

Public Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on February 28, 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, Councilman Castelli, Councilman Todd, Councilman Vincentz, Councilman Severino, Councilman Acosta and Councilman Jimenez are 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.

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

Greg: A representative for ABC towing, stated that he has a personal interest in resolution 113-2011 Towing Licenses; he would like to make the Mayor and Council aware that one of the companies slated for approval doesn't meet every requirement the borough has set forth; he stated imperial towing doesn't fit all the requirements, the requirement is one mile from the borough and they don't meet that one mile requirement.

Mayor Suarez stated for disclosure purposes Route 46 Auto ,Tuminos Auto repair and View towing donated to his legal defense fund. Stephen Pellino recommended that the Council table this and review it to make sure that's in accordance with the ordinance. Councilman Castelli believes that this shouldn't be an issue for the five top candidates have all been towing for the borough for the few years. Mayor Suarez made a motion to table and reviews this ordinance.

Correspondence:

Mayor Suarez stated that there will be a seminar for homeowners on how to appeal property taxes on March 10th;

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2161 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 92 "SALARIES AND COMPENSATION", SECTION 92-1, "SALARIES" TO REDUCE COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BY TEN PERCENT"

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

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2162 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE V OF CHAPTER 333 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD ENTITLED "SEWER CONNECTIONS; MAINTENANCE; WASTE WATER TREATMENT"

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

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2163 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 328 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD ENTITLED "RETAIL BUSINESS HOURS"

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. 2164 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 75 "POLICE DEPARTMENT" TO MODIFY THE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT"

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:
113-2011	Councilman Acosta	Towing Licenses (TABLED)

Roll Call to table

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

114-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Freeze Act 2010 Tax Court Judgment-890 Banta Place
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Roll Call

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

115-2011 Councilman Jimenez Censure

Councilman Jimenez stated that the matter in which it was executive, he stated three council members [REDACTED] didn't take into consideration the borough employees health safety. Councilman Jimenez stated that borough hall employees were told that construction at borough hall would be conducted during "off hours only" nights and weekends; Councilman Jimenez stated that many employees were very uncomfortable. Councilman Todd would like to know if there was is documentation of any borough hall employee being expose to asbestos.

Councilman Castelli stated that the issue was if there was asbestos in the air at the time of the construction. After the test came back the result should there was no any asbestos in the air. Mayor Suarez stated that he has a memo from a Health Dept official regarding notice of violation, "compliance program , failure to identify designate person who is familiar with and is given the responsibility to show compliance to the New Jersey Indoor Air Quality standards, failure to have a written plan describing how it will achieve compliance with regulations which shall include procedures, which address these issue " following a preventative maintenance schedule, keeping required records that are made available to the department employees upon request, updating the maintenance schedule, investigation of employees complaints, responding to employees complainants, notifying employees of work that may include air contamination etc"

Councilman Todd and Councilman Severino stated that after testing was done no asbestos was found.

Councilman Vincentz stated that this is an opportunity to save the tax payers thousands of dollars.

Councilman Severino believes that this is a ploy so this can be used during election time. Councilman Severino stated that no health issue was founded at this time. Councilman Jimenez stated that we received \$45,000 in grants and the tax payers money spent was \$101,000 and borough hall is still not ADA compliance.

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	No

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

RESOLUTIONS:

116-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Audit Recommendation
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Roll Call

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

117-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Warrants
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Councilman Vincentz questioned; under age items and requested that one item can be added 11099 for \$7,500.

Roll Call

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

Councilman Vincentz made a motion that the Mayor and Council will authorize the engagement of engineer; John Bolan , for additional work not to exceed \$5,000 before additional hearing with the BCUA.

Roll Call

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

COMMENTS BY MAYOR:

On February 16 was ‘Founders Night’ at Slocum School which was a huge success; February 21st the Environmental Commission held a bird houses building workshop, over twenty bird houses were built which is a major success and thanked everyone for their hard work and donations; February 22nd was the re-organization for Rent Control and the Environmental Commission, new members were sworn in;

Special Permit for Social Affair:

Ridgefield Lions Club
725 Slocum Avenue
March 5, 2011 – 6:30-11:30 pm

APPROVED

Ridgefield UNICO
725 Slocum Avenue
May 14, 2011 – 5:00 p.m.-12:00 midnight

APPROVED

Raffles License Application:

Ridgefield UNICO
Texas Hold’Em Tournament
725 Slocum Avenue
May 14, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED

Special Olympics New Jersey
50/50
725 Slocum Avenue
April 2, 2011 – 5:30-11:00 pm

APPROVED

COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEN:

Councilman Castelli: Commented on the seminar he attended with Mayor Suarez regarding State Aid which we will be receiving this year; were receiving the same amount as last year, according to some of the conditions, the governor would like us to consider the needs of services and if there needed, sharing aid with school and governing agencies, reviewing employees contractors; taking advantage of all opportunities to reduce cost; Councilman Castelli believes we’ve been trying to achieve these goals all year.

Councilman Todd: Questioned if there will be a Special Planning Board meeting this month, and would like to know if Grand Summit will be on the agenda? Councilman Jimenez stated that it will be held the third Tuesday of this month.

Councilman Vincentz: requested approval from the Mayor and Council that Councilman Severino and himself attend the seminar on March 4th regarding redevelopment-

APPROVED; stated that he would like to post an upcoming event on the message board, the VFW upcoming meeting- APPROVED

Councilman Severino: Stated that he was in favor of the the VFW posting their meeting on the message board as presented by Councilman Vincentz.

Councilman Jimenez: requested approval from the Mayor and Council to attend the core training for the Environmental Commission regarding trees- APPROVED; commented on the resolution that was supposed to remove the civil war memorial and would like to make a motion to remove Councilman Vincentz as chairman of that committee and to install himself as chairman. Remove Councilman Todd as Vice chairman put Councilman Castelli as Vice chairman; his reason is that Councilman Castelli is chairman of recreation and parks committee. Councilman Vincentz expressed issue with Councilman Jimenez motion and stated that he took personal attachment to the work involved regarding this civil matter war.

Motion for Councilman Jimenez to join the committee as Chairman

Roll Call

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

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

Eros Ronchi : commented on a letter the Mayor Suarez wrote on December 2007 regarding senior housing and would like to know from the Mayor why no progress has been made. Mayor Suarez stated that right now we are finically not capable, he is still in favor of senior housing however the the funds are not there at this time. Mr. Ronchi then question the mayor as to why we just paid three thousands dollars to an architect for a new Recreation Center? Councilman Castelli stated that we never spent \$3,000 on a proposed recreation center, he stated that senior housing as to be privately owned, if the borough owns senior housing there will be in a huge financial hole.

Tony VanZwaren: wanted to know if we received any money back regarding the property on Edgewater Ave now that there being rented; also questioned the sidewalks in that area on Edgewater Ave and stated that no one is maintaining the sidewalks when snow is covering them; Mayor Suarez stated that the property owners received summons regarding that matter.

Nick Lento: thanked the Mayor and Council for taking the indicative to re-authorize the engineer to further examine the application regarding the BCUA.

Michael Kees: commented on the Five year mark on the ISO rating and hopes that all the information he provides will lower the cost of insurance within the next two to three months for homeowners.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Prina
Acting Borough Clerk