

Public Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on April 11, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Meeting was held at the Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Avenue, Ridgefield, New Jersey.

Mayor Suarez stated that this meeting of the Mayor and Council is being conducted pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of the meeting has been given by publishing notice in The Record. Furthermore, notice was posted in the Borough of Ridgefield Municipal Building.

Roll Call: Mayor Suarez, Councilmen Castelli, Todd, Vincentz, Severino, Acosta and Jimenez were present

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Suarez asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for those residents who have passed away since the last meeting.

Karen Reide presented Environmental Commission Earth Day Poster Contest Winners

Mayor Suarez asked if anyone had comments on tonight's agenda.

No one came forward.

Correspondence:

The Health Fair at Bergen Town Centers will be held on May 25, 2011; received the March monthly report from Fire Prevention for \$625; received some resignations from the Rent Leveling Board and we will be required to fill these spots; opening day for RBAO will be April 16th; report for the Police Dept activity for March 2011 in his office; March Municipal Court report totaling \$84,505.83

Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2010 Public Session Meeting, September 13, 2010 Public Session Meeting and September 27, 2010 Public Session Meeting – APPROVED [A. Severino Abstained from August 9, 2010; H. Jimenez Abstained from all]

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2167 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 333-33, STORMWATER DISCHARGE AND SUMP PUMPS, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD”

Entertain motion to declare the time for the public hearing to be declared open

Public Hearing

Entertain motion to declare the time for the public hearing to be declared closed
Final Reading of Ordinance

Councilman Vincentz would like to know if his questions from last meeting were addressed or investigated; “Originally we had discharge going into drainage seepage pits and the overflow was going into the streets, but the original ordinance only address a dry well or storm sewer for discharge of a sump-pump, he would like to know if there was any consideration given to changing the wording back to the original ordinance and limiting to go inlet or a seepage pits; Councilman Acosta stated that he spoke to Armand Marini and believes the wording is alright as is. Councilman Acosta asked Armand about the overflow of the seepage pits, he believes it doesn’t matter; people are using sump-pumps and shooting the water out.

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2168 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 208 PERTAINING TO CONTAINERS FOR WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL”

Entertain motion to declare the time for the public hearing to be declared open

Public Hearing

Entertain motion to declare the time for the public hearing to be declared closed

Final Reading of Ordinance

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2169 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 172 ENTITLED “DUMPING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD”

First Reading of Ordinance

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2170 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 375-52 DESIGNATING HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES”

First Reading of Ordinance

Councilman Vincentz wanted to clarify: when a handicapped sign is located in front of a residence; according to the police, it is available for anyone handicapped to park there not just the person from that residence.

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2171 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REVERSION TO A CALENDAR YEAR PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-3.2(b)”

First Reading of Ordinance

Steven Wielkotz stated that this allows no municipal increase in taxes for four quarters. It creates a lot more transparency in terms of the tax rate actually meaning something, if a taxpayer wants to know their taxes, you take your tax value multiply by the total tax rate and that is what you pay. Mr. Wielkotz believes it's more difficult when it's fiscal year because the county would set the tax rate on a calendar year but your budget would be on a fiscal year; therefore now with the change over the process would be a lot clearer for the taxpayer. Included in the application is a first draft of a pro- forma six month budget for the transition year from July 1- to December 31,2011, you're not introducing the budget, your not voting on the budget and your not locked into the budget. This is just the first draft that was put together based all the information at this particular time and this can be changed by the Governing body before the introduction in August. From his understanding currently the Finance Committee is in the process of starting the budget meetings.

The means of the department heads, the means of the council, and the means of the Finance Committee will come up with a document that will be eventually introduced in August, after the fiscal year is closed. Mr. Wielkotz stated that the major plus to this is the change over for the borough of Ridgefield, will be receiving a certain amount of energy tax because of public service, we'll receive 100% state aid in a 6 month budget because while the State pays you over 12 months, before 12 months if you're a calendar year or a fiscal year the state actually disburses the fiscal year to the municipality between July and September of the year. A 6 month budget doesn't require any pension contributions because pension bills aren't due until April.

Steven Wielkotz stated that if you go through the preliminary budget there appropriators to reserve money for tax appeals for a little over \$600,000; revised pages for over million dollars in Capital Improvements fund to allow the flexibility of going out and acquiring some capital equipment for current cash as opposed to authorizing additional debt. This is all subject to change with the vote of the Governing Body at the time of the introduction of the budget. What the State wants in the application, is a first pro-forma of what the budget could look like and will request an 18 month cash flow projection of the upcoming calendar year, which shows your tax position, which will presumably double from July 1st of this year to December 31st of this year. This leads Mr. Wielkotz to believe that you accumulate additional surplus, the 6th month budget does not include any surplus as revenue in the budget. This year in the fiscal year the budget had an estimate \$800,000 in order to supplement the revenue side of the budget. Now you won't need any surplus with a 6 month budget and have no municipal tax increase. The Mayor and Council tonight will be voting on the resolution authorizing the filing of the application to be sent to the State and the introduction of the ordinance to revert back to calendar year, to be authorized and a public hearing on that.

Joe Luppino: stated that we will begin the individual department reviews from the budgets, remember this being the first draft and changes will be made, but the concept of keeping it flat has been kept a reality.

Mayor Suarez asked how many towns in Bergen County are still on the fiscal year. Mr. Wielkotz stated that we might be the last town in Bergen County still on fiscal year.

Councilman Vincentz had questions regarding the budget regarding uniform construction code, the pool, the \$200,000 grant we received and our payments to Kathleen Court and the new Meadowlands two payments we will receiving; commented on the cash flow projection, we're starting out with 2.8 million and ended up with approximately 5.4 million therefore we're generating about a 2.6 million surplus, then if we go to the 12 month revenue we're starting out with 5.4 million and ending up at 4.2 million so we're spending about 1.1 million of the surplus; Mr. Wielkotz stated that could be a possibility, he stated that these were created based on actual receipts disbursements sent over by Joe Luppino over the last three years, this is only to demonstrate to the state and show that we're not looking to create any deficient or any kind of cash flow issue. Councilman Vincentz stated that if we go in the direction that's presented and if we're spending 1.2

million of our surplus each year, we will exhaust in about five years what were trying to build up. Mr. Wielkocz stated that he doesn't agree with that and he would have to do additional analysis, he believes that in the past the borough generated \$600,000 to \$800,000 in surplus on a regular basis and was replenishing that surplus, so this shouldn't be an issue. Councilman Vincentz doesn't agree with Stephen Wielkocz stating that in 2006 the surplus was \$37,000 and cash available was zero. Now it's been built up to 1.4 million through the operation of the budget and his concern is that we will be headed back in the 2006 direction. Also a five year surplus projection should be prepared to help the Mayor and Council in their planning of future budgets. Mr. Wielkocz stated that the only way they'll head back to the 2006 direction is if future Mayor and Councils do not systematically utilize the surplus they accumulate and try to spend it all at once or spend it at all. The Mayor and Council must be prudent with the surplus. With this conversion the surplus is needed to pay bills which now will arrive before the revenue. The surplus is money needed to maintain cash flow otherwise if spent money will need to be borrowed to cover expenses.

Mayor Suarez stated that Councilman Vincentz will have more time to express his concerns and suggested he meet with Councilman Jimenez. Councilman Castelli stated that this is not Councilman Vincentz's only opportunity to speak, this is only a submission to the state. Councilman Vincentz stated that this is the first opportunity he has had to speak on this proposal and that all the issues raised need to be addressed. We should be sending the State our best, most accurate, six month budget projection of both revenue and expenditures

Councilman Todd questioned "the taxes will be stabilized this year but how about the following year"? Stephen Wielkocz responded saying that it all depends on if the State increases the borough's contribution for employees pension for 2012 and depends on if the state reduces state aid, but at the end of the day it will give an significant additional amount of surplus that will offset any of the cost that the governing body has no control over.

Councilman Vincentz asked if this is a good opportunity to conduct a re-assessment. Stephen Wielkocz stated that this would be the perfect time for a re-assessment.

Roll Call on Ordinance No. 2171

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	No
Councilman Vincentz	Abstain
Councilman Severino	No
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2172 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 75-10 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD"

First Reading of Ordinance

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2173 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 92-1, SALARIES, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD"

First Reading of Ordinance

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA:

	Motion:	Second:
145-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Return of Escrow
146-2011	Councilman Castelli	Appoint Chaplain – Ambulance Corps.
147-2011	Councilman Castelli	Authorize to Advertise-Pool Concession
148-2011	Mayor Suarez	Appoint 4 th Alternate to NJ Meadowlands Commission
149-2011	Councilman Acosta	Authorize Sale of Borough Vehicle
150-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Lien Redemption #09-03
151-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Payment of Certain Obligations Prior to Meetings

153-2011	Councilman Acosta	Limousine License
154-2011	Councilman Acosta	2010 Recycling Tonnage Grant
155-2011	Councilman Acosta	2010 Recycling Tonnage Grant Tax Reimbursement
156-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Correcting Resolution No. 132-2011
157-2011	Mayor Suarez	National Infant Immunization Week

Roll Call on Consent agenda

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

RESOLUTIONS:

152-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Authorize ADA Study of Municipal Building and Pool Complex
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Councilman Severino stated that he spoke to Emily from DCA and she informed him that there is no authorized source for ADA compliance to make inspections other than your located Building official. Councilman Severino then stated that Armand Marini has done that for us and no one is more certified than Armand Marini. Councilman Severino doesn't see it necessary to hire someone else that is going to duplicate a service we already have.

Councilman Acosta stated that he spoke to Armand Marini and he refuses to put his name on this and will not approve anything.

Mayor Suarez stated that originally Councilman Severino and Armand Marini spoke and agreed that hiring the outside company was a great idea. Councilman Severino later stated that after being informed by Emily, there are no certified inspectors to make ADA inspections, he finds hiring this outside service unnecessary.

Stephen Pellino stated that the state doesn't offer a certification for an ADA inspector, just as the State doesn't certify a tax lawyer, it's just a specialty.

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	No
Councilman Vincentz	No
Councilman Severino	No
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes
Mayor Suarez	Yes

158-2011 Councilman Jimenez Corrective Action Plan

Joe Luppino stated that some of the salary ordinances, COAH, the political contribution form, the vendors are some of the issues on the Corrective Action Plan.

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

159-2011 Councilman Jimenez Authorize Application to Local Finance Board for Reversion to a Calendar Fiscal Year

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	No
Councilman Vincentz	No
Councilman Severino	No
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes
Mayor Suarez	Yes

160-2011 Councilman Jimenez Warrants

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes, No on check 77964
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

COMMENTS BY MAYOR:

Mayor Suarez stated that on Thursday night at Bergen County Technical School on Route 46 there will be a meeting regarding Crown Carting and encourages everyone to go; stated that Clean-up day was a great success and had a record turn-out;

Coin Toss Application:

Slocum Skewes 8th Grade Class
Saturday, May 7, 2011 (Rain Date May 8, 2011)
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

APPROVED

Slocum Skewes 8th Grade Class
Saturday, May 21, 2011 (Rain Date May 22, 2011)
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

APPROVED

Ridgefield Recreation
Sunday, May 15, 2011
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

APPROVED

Ridgefield Memorial High School Booster Club
Saturday, June 18, 2011
9:00 am-3:00 pm

APPROVED

Application for Special Permit for Social Affair:

Ridgefield Fire Department Hose Co. #1
Saturday, July 9, 2011 – 5:00-10:00 pm
Community Center
725 Slocum Avenue

APPROVED

Permission for Use of Community Center:

Slocum Skewes 8th Grade Class
Car Wash
Sunday, June 5, 2011
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

APPROVED

The Young School and Elementary
End of Year Show
Friday, June 3, 2011
7:00 pm

APPROVED

COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEN:

Councilman Castelli: No comment

Councilman Todd: commented on the success of Clean-up Day; commented on the Crown Carting meeting that is schedule and suggested everyone attend for it will make a major impact.

Councilman Vincentz: thanked everyone for the efforts during Clean-up day

Councilman Severino: stated that this Saturday is opening day for the RBAO baseball league and will start off with a parade.

Councilman Acosta: No comment

Councilman Jimenez: requested that Erik Lenander attend a conference to maintain his certification as purchasing agent at the cost of \$ 375.00 for tuition, travel is \$100.00 and lodging \$150.00- Approved.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS: (All speakers are limited to five minutes maximum per meeting)

Jerry Ross: commented on Crown Carting situation, he hopes that the Mayor and Council would announce to the BCUA, the County of Free Holders and Crown Carting that if the Crown Carting application is approved that Ridgefield intends to take an active enforcement position and intends to make sure that all applicable laws and ordinances such as health, noise, air pollution and high lean vehicles will be enforced as proactively as possible.

Gus Peek: commented on the change over to calendar year; he stated that there is a down fall to switching over to a calendar year. He suggested that the Mayor and Council set up a projector to have residents see what there talking about; also commented on the Borough Hall building and questioned what the governing body's plan is for the building; Mayor Suarez stated that tonight we authorized the study of the building to see if its ADA compliant and what's needed to be done, he stated that if it's not cost efficient than they might have to look into another direction, but if it can be done they will have it done;

Gus Peek also wanted to know the update on restrictive parking overnight, Councilman Castelli stated that the first reading of the ordinance will occur next month.

Nick Lento: commented on the BCUA cancelling their previous meeting, he stated that if this occurs again then an investigation should occur. Nick also stated the importance of everyone in the community attending the meeting this Thursday, and if the meeting goes wrong he hopes that the Mayor and Council will take a more active role, and have a meeting in Ridgefield, invite the BCUA and have an open forum. He stated that this will be a major impact for the town and we need to take some serious action.

Lizbette Gonzalez: Thanked the Council members who attend every BCUA meeting, stated that every resident that will attend Thursday meetings should read the regulations, she's scared that this will move over to the Freeholders and hopes it stops at Thursday BCUA meeting and encourages every member of the community to attend.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00P.M

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Prina
Acting Borough Clerk