

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor William Budesheim presiding.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** **Astarita, Carelli, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Falkoski**
 Absent: **None**

Mayor Budesheim announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place and agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 1:

Michael Kheypets, 33 Parkway, asked when the meeting minutes are posted on the website. Mayor Budesheim replied after they are adopted. Mr. Kheypets asked if the budget was introduced. Councilman Astarita replied that the Council introduced the budget. Mr. Kheypets asked if he is on the Finance Committee and Councilman Astarita replied he is not. Mr. Kheypets asked where the flip flop came from since two weeks ago you were screaming about interviewing for borough administrator and full time Mayor may not be needed anymore. Councilman Astarita replied that it wasn't a flip flop. My thoughts are we needed somebody in the building to take care of the day to day business. If we weren't going to have the Mayor, we would need an administrator which would be very costly. Mr. Kheypets asked who is the CEO of the town that takes care of all the business. Borough Attorney Oostdyk replied that in our form of government we don't have a CEO. The Mayor functions as the administrative arm. Mr. Kheypets asked if there was a differentiation between what the Mayor is supposed to do and what the Clerk does. Councilman Astarita replied that there is. Mr. Kheypets asked if he had that. He said it's been going on for almost six months about what exactly is the job description of a full time Mayor. Did you use a job description in the budget when you gave him a \$10,000 raise? Councilman Astarita replied he does not have a job description for the Mayor and did not give him a \$10,000 raise. He's being paid what he was paid before. Councilman Astarita asked Mr. Kheypets what his point was. Mr. Kheypets continued to ask questions about the Mayor's salary and the budget. Councilman Astarita stated that he put forth a budget that was brought out to him by several council members and the Mayor. The budget our CFO was asked to put together was similar in every detail to the original except we put in what he made last year. Mr. Kheypets continued asking questions about the Mayor's salary. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that right now the Mayor is paid for two positions – his Mayor's salary and his OEM position. If he gives up the OEM position, then whatever salary we tag along with that I feel will be taken away from him. Mr. Kheypets stated that he feels they are dancing around his question. He has two jobs. One was \$15,000 and one was \$35,000. Now he has one that's \$5,000 and the other is \$45,000. If he gives up the \$5,000 job he's still making \$45,000 as Mayor salary. Last year you thought his Mayor's salary was worth \$35,000. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that if he gives up a position I feel the salary of that position also will be given up. Mr. Kheypets stated that we don't have a job description, we don't know what he does and he's now making \$10,000 more. Councilman Astarita stated that at the last meeting we learned that due his being available during the day for a meeting with JCP&L he was able to negotiate and saved us \$100,000 in back billing of underpayments. The Mayor being here taking care of the business of the borough affords us a great opportunity to take advantage of those types of things. Mr. Kheypets continued to question the Mayor's job description. Councilman Astarita stated that we have a good track record of keeping taxes down and running this town like a business. There are good people on this Council and you have a good Mayor with a boatload of experience and contacts in every level of government. We're able to take advantage of his contacts and good negotiating and that in itself is worth a \$50,000 a year salary. If we didn't have him here day to day we would need to get a borough administrator. He's putting in a lot of hours and to come in and say there's no job description is an insult to

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 1 (continued):

him and this Council. We get our money's worth out of him. Mr. Kheypets asked how you know that. Mayor Budesheim stated that this is becoming argumentative and asked Mr. Kheypets to talk to Councilman Astarita after the meeting. Mr. Kheypets continued to disagree with Councilman Astarita regarding a job description and accountability for the Mayor and argued whether the residents voted for a full time Mayor with this salary.

An unidentified audience member asked what the average salary for an administrator around here would be and what they Mayor is paid. Mayor Budesheim replied that an administrator would be \$100,000 plus and that his total salary is \$57,275.

There being no further comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to close the public session.

ALL IN FAVOR.**RESOLUTIONS:**

Councilman Loesner asked if we had backing receipts from the post office for the Hometown Newsletter. Mayor Budesheim stated they haven't been mailed yet. Councilman Loesner suggested we table the bill until we get them. Mayor Budesheim stated that they have to put the money out beforehand. Councilman Loesner stated he is uncomfortable with the Mayor going to bat for the Hometown Newsletter when he has a relationship with the company. He asked how he should address the auditor's suggestion not to pay these invoices without the proper documentation. Mayor Budesheim stated he never saw anything from the auditor. If anyone should be concerned it should be the advertisers because this doesn't cost the town a penny.

Thereupon, Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to approve the following resolutions:

- 1) Payment of Utility Bills. (including the following)
 - a. Hometown Newsletters Newsletter \$1,117.07

Councilwoman Wetzel stated that if we have an issue with this we should resolve it prior to the next month's mailing. We can approve this tonight based on the fact that we will get receipts. Councilman Loesner stated the suggestion was to put the vendor under contract and bring them into compliance. I think we're supposed to have a fee ordinance for any money we collect. Mayor Budesheim stated that we've been doing this for eight years and the auditor has never said anything. Councilman Loesner stated that the bookkeeper asked the auditor how she should be paying the invoices without the documentation. The auditor sent her an email, which she sent to me, telling her that we should not be paying these invoices without the proper documentation or the vendor being under contract. Council continued to discuss the method of reimbursing for postage and whether a contract or additional quotes are required. Mayor Budesheim stated that we could get a bulk mailing permit for \$190 and pay the postage direct but there's an investigation going on. He asked Police Chief Smith for the status of the investigation. Chief Smith said the postal service has an investigation and Sgt. Bogert talked to them. Mayor Budesheim asked for the name of the postal inspector who called, a copy of the incident report and a recording of the phone call. Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that we have this resolution to pay this bill and a suggestion that in the future we commit to writing a contract and look into whether we need two proposals. Mayor Budesheim will obtain a second price quotation.

RESOLUTIONS (continued):

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** **Astarita, Carelli, Guis, Loesner, Wetzal, Falkoski**
 Nays: **None**
 (6 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

COPY OF BILLS LIST IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 44-A**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1) From Stacy Przybylinski representative of Cub Scout Pack 38 advising that they would like to run a Plastic Pink Flamingo Fundraiser as they did last year. The date would start March 31, 2012 and run until May 15, 2012. The Cub Scouts will be moving the bird every second evening and if a problem arises please contact Stacy at her number supplied to the Borough Clerk.

Mayor Budesheim stated that they did this last year.

- 2) From the Pompton Lakes/Riverdale Little League inviting the Mayor and Council to their Opening Day festivities on Saturday April 14, 2012. The parade leaves the High School parking lot at 12:00 pm and marches to the Little League Joe Grill complex. (copy of letter transmitted to governing body via e-mail on 3/27/2012)

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Budesheim reported that there will be another OEM meeting at the firehouse on April 10th. The Riverdale Ready is the second in a series. The first one was very successful and this one is Being Prepared for Spring Emergencies. He reported on his meeting with the Secretary of Transportation, the DOT Commissioner, Jim Simpson discussing the issues of Route 23. I asked him if we could set up a meeting of the Mayors along the Route 23 corridor to address the issues and he was open to that idea. The Mayor reported on his meeting with the League of Municipalities in Princeton last Friday. There is no offensive pending legislation to review. He also advised the Council that Ruth Pasquariello was named the Town Historian. She's been taking courses at Drew University and is a member of the Riverdale Land Conservancy.

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT:

Borough Clerk Talerico reported that it is important to update the code book every year. The next update is for the last quarter of 2011 and one ordinance from 2012. The quote for this is \$2,730 and it will be approximately the same about four times a year. She asked if the Council was in favor of updating the code book. Mayor Budesheim felt it was something that had to be done and there were no objections from the Council. She also distributed a letter from Mr. Clemack regarding litigation updating us on the status of the Paige Development case.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PERSONNEL: Councilman Carelli distributed a social media policy with a page containing comments for everyone to review. He asked for comments to be directed to him or Councilwoman Wetzal.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued):

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilman Guis reported on the river de-snagging and cleanup process. The contractor is doing a first rate job. He suggested we reserve approximately \$100,000 of the open space money in case we need it to complete this work. When the project is over we can release the reserve if we don't need it. Mayor Budesheim stated this is one of the purposes for the open space money and is a good idea. Councilman Guis also reported that he spoke with our new Construction Official, John Scialla. His opinion is that he and our plumbing inspector can cover everything that's being done and there will be some restructuring in that department. He reported that Bloomingdale passed a resolution requesting the DEP finance repair the flood gates at the Charlotteburg Reservoir. This could be a major help to us and he suggested we prepare a resolution mirroring this for the next meeting. He also reported on sewer allocation and additional streets being sewerred. The I&I and flow rates are back up. We want to contact our sewer engineer Bill Ryden and possibly Newberry who did the several hundred thousand dollar analysis three years ago because we're not going to get permission to hook up to sewers unless we resolve this I&I problem.

Mayor Budesheim reported on a meeting with the Freeholders. They studied a new program to use open space tax money at the county level for flood buyouts. They have \$16,000,000 in their fund this year and that will be a good use of that money.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Councilwoman Wetzel reported that Recreation is organizing the annual egg hunt at 11:00 and Easter Bunny breakfast at 9:00 this weekend at the Community Center. Summer Recreation registration is underway. We tabled an issue with Jordan Transportation regarding an outstanding bill and I am working with them to resolve that issue. She also commented on a letter to the editor from a resident that appeared in the Trends regarding the social media policy. She tried to reach out to the resident to keep her updated and see if she had any input but she hasn't been able to find her. She asked that if anyone knows of Mary Hollister or where she is ask her to get in touch with me.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Astarita reported that work on the Community Center elevator is moving forward and June Carelli will be getting prices for refinishing the floor. The furnace at the fire department was worked on but is not fixed and he will follow up on that. The DPW did the weather stripping and painted the interior wall.

FINANCE: Councilman Loesner reported that he and Councilman Carelli were working on using open space money to reduce debt service. Also the passing of Mr. Montemarano changes our arrangement and how much we have to budget in the Building Department. They would like to work with the CFO to come up with a budget amendment to address those issues. Councilman Carelli distributed our debt schedule and explained that we have to go to permanent financing if we don't pay down our notes in 10 years. Two or three are approaching that and we have to pay a bulk of our debt in the next three years. He gave an alternate schedule of using \$100,000 of open space for debt service this year and then we can decide if we want to continue that. Right now we're at \$300,000 and next year the CFO has us back at \$550,000. This is for consideration of the Council. He explained the procedure for the public hearing of the budget and the budget amendment. He stated that his schedule has us paying off the debt in four years.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 2:

Glen Venza asked where the money would come from to pay down the debt in four years. Councilman Carelli replied it is in the budget. He explained that he has asked the Council to consider using some open space money to pay some of our open space debt.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 2 (continued):

Mr. Venza stated that we don't have an excess of money anywhere and you're talking about an aggressive move to pay off our debt in four years. Councilman Carelli said it is less than the \$600,000 we were paying last year. We recommended lowering it to \$400,000 and it was lowered to \$300,000. I would like to get it back up to \$400,000. Mr. Venza asked where he proposed that money is going to come from. Mayor Budesheim stated that any increase next year would be through tax increases. Councilman Carelli stated that it would all be a tax increase because debt service is not under the cap and unfortunately taxpayers would have to pay the brunt of that in addition to any other increases we have. Mr. Venza then stated that this is the fourth month that the Council is acting in direct opposition to the bylaws. He asked what the opposition is to the bylaws as currently written. Councilman Carelli stated that the bylaws from 1976 were never formally adopted by any council so the bylaws in play are from 1955. We are actively working on them.

Joseph Petracca, Highland Avenue, stated that during the last storm his neighbors brush was chipped and his was not. He also spoke regarding his property taxes being raised and not being able to use his land. He stated he is being miserably mistreated. Borough Attorney Oostdyk advised Mr. Petracca that he knows the tax appeal has to be heard in Morris County. This body has no control over the assessment. Mr. Petracca stated that this body changed the zoning and his land is not usable. He said that every town has beautiful homes on the mountain except this one. You allowed building by the river and it flooded horrible.

There being no further comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to close the public session.

ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol J. Talerico, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk