

The regular 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 Budesheim presiding.

**ROLL CALL: Present: Astarita, Carelli, Mastrangelo, Revis, Wetzel, Guis
Absent: None**

Also Present: Fire Chief Sturm

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED:

Regular Meeting - March 17, 2014
Workshop Meeting - April 7, 2014

Councilwoman Wetzel set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to approve the above listed minutes as read.

ALL IN FAVOR

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO 1:

There being no comments, Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, that the public portion be closed.

ALL IN FAVOR.

ORDINANCES:

- 1) Councilman Mastrangelo set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to introduce the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

ORDINANCE 04-2014

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 168, "ZONING" OF THE REVISED
GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE**

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Carelli, Mastrangelo, Revis, Wetzel, Guis
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

COPY OF ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 41-A

- 2) Councilman Mastrangelo set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, to introduce the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

ORDINANCE 05-2014

**CALENDAR YEAR 2014 ORDINANCE TO EXCEE THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

ORDINANCES (continued):

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** Astarita, Carelli, Mastrangelo, Revis, Wetzel, Guis
 Nays: None
 (6 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

COPY OF ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 42-B**INTRODUCTION OF 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:**

Mayor Budesheim asked for a motion to introduce the budget.

Thereupon, Councilman Mastrangelo set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, **RESOLVED**, for introduction of the 2014 Municipal Budget.

Councilman Carelli interrupted roll call stating that he wished to have a discussion on the budget prior to the vote.

Councilman Carelli stated that he challenged the Council at the last meeting and passed out an alternate budget that represented a zero tax increase and is disappointed that he didn't hear from many people. One of the most important things we do is our budget and the tax increase for our residents. Mayor Budesheim stated that he didn't agree with it. Councilman Carelli stated that he is trying to right by the residents. We've inconvenienced them enough; spread our offices all over five different towns. I don't think it's unreasonable to have a zero increase for one year. Councilman Astarita stated that when we tried to move a zero tax budget in the past the following year we had a larger tax increase. Councilman Guis stated that nothing really changed in the alternate budget. We're moving some money out of Open Space to fund Open Space projects that we've financed. That's what it's there for and there's still plenty of money in that account to accomplish anything we've talked about doing. Mayor Budesheim disagreed. He told the Council that we had extraordinary expenses at Glenburn with renters because of abuse and damage at the Community Center. The Mayor described some of the damage and said that if you want those things fixed its coming out of Open Space. Councilman Carelli said those kind of things come out of Buildings and Grounds. We have \$200,000 in that account and it's not going to cost \$100,000 to fix all these things. Discussion on the budget continued and Councilman Carelli and Mayor Budesheim continued to disagree.

Fire Chief Dan Sturm asked if he could speak from the audience. Mayor Budesheim stated that he could. Chief Sturm stated that the Council is about to introduce a budget and he really doesn't know what his budget is. I'm the head of two departments and I haven't been spoken to about some major things we have going on. One is the capital budget and I have about \$30,000 in repairs needed at the firehouse and I would like to be heard so we can plan together. In the next two years I'm going to need a minimum of \$55,000 for new air packs. Starting next year we need to spend more than twice our budget. Before budgets are approved and adopted I think department heads should be spoken with. Mayor Budesheim stated that he agreed but this would be out of the capital budget. Chief Sturm stated that with six new members there will be training plus gear that won't be lasting five years. Most of it may come out of capital but I would like to know that. We don't need to be talking about this here but it should have been discussed already. In my OEM budget I probably have \$3,000 like last year but we need supplies and equipment to run that department to go with the plan we just made. I want to be sure everybody knows what we're all faced with.

Councilwoman Wetzel asked Mayor Budesheim how, when we've lost so many employees including the Clerk at a rather large salary, does the budget you're presenting not reflect a savings with those salaries being taken out. Mayor Budesheim stated that

INTRODUCTION OF 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET (continued):

every time we did a shared service he made it very clear that this money wasn't being used for lowering taxes or lowering spending. It was to make those monies available for those departments that I believe are essential services. I've said it at every single meeting; it's for Police, Fire, First Aid and our Road Department. Those are the essential services and in order to maintain them and protect them that they will be here I will share the non-essential services. The Police Chief will tell you that things are going great in that department now. The morale is up, productivity is up and his comment to me the day after the last meeting was that this will send us backwards if this happens and he loses this money. Councilman Carelli asked why. We go by rhetoric and comments but where are the numbers wrong? Mayor Budesheim responded that he doesn't have the CFO's figures with him.

Councilman Astarita asked if there is going to be more debate on this because he will withdraw the motion.

Keith Hamilton, 14 Van Dyne Avenue, stated that he wished to comment as a taxpayer. The Mayor stated that the shared services savings was to be put toward emergency services and infrastructure and I find it challenging that you are going to pass a budget that the head of one of our emergency services has had no input or insight to. As a taxpayer, the fact that a budget was presented and was going to be accepted when there was an alternative; you owe it to the taxpayers of the town to evaluate both and go line by line if you have to, but put forth what's best. It seems like there's just personal interest going back and forth. If we're cutting services I don't see why I should have to pay more in taxes. Additionally, what I heard about the Glenburn Estate and the Community Center, I've rented and part of the process is leaving a \$500 deposit. If people are destroying things then we have to hold them accountable – not the people of the town. Additionally, I would think we'd have some level of insurance coverage on that. For anybody voting on the budget today, if there are alternatives they haven't been evaluated thoroughly. As a taxpayer I sit out there and I see bickering instead of saying let's put the two budget together and go line by line and figure this out.

Tom Batelli, Canella Way, stated that there should be only one budget presented and they should have all discussed this budget before they introduce it.

Councilman Astarita stated that what happened is a budget was distributed and at the last minute there was another budget.

Councilman Carelli stated that it was distributed at the last workshop meeting. I passed out two versions and I asked for feedback. Nobody gave any input. It wasn't a last minute thing.

An unidentified audience member asked how you can have a budget without talking to the Chief of the Fire Department. Mayor Budesheim stated that usually the Finance Committee does that. Councilman Carelli stated that usually the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee should present the budget and speak with him.

Councilman Astarita asked if we were going to table the budget until we have more discussion. Mayor Budesheim said we should vote on it. It can be amended before adoption which is a month from now.

Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated there will be a public hearing on the budget.

Mayor Budesheim asked the Clerk for a roll call.

INTRODUCTION OF 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET (continued):

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** Astarita, Carelli, Mastrangelo, Revis
 Nays: Wetzel, Guis
 (4 ayes – 2 nays – motion carried)

Councilman Carelli stated that he voted yes only because he wants to move the process forward. There is an opportunity to make amendments before the public hearing and adoption and I would like to have some more discussion to do that.

Public Hearing and Adoption scheduled for May 19, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. To be published in the Suburban Trends Newspaper on Sunday, May 4, 2014.

COPY OF 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 44-C**RESOLUTIONS:**

Mayor Budesheim stated that we should put off voting on the playground equipment to make sure there will be money in the budget. A discussion ensued.

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

- 1) Payment of Claims. (including the following):
 - a. May Newsletter A&E o/e \$935.85
- 2) **Resolution No. 40-2014;** Approval of a Liquor License Person to Person, Transfer from Golden Sakura, Inc. to Daniel J. Salameo, Jr. (This is a pocket license).
- 3) Appointment of Linda Forbes as Interim Acting Registrar of Vital Statistics effective April 1, 2014 at the salary of \$244.33 per month, until a Municipal Clerk/Registrar is appointed.
- 4) Authorizing the purchase of new playground equipment for Freedom Park at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** Astarita, Carelli, Mastrangelo, Revis, Wetzel, Guis
 Nays: None
 (6 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 44-D AND E**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1) Purchase of DOT Property located at the Magnus Tract from the DOT for an amount of \$15,000 to \$16,000 – discussed at the October 7th workshop meeting.
- 2) Adoption of Wanaque Borough's fee schedule by ordinance per the Department of Community Affairs notice that this is required for all Shared Services Agreements per Uniform Construction Code Statute #5:23-4.17e. (email sent to governing body and borough attorney regarding this on January 23, 2014 explaining the telephone call the clerk received from the DCA)

No discussion took place.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Budesheim reported that Lt. James McIntosh was sworn in last Wednesday and we will have a ceremonial swearing in at the next meeting. He also reported that we need

MAYOR REPORT:

a signatory for Lincoln Financial Group for the LOSAP program. I need a motion to authorize the Deputy Clerk to be the signatory so that we can get this moving.

Thereupon, Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzell, to authorize the Deputy Clerk to be the signatory for the borough Lincoln Financial plans.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Deputy Clerk Forbes asked if this means she will be handling all of the Lincoln Financial plans. Mayor Budesheim stated it is just to be the signatory on the account. Pat Cleary said that someone has to represent the borough as plan administrator. Carol Talerico was handling this for the LOSAP and all of the communications would come through her from Lincoln. Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that it sounds like this is more than a signatory. What you're describing sounds like it's someone doing the administration. Ms. Forbes stated that there is also more than just the LOSAP. It's also the employee deferred compensation retirement plan and Carol was the plan administrator. Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that there aren't rules of eligibility. The problem is it seems to be connected with somebody administering it who feels that they have the experience and ability to administer it. The Deputy Clerk is questioning whether that's really in the realm of what she does. Councilman Guis stated that the Mayor is functioning as our administrator and asked the Mayor if he would have a problem being the plan administrator. Mayor Budesheim stated he did not.

Thereupon, Councilman Guis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Mastrangelo, to authorize Mayor Budesheim to be the signatory and plan administrator for the borough Lincoln Financial plans.

ALL IN FAVOR.

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT: No report.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT:

Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated he has a matter for closed session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Mastrangelo reported that we got our approval for certification for OEM. A lot of people did a lot of hard work for this.

Dan Sturm stated that the certification is good for four years. We were accepted by the NJ State OEM to receive a 5 ton army surplus vehicle that we had bid on. We will take possession on Wednesday. It will be used for evacuation and/or fire protection in the flooded areas.

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilman Guis reported that there are two items that need to be addressed. One is Streets and Roads. We've been getting DOT grants to improve a lot of our streets but we have some residential streets that probably won't qualify for grants. We have to start budgeting money each year or we will end up in trouble on lot of these back roads. The other is the Water Department. Our problem is manpower but we have to start exercising valves. Every valve in the town should be opened and closed at least once a year. There is also one item with personnel that the Mayor will discuss.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued):

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Councilwoman Wetzel congratulated Krista Osborne and the Recreation Committee for a job well done at the egg hunt yesterday. I took the opportunity to reach out to some residents there to try to get a volunteer list together for installation of the playground. I will set a meeting with the DPW to determine an installation date. We discussed field information at the last meeting. Since we haven't made any determination about that I will hand the paperwork off to the Mayor until we come up with a figure. I don't know that I can invest much more time into that without any definitive information with regard to fee schedules.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Astarita reported that he did a walk through the Fire Department with the Chief and it needs substantial work. I am going to walk through the other buildings in town and see what's necessary to keep them up so we can work on a capital improvement plan.

PERSONNEL: Councilman Revis reported that we have another six days or so for the ad to run on the League of Municipalities website. Once we have received all of the applicants – I think we've gotten two so far – we'll meet as a committee and decide what the next step will be as far as filling the position of Clerk.

Mayor Budesheim stated that it can be very popular to say let's keep the taxes from going up. Nobody is more against taxes than I am and I've got a record to show that. To cut or freeze taxes without cutting spending is not right. Reducing our debt service seems to be the area we go to first in trying to balance our budget and we see all levels of government do that. We are so close to being debt free. Within two years we should be debt free. As you can hear we've got a lot of capital projects on the horizon. We haven't had a road program in town in 20 years and that costs money. We have about \$800,000 between the water department and the general budget that we spend on debt service. Last year was over \$30,000 in interest just on that debt service. Ideally if we could pay off our debt and use that money for capital improvements we would never have to borrow money again. That's my goal. Speaking to the Chief and the CFO they felt that taking the money out of the Police Department would not have been a wise move. The debt service I'm totally against. You see we need more money in Fire Department. We're down three DPW workers. One was fired a few weeks ago and one quit today. At \$13.55 an hour you're not going to get the highest quality of people. The worker who quit today has his fourth child on the way and at \$13.55 an hour he can't do it. He's going to Pequannock where they pay \$17.75 an hour. Butler starts at \$18.00 an hour. One other town around here is \$20.00 an hour to start. I would like to see us increase everybody's salary in the DPW across the board \$1.50 an hour. They're the lowest paid employees in town. It's getting harder to fill the position. They don't last and you don't get the best workers. It's another thing I'd like the Council to consider. We could bank this 2% increase but next year are we going to go up 4% to get caught up to where we should have been? I'd rather do the 2% each year until we get to be debt free. At that point, we start funding our capital improvement fund and then you would have real dollars to cut spending. I'm trying to take an even approach to what we have confronting us right now.

Councilman Carelli stated that I want to say I'm with you on that. I'm glad you're looking at some other things. As I said, we cut some money out of the Police but it won't affect the things they need to do. I've never been opposed to adding salaries to the public works. I tried to start a conversation two weeks ago and nothing happened. If we lost two weeks and we can start it now then that's great.

Councilman Guis stated that he is in favor of increasing the DPW salaries and asked if it would be across the board. Mayor Budesheim stated he would like to raise the minimum to \$15.00 an hour now and then we can evaluate the whole department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued):

Thereupon, Councilman Guis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli, to increase the starting salary for DPW Laborer A to \$15.00 per hour.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Astarita, Carelli, Mastrangelo, Revis, Wetzel, Guis**
 Nays: None
 (6 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

CLOSED SESSION – LITIGATION

Councilman Mastrangelo set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, RESOLVED that the Council go into closed session to discuss a matter of potential litigation.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Closed session being completed, the meeting returns to public session.

ROLL CALL: **Present: Astarita, Carelli, Mastrangelo, Revis, Wetzel, Guis**
 Absent: None

Councilwoman Wetzel stated that she wants to respond to what Keith Hamilton said with regard to the fees and damages done to the Glenburn and Community Center. Those facilities are supposed to be generating money and certainly not costing us money. If that is a major issue then that should be readdressed and either adjust the fees or make sure the penalties are being paid by those individuals accountable. It certainly should not come out of the pockets of the taxpayers. This is the first I heard any of those things mentioned and it should be addressed immediately.

Councilman Guis asked for clarification of the fees and deposits. Councilwoman Wetzel replied that there is a fee and a separate \$500 deposit that is held in case any damage is done. There is a cleanup fee but if the place is cleaned that fee is refunded. If the fees we're charging now are not substantial enough then that has to be addressed. Why would we be incurring all of these expenses for damages? I hope the money that is being withheld is being applied to those repairs. Councilman Astarita suggested a deposit be taken from every vendor who utilizes the facilities. Councilman Guis suggested we initiate an attempt to go after the people who caused the damage. Mayor Budesheim said that it goes beyond that. The damage to the bathrooms at the Community Center is being done by a youth group. It's a recurring problem. It's vandalism. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that certainly then they cannot be allowed use of the facility. Councilman Astarita stated that there has to be a process where after every use somebody has to inspect before the funds are released. If I am around I'll go and inspect and document damage.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO 2:

An unidentified audience member commented on the damage caused to the circuit breaker at the Glenburn.

There being no further comments, Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli that the public portion be closed.

ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda C. Forbes, R.M.C.
Deputy Municipal Clerk