. Councilman Badillo thanked Mr. Dec and Frank for coming out last night and helping with a problem on Galloping Hill Road. Mayor DeIorio said he would forward a copy of the list given to Councilmembers from Ed Dec to the Municipal Services Committee for discussion. He said he wanted to add another column to show a time line of projects, showing when projects should have been or have been completed. Councilman Murphy said the telephone pole on Madison Avenue has been removed, but the hole has not been filled. Mr. Dec said he and Mr. Wirzbicki would look at it

tomorrow. Councilman Harms said that the telephone company should have filled the hole and, Mayor DeIorio told Frank to take care of it tomorrow. Councilman Badillo asked what was going on with the sprinkler system at the Casano Center. Mr. Dec said he and the new Fire Code Official met at the site last week, and his suggestion was to work with a Fire Suppression Company before going out to bid. Councilman Badillo asked him to expedite that project because the Casano Center Committee had other beautification upgrades to do, but were waiting for the sprinkler system project to be taken care of first.

#### Borough Attorney

Blake Johnston, Esq., sitting in for Borough Attorney Bill Lanes had no formal report.

#### Borough Clerk

Received report from Borough Clerk Arlene Triano. (See app. pg. # ).

#### Finance Officer

Received report from Finance Officer Greg Mayers. (See app. pg. # ).

#### Police Department

Received report from Police Chief Warren Wielgus. (See app. pg. # ).

Chief Wielgus said he received a letter from Former Councilman Bob Milici thanking the Police Department for their assistance with the funeral procession of his father-in-law. He said the Police Department will start closing the gate at the West Webster Commuter Parking Lot because of complaints with young people hanging in the back. Councilman Badillo said he has received a lot of complaints from residents of Webster Gardens and suggested locking the gate at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. Chief Wielgus said he would chain and put a sign there tomorrow. Mayor DeIorio noted that the DARE program will be hosting a dance for 5<sup>th</sup> graders tomorrow at the high school and the DARE graduation ceremony will be on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at the high school.

#### INTERRUPT THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councilman Murphy moved, at 8:00 p.m., to interrupt the regular order of business for special meeting; seconded by Councilman Badillo and adopted.

#### RESUME THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councilman Matarante moved, at 8:15 p.m., to resume the regular order of business; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.

Councilman Badillo said the ordinance for Pershing Avenue was tabled on the advice of the Police Chief and Borough Attorney.

### DPW

Received report from DPW Superintendent Frank Wirzbicki. (See app. pg. #

Mr. Wirzbicki said the sewers will be jet cleaned on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week and a camera will be used to find the problem in the downtown area. Mayor DeIorio extended gratitude to Frank and his department, saying he received several compliments about his efforts to clean the snow. Councilman Badillo said he went out with Frank during the last snow storm and noted that the residents were removing their cars, but noted some cars actually are parked in front of their driveway to keep them clean and preventing the plows from cleaning the roads from curb to curb.

### Administrative Assistant

Received report from Administrative Assistant Karen Intile. (See app. pg. #

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Zeglarski said he had several items he wanted to put on the agenda for discussion at committee meetings. He said at the Public Safety Committee meeting he would like to discuss issuing temporary parking permits. Councilman Matarante said it was on the agenda at the last meeting, but was not discussed because they were not sure what the issue was. Mayor DeIorio said the present ordinance would need to be amended and Councilman Zeglarski said he would look at the ordinance and have it sent to the Borough Attorney for his recommendations. Councilman Badillo said rather than have the ordinance amended, perhaps something could be issued through the Police Department and said he would speak to the Chief about it. Councilman Zeglarski thanked Councilman Harms for the “No Left Turn” sign on W. Lincoln Avenue and said it could be clearly seen. Councilman Zeglarski said he would like to have a website provider in to give a presentation. Mayor DeIorio said he had two people contact him interested in providing the service and suggested having everyone in to do their presentations at the same time. Councilman Badillo said he also had someone approach him and Councilman Zeglarski said that was the same provider he was talking about. Mayor DeIorio said when someone hears the Borough wants to update the website, individuals look at it simply as a website and not the particular issues Council wants to address. Councilman Zeglarski suggested putting a list together so he can see the type of services they provide and have them reviewed by committee. Mayor DeIorio said he would send out a reminder note tomorrow for all Councilmembers to submit what they would like to see from the website modification. Councilman Zeglarski said he would call the providers to see if they offered the services Council was looking for and invite the others for a presentation at the Public Services Committee Meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Badillo said he attended “Read Across America” at Sherman School and read to 2 classes which was very nice and exciting. He said tax counseling for the elderly is provided at the Casano Center free of charge and is offered on the hour by appointment only. He said the St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> and that the Boy Scouts will also be holding their annual town-wide food drive on that day.

Councilman Matarante said at the Human Resources Committee Meeting employee manuals were handed out. He said the response window was Tuesday night and since there were none, he would like Council to vote on it at the next regular meeting. He said due to the hard work of Councilman Badillo, who went out and got big discounts on gym membership at Bally’s, all Borough and Board of Education employees will have the opportunity to take advantage. Councilman Badillo said this is a 25% discount and is available to all full and part-time employees, as well as, First Aid and Fire Department volunteers. Councilman Matarante said there is a high school class being held at the Youth Center and because of a contractual problem, the Boys & Girls Club are no longer involved in that program. He said the Borough is in charge of opening and closing the building and the Board of Education will contribute to utilities and maintenance of the center. Councilman Zeglarski asked if the Borough Attorney reviewed this because he had concerns regarding liability issues. Mayor DeLorio said the Borough Attorney has had discussions with all the parties regarding the contracts.

Councilman Harms had no formal report.

Councilman Murphy said at the Finance & Administration Committee Meeting they discussed the SID Program and they will continue discussing SID’s at their next meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. He said budget meetings will continue to be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and he will be representing Roselle Park at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Union on March 12<sup>th</sup>. He said there is graffiti on the walls at the train station and NJ Transit should be contacted regarding its removal. Councilman Murphy thanked Pat White for the great Fire Department dinner. He said he has been diagnosed with hemochemotosis, which has affected his liver and he will be going for outpatient treatments, but he wanted to assure the residents of Roselle Park that he will continue to work hard for them.

#### UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Badillo said at the Firemen’s Dinner he spoke with Bob Tobe and the awards committee. He said he would like Council to honor those firemen that were honored at that dinner. He said Bob would provide him with the information and he will pass it on to the Borough Clerk.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Matarante moved to open the public comment portion of the meeting; seconded by Councilman Badillo and adopted.

Pat White, 18 W. Colfax Avenue, John LaVista, 212 Maple Street, Jackie Taluba, 143 Bridge Street, said they were there as members of Roselle Park Recreation and said because construction at the high school and middle school soccer fields were not available. They requested use of Hawthorne Field and said a local contractor from Roselle Park is willing to donate his time and equipment, but said some topsoil would be needed to do the grating. They said the contractor would also be willing to work on a softball field, but said someone would need to maintain it. Councilman Matarante said Council could discuss it at the Municipal Services Committee meeting and Mayor DeIorio asked for Ed Dec or Donald Guarriello to be invited. Councilman Badillo asked for the price and tonnage of the topsoil and was told the contractor was trying to get donations. Councilman Badillo said Olivia Construction has done a lot of work for this community and said they worked on the youth baseball fields as well. Councilman Matarante thanked Pat, John and Jackie for all their work.

Jacob Magiera, 612 Sheridan Avenue, said at the last meeting his microphone was not on and no one could hear what he was saying. He said at that meeting there was a moment of silence for a gentleman and what he said was that they should keep in mind Nicole Giovanni. He asked if the Mayor got the Ethics Training Video and the Mayor said the audio tape has not been received yet. Mr. Magiera said we are going to lose the NJ Savers Rebate and if that rebate is lost, the taxpayers will receive an increase of \$727.00. He said senior citizens will also lose \$400.00 of their Homestead Rebate and that does include the figures for the municipal, school and county which is an estimated \$320.00. He said back in 1989 he warned the then Governing Body that we are in difficult economic times and will be paying for it in the future. He said since we have to bite the bullet and tighten our belts, taxpayers, elected officials, appointed officials and bureaucrats should take a 30% decrease in pay, pensions and pay 30% of their medical benefits. He asked if the Borough cut back and how much they were saving on electric and gas. He said the Board of Education are members of "ACES" and he did not know if the Borough could get in on it. Mr. Magiera asked when the Borough calendars were coming out regarding bulk, recycling and grass pickups. Borough Engineer Ed Dec said they should be back from the printers on Monday or Tuesday. Councilman Zeglarski said if anyone needs to check the dates, they can call their Councilman, the Clerk's Office, DPW or Engineer's office. Mr. Magiera commented on how terrible it was for someone to remove the pole on Madison and Sheridan and not fill the hole.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Matarante moved to close the public comment portion of the meeting; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.

Borough Engineer Ed Dec requested a subcommittee of Council and members of the Environmental Commission to form a stormwater management program as required by the State. Councilman Zeglarski asked if he had any information in layman's terms because he read the sample ordinance and he would like to know the purpose and the reason for all that work. Mayor DeIorio said the Department of Environmental Protection passed the stormwater regulations favoring the environmentalist who have

been pushing the DEP, who are now compelled to deal with the removal of leaves in a timely manner or be fined. He said Acting Governor Codey will be eliminating the funding to help municipalities plan and implement for these stormwater regulations. Mayor DeIorio said he had a summary from the League of Municipalities that he would share with the Governing Body. He said this is going to be another taxpayer expense and shows how government avoids legislative process by instituting mandated regulations.

Mayor DeIorio said several years ago the Borough conducted a light energy audit by installing energy efficient lighting and the Borough has saved money over the years. He said he wanted the public to know that the Governing Body has in the past taken steps to address utility costs.

Councilman Matarante announced that the first bulk waste pickup this year will be March 24<sup>th</sup> on the East side of town and March 31<sup>st</sup> on the West side.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at 9:00 p.m., Councilman Matarante moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Badillo and adopted.

Attest:

Deputy Borough Clerk