

December 15, 2014

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, Wetzol, Guis
Absent: None**

Also Present: Police Chief Smith

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED:

Workshop Meeting - December 1, 2014

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

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Carelli, Mastrangelo, Revis, Guis
Nays: None
Abstain: Wetzol
(5 ayes – 0 nays – 1 abstention - motion carried)**

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION NO 1:

Keith Hamilton, 14 Van Duyne Avenue, made a presentation to Councilpersons Guis and Wetzol on behalf of the citizens of Riverdale. He said that we've been fortunate to have two very great individuals represent our town and work in the best interest of our town and thanked them for their service

Dave Desai, 22 Cotluss Road, read a prepared statement to the Council. He stated that many citizens have become concerned over the apparent dysfunction that exists in the borough hall. He cited the Doctrine of Incompatibility. Our Mayor, with the support of Council, assumed the role and responsibilities typically assigned to a Borough Administrator and became a full time Mayor with a full time salary. In a Borough form of government an administrator is subordinate and answerable to the Mayor and Council. If the Mayor assumes this role, accountability is compromised and the public suffers. For this reason I am making a formal request to undo the incompatible arrangement of the office of Mayor performing the role as a Borough Administrator. It is further requested that the duties of the office of Mayor from this point forward be confined to those defined by statute. Mr. Desai then distributed supporting documents and his suggestions to the Council.

Glenn Venza, 14 Macopin Avenue, told Mr. Desai that our town does not have a position titled "Borough Administrator". Until borough administrators started becoming popular, the Mayor did all of those duties and that is what our Mayor was elected to do and that is what he is doing.

Keith Hamilton, 14 Van Duyne Avenue, stated that his understanding is we do have a position of Borough Administrator but we just don't have that position filled. He asked if that was correct.

Mayor Budesheim responded that he is not correct. He told Mr. Hamilton that no position has ever been created for Borough Administrator and that putting it in the salary ordinance does not create a position.

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

ALL IN FAVOR

ORDINANCES:

- 1) Public Hearing and Adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE 12-2014

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 126 ENTITLED "PEACE AND GOOD ORDER" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE.

The Municipal Clerk read the notice for the second reading and final adoption.

Mayor Budesheim announced that this Ordinance was open for public participation.

Glenn Venza, 14 Macopin Avenue, stated that ordinance pertains to things that make noise and not people that make noise. He asked if we should have that as well. Borough Attorney Oostdyk responded that if it rose to the level of disturbing the peace then it would probably be enforceable.

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

ALL IN FAVOR

Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Revis, **RESOLVED** that Ordinance No. 12-2014 as read on second reading at this meeting, be adopted and finally passed.

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. 114-A

RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor Budesheim stated that if we could adjust our meeting schedule so our new Municipal Clerk could attend every meeting it would benefit him and the town. Council was not opposed to meeting on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

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

- 1) Payment of Claims (including the following):
 - a. RFM Printing - January Newsletter - A&E o/e \$ 935.85
- 2) Approval of release of the following escrow funds:
 - a. Account 010672 – \$500.00 – DJ & PG Assoc.
- 3) **Resolution No. 71-2014;** Approval of a Tower Lease Agreement with the North Jersey Police Radio Association Inc. for utilization of Emergency Communication Repeater by the Riverdale Police Department.

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RESOLUTIONS (continued):

- 4) **Resolution No. 72-2014;** Approval of an I.T. Maintenance and Support Agreement with Law Soft, Inc. for the Riverdale Police Department.
- 5) **Resolution No. 73-2014;** Refund of Taxes – Block 40, Lot 5.01, Creskill Hills, LLC (BJ's), Year 2011 - \$8,667.03, Year 2012 - \$14,880.25, Year 2013 - \$26,863.53, Year 2014 - \$32,821.99 – Reason: Tax Appeal
- 6) **Resolution No. 74-2014;** Transfer of Appropriations
- 7) **Resolution No. 75-2014;** Cancellation of Prior Year Outstanding Checks
- 8) **Resolution No. 76-2014;** Cancellation of Various Balances
- 9) Authorizing the appointment of Jeffrey Demarest as part time dispatcher at the rate of \$13.00 per hour.
- 10) Authorizing the appointment of David Hanf as Class II Special Officer effective at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.
- 11) Approval of intent to purchase Riverdale Parcel VX16B1C from the NJDOT for municipal parking at a cost of \$10,800.00 effective January 2015.
- 12) Scheduling of the 2015 Reorganization Meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2014 at 7:00 PM.
- 13) Approval of the following payment:
 - a. Borough of Butler - Postage & Expenses (water/sewer/tax) - \$4,792.83

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

COPY OF BILLS LIST IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 115-B, C, D, E, F, G AND H**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1) Riverdale Road Sewer Pump House.
- 2) Mathews Avenue water tower telemetry system.

No discussion took place.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Budesheim reported that Push to Walk is applying for a Community Development Block Grant under Public Facilities. This would not be in competition with anything the borough is applying for. One of the requirements is for this to be brought up at a local public meeting and authorizing them to move forward.

Thereupon, Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Mastrangelo, authorizing Mayor Budesheim to sign the Push to Walk Community Development Block Grant application.

ALL IN FAVOR

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT: No report.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued):

PUBLIC WORKS: No report.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: No report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Astarita reported on the borough hall reroofing project. They hope to complete the roof by the end of the week.

PERSONNEL: Councilman Revis stated that he would like Council approval on the Employee Handbook which was distributed to all council members in November. Councilman Carelli stated that the line "All members of the governing body and eligible members of their families shall be entitled to hospitalization and major medical insurance coverage as provided by the Borough to eligible Borough employees." under Health Benefits should be removed. Mayor Budesheim stated that he would remove it.

Thereupon, Councilman Revis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Mastrangelo, to approve the Employee Handbook dated December 1, 2004 and revised January 1, 2015, with the amendment as stated by Councilman Carelli.

ALL IN FAVOR

Councilman Revis requested that the salary ordinance be put on the agenda for first reading and discussion at the first meeting in January. He also reported that Mr. Jalloh and Mr. Homsy completed Certified Municipal Registrar training.

Councilman Astarita thanked Councilwoman Wetzel and Councilman Guis for their service. He said that these are two dedicated councilmembers who are leaving office and they did a whole lot for the borough.

Councilwoman Wetzel stated that she'd like to take this time to say goodbye and thank you to the citizens of Riverdale. The support and encouragement I've received for all these years has been a gift and I truly feel privileged to have served the public for so long. As with any long term relationship there have been good times and bad but I'm proud to say, despite the controversies and uphill battles, I've stayed true to the residents and have always tried to represent them in a manner in which their voices were heard. When I began as a Rec volunteer my daughters were two and four. After eight years with Rec I was asked to run for a council seat. They were ten, ten and fourteen. Now they're adults with homes and families of their own and they're all here tonight as well as their spouses and children. They sacrificed a lot of family time with me so I could be an active member of our community. I could not have done this without their support and with the support of my husband. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. In closing, I would like to thank all of the departments and the people who I worked with over the years. They've made my job easier on so many occasions. I hope that all of the community events that I chaired for so many years will continue because those are the things that make a small town continue to feel like a close knit community. It's not always all about the big stuff. It's the little things that are important, too, and I hope people remember that. Lastly, I urge more people to come out and participate in council meetings. It's important to keep yourself abreast of what is going on in our town and to hold your governing body accountable and know what direction your town is going in. Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION NO 2:

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

ALL IN FAVOR

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Mayor Budesheim thanked Councilman Guis and Councilwoman Wetzal for their service:

“Ted, you came on the Council the same night I become Mayor. Over the years we’ve worked together on so many projects and I did learn a lot from you. You’ve made invaluable contributions to the town. I really, truly enjoyed working with you and I thank you for all that you’ve done.”

“Elaine, I’ve worked with you on so many projects that you brought starting with the summer concerts which have been one of the highlights of the summers here in Riverdale. We’ve had literally thousands upon thousands of people attending these free concerts. The street fair that you’ve been running all these years, again it’s another highlight in the year. When we have the street fair it’s one of the best attended in the area. Of course, your persistence in getting us the world trade center memorial is a tribute to all those who died and perished that day. I’ve enjoyed working with you, especially on all those projects. I could always count on you to tell it like it is. Whether we wanted to hear it or not, you told us like it was and that was always refreshing. Again, thank you for your years of service. I believe it’s been 21 years you’ve served on the Council. Thank you very much.”

CLOSED SESSION – POTENTIAL LITIGATION

Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, 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.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Abubakar T. Jalloh
Municipal Clerk