

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of East Hanover held on Monday, August 3, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 411 Ridgedale Avenue, East Hanover, New Jersey.

The Clerk called the meeting to order.

Present: Councilmen Tedesco, Jocher, DeRosa, Council President Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

Also Present: Township Attorney Matthew O'Donnell, Administrator Joseph Tempesta, Jr., Clerk Marilyn Snow, and Deputy Clerk Paula Massaro

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Jocher gave the Invocation.

Mayor Pannullo read the Public Announcement in which he stated that the meeting had been advertised, the press notified, and the notice posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

The Mayor acknowledged the Township's new Administrator Joseph Tempesta.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

1. Mario Accumanno, 44 Cutter Drive, addressed an ongoing concern with regard to the Library's surplus. He pointed out that the next meeting would be the deadline for approving a referendum to change the status of the Library and, therefore, requested the Council's consideration in this regard. He believed that the surplus could fund school programs.

2. Al Farese, 53 Surrey Lane, voiced concerns and dissatisfaction with Board of Education issues. The Mayor once again told Mr. Farese that the Council had no control in Board of Education matters and advised him to attend board meetings.

3. Chris Coccia, local Realtor, spoke in regard to the new sign ordinance that no longer allowed temporary signs. The Administrator explained that the ordinance was actually put into effect last year but was never enforced by the Zoning

Department. Mr. Coccia requested that the Council amend the ordinance to provide for real estate directional signs. Council President Jandoli recommended an annual registration fee; the Mayor advised that the ordinance would be looked into.

4. Malcolm Macdonald, 691 Ridgedale Avenue, commented on the airport site. He was aware of a presentation that was on the agenda for a proposed recreational facility. Mr. Macdonald provided documented information pertaining to toxic and environmental issues at the site. He indicated that in the past potential developers were denied because of these known impediments and strongly expressed that the property was not suitable for any development.

5. Joanne Macdonald, 691 Ridgedale Avenue, referenced a letter sent to the Township from the County Engineer in connection with an archeological report for the proposed Ridgedale Avenue realignment near the airport site. Essentially, she summarized the report stating that researchers have suggested that a portion of the parcel contained a prehistoric ossuary of human remains of early Native Americans. Importantly, it was noted by Mrs. Macdonald as well as the Council that American Indian groups would have to be consulted before any building commenced.

Motion by Councilman DeRosa, seconded by Councilman Tedesco to close the public input.

Ayes: Councilmen Tedesco, Jocher, DeRosa, Council President Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

The Mayor announced that Council Input would be held later on in the agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been referred to members of the Township Council for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Township Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council action and placed on the regular agenda under new business.

Motion by Council President Jandoli, seconded by Councilman Jocher to remove Resolution No. 81-2009 for separate discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Tedesco, Jocher, DeRosa, Council President Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

82-2009 - Resolution Re: Application for Municipal Alliance Grant for 2010 in the amount of \$10,878

83-2009 - Resolution Re: Agreement with The Land Conservancy of New Jersey for the Provision of Open Space Services

Motion by Council President Jandoli, seconded by Councilman DeRosa to adopt the foregoing resolutions.

Ayes: Councilmen Tedesco, Jocher, DeRosa, Council President Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

**81-2009 - Resolution Re: Developer's Agreement - 2 West Ridgedale Avenue, LLC**

Council President Jandoli removed the resolution from the consent agenda in order to clarify the developer's agreement. The Administrator explained that all review processes were completed. Mr. O'Donnell indicated that this was a standard agreement memorializing the terms between the developer, Susan Marra d/b/a Angelo's Deli, and the Township.

Motion by Council President Jandoli, seconded by Councilman DeRosa to adopt said resolution.

Ayes: Councilmen Tedesco, Jocher, DeRosa, Council President Jandoli, and Mayor Pannullo

**COMMUNICATIONS & DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

• **Presentation: Dr. John Wolkstein - EH Airport and Recreational Use**

Dr. John Wolkstein, a Livingston resident and owner of Pyramid Fitness in West Orange, presented a conceptual plan for a sports, recreation and wellness center on the airport site. He stated there was a great need in the community for indoor and outdoor passive recreation. This facility would provide a venue for recreation departments, schools, special needs groups, and other non-profit organizations. Importantly, Dr. Wolkstein noted that this facility would generate revenue to the Township by leasing the land and also, there would be the opportunity to have youth activities in a safe structured environment.

Councilman DeRosa said that he actually introduced the Council to this concept after meeting Dr. Wolkstein and visiting his wellness center. He believed this type of complex would benefit the community if it met all standards of testing and if it generated money back into our coffers. Councilman Tedesco echoed Councilman DeRosa's remarks and said there was a great need for athletic fields.

Council President Jandoli raised a concern with traffic impact, but definitely the primary concern was environmental contamination on the property.

The following residents commented:

- Amy DiBartolo, 27 Ward Place
- Barbara Keating, 13 Barnida Drive
- Richard Greenberg, 11 Edgemont Road
- John DePola, 14 Queensbridge Drive
- John Deep, 3 Gregory Lane
- Carl Vidal, 354 Ridgedale Avenue
- Malcolm Macdonald, 691 Ridgedale Avenue

An inquiry was brought up concerning the acquisition of the property. The Council's understanding was that the amount was originally bonded with the intent that it would be purchased with federal or state open space funds. Councilman DeRosa pointed out that this issue was presently being researched. The Council was aware that there was the possibility of a referendum if the property was purchased with open space grant funds.

The Mayor excused himself from the meeting at 8:05 P.M. due to a prior family commitment; Council President Jandoli presided over the meeting.

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

Councilman Jocher gave a First Aid Squad report. He thanked Novartis for supporting the summer concerts. Councilman Jocher also announced that the Fire Department's annual fund drive was underway.

Councilman DeRosa was pleased to welcome the new Administrator. In regard to Dr. Wolkstein's presentation, Councilman DeRosa opined that he supported looking into this project because it could bring in revenue, and clearly, he would

not put any child in an unsafe environment. Lastly, he gave a monthly Police Department report.

Councilman Tedesco echoed Councilman DeRosa's comments regarding Dr. Wolkstein's presentation and likewise supported looking into the plan. He gave a Recreation Department report and mentioned the popular summer concerts.

Council President Jandoli conveyed the concerns from the residents of Eagle Ridge Condos with regard to installing crosswalks in the vicinity since a pedestrian was recently struck by a car. She advised that a meeting was scheduled with the County Department of Transportation in order to remedy the situation. Council President was pleased to report that she presented swim awards to 87 students in the community and also, the annual Mutts' Mania would be held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter. Council President Jandoli announced that a meeting would be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> in regard to the PSE&G power lines project and encouraged residents to attend. Lastly, she gave accolades to Chris Manak, Chairman of the Environmental Commission, regarding his hard work in this effort.

Chris Manak commented on his lengthy communication dated July 8, 2009 to the Board of Public Utilities supporting the Council's opposition to the project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Motion by Councilman DeRosa, seconded by Council President Jandoli to pay bills in the amount of \$1,672,988.32.

Ayes: Councilmen Tedesco, Jocher, DeRosa, and Council President Jandoli

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Councilman Jocher, seconded by Councilman Tedesco to adjourn meeting.

Ayes: Councilmen Tedesco, Jocher, DeRosa, and Council President Jandoli

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

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PAULA A. MASSARO  
Deputy Clerk

We attest these minutes to be true and correct:

\_\_\_\_\_ MAYOR PANNULLO

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNCIL PRESIDENT JANDOLI

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNCILMAN DEROSA

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNCILMAN JOCHER

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNCILMAN TEDESCO