

A work session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on January 24, 2011 at the Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Avenue, Ridgefield, New Jersey

Call to Order: 5:30 P.M

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

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

Nick Gambardella spoke about PSE&G notifying the DPW regarding replacing some bus stops. Nick Gambardella stated that the Bus stops show some advertisement and there were some negative opinions towards that. Nick Gambardella stated that some surrounding towns have the new bus stops, so he checked them out and stated that they were considerably nice, neat and clean. The only questions he asked was about the advertisement and requested the advertisement would only be approved advertisement. The maintenance was his biggest concern, in the past New Jersey Transit gives you the bus stop and that's it, the borough is responsible for maintaining it, cleaning it and replacing it if it gets wrecked. With the new bus stop PSE&G will maintain the bus stop, they set up the permits, and we will receive 2 % percent cap of what they make. Nick Gambardella suggested that we should look further into this and invite Mr. Scott to a Mayor and Council meeting. Nick Gambardella believes this is a better option than dealing with New Jersey Transit.

Nick Gambardella commented on the proposed sewer lateral changes, and commented on the fact that were currently in the middle of fixing another sewer lateral and we been asking for years for this to be change. The past issue has been who is responsible for the repairs, the borough or the residents. If you're building a new house you should be responsible for the sewer lateral. The ordinance states as of right now it's the borough responsibility. Mayor Suarez stated that he has a memo from DPW dated March 2010 which had a meeting and discussed this issue and believes that we should procedure "property owners are responsible for new or replacement repairs house sewer laterals which is making them totally responsible to the house to the main sewer line to the street, Nick Gamberdella recommends that we change the ordinance to state just that. Mayor Suarez stated that this will be put on the next meeting for ordinance introduction.

Nick Gambardella commented on the bus schedule. He stated that the senior citizens use the bus more than anyone. The last few Mondays the bus only picked four to five passengers to go to the mall and thinks that's ridiculous. He states every other day the seniors are provided the bus for other services and its used to its fullest, Nick suggested that maybe we cut the trip out to the mall and replace it with other services that the Seniors could use.

Nick Gambardella commented on the janitorial services for the borough. He stated that the person that provided these services has just retired therefore they we need to fill that position. He stated that he has a new cleaning service company that would clean borough hall and the community center five days a week and the rest of the buildings once a week. The total cost for the contract for the year would be \$22,300. Nick recommends that we go with this company. Nick stated that this would be a cost saving measurement of \$66,000 if we hire this company. Gary Bonacci stated that his only concern is that the company will be cleaning after all the borough employees leave for the day, he would like to reach out to all the department heads and see if they have any concerns of this company working during off hours. Gary was also concerned that certain employees within the borough receiving 'Rice' notices and suggested that any member of the Mayor and Council not discuss this issue unless they received legal guidance.

Nick stated that Florinda works under Emma Fernandez, she has the same contract, clean all the building but cost the borough a lot more money. Councilman Vincentz stated that she has done an excellent job and never received any complaints. Councilman Acosta stated that this is not personal matter its just a cost saving measurement that will save us over \$60,000. Gary stated that this new service is a great proposal. The council appreciates all her hard work but currently believes going with the new cleaning service is the best way to go. Councilman Jimenez stated that when we hire the new cleaning service they will report to Nick Gambardella.

Councilman Vincentz questioned Nick Gambardella regarding the carnival and the new work that was done on softball field. Councilman Vincentz questioned if we should cordon off the softball field. Nick suggested to the Mayor and Council that he would set down plywood on the new sod field so they can bring in the carnival equipment. Councilman Vincentz had questioned all the gates that will be open during the carnival. Councilman Castelli asked if it feasible to have them bring in the big equipment thru the gates on Edison Street? Nick stated that will wear out that entire area. Councilman Vincentz stated that if the trucks drive straight then the trucks will do minimal damage, Nick stated the trucks aren't the problem as much as the weather. Nick stated he will investigate the best possible way with the least amount of damage to import all the carnival equipment.

Mayor Suarez questioned Councilman Jimenez regarding the VFW sign issue. Councilman Jimenez stated that he has no further update but last he knew they wanted to put up a 3 by 4 foot sign up in front of the Community Center. Councilman Severino stated his only issue is the size of the sign and it's setting precedence for other organization that meet once or twice at the community and will then try to publicize their organization. Councilman Vincentz made a suggestion that when you first enter town there is road side markers announcing the various organizations, the Lions, UNICO and maybe even for the seniors, Councilman Vincentz stated that if were allow that type of format, maybe on the road approaching the community center we would be able to accommodate any group that we approve to put a sign up, it would follow an existing road side marker. He believes it would achieve announcing meetings at the community

center and give the dates and time. Gary Bonacci stated that he believes the VFW is trying to post a sign where residents know that their holding the meetings at the community center with dates and time, Gary Bonacci stated to compromise we could think about what the High School has and have a sign where each organization has their own line and can post the date and time of when there meeting will be held. Councilman Vincentz suggested we use the electronic message boards. He stated the electronic boards shut down late evenings and start up in the early mornings and each posting would have an expiration date. Mayor Suarez requested that Councilman Jimenez have a meeting with VFW before the next Mayor and Council meeting and see what routes they would like to go and then we will try to come to a compromise. Councilman Severino believes that only special events should be posted, he believes that the signs would be loaded up with too many posting if every organization posted every meeting date and time. Councilman Severino suggested that they create one central board in one location where they can post all organizations messages as to the times they meet.

Mayor Suarez commented Application Fees-Board of Adj./Planning Board. Councilman Vincentz stated that the Board of Adjustment recommended these fees and they were research and recommend that they be adopted by the Planning Board. Councilman Vincentz stated that this was a project taken under by the Board of Adjustment to make back adjustments for deficiencies in fees and trust accounts. Mayor Suarez suggested the Planning Board review this at their next meeting.

Mayor Suarez comment on Safargar Properties Sewer Extension Permit and stated that he does not have a conflict, he never represent anyone there. Stephen Pellino stated that he does have a conflict because he has represented them at one time. Councilman Vincentz posed the question; after the Mayor and Council discuss this issue will it have be sent somewhere else for legal review? Stephen Pellino stated that he doesn't believe this will require legal review but if the council was comfortable with that then yes. Councilman Vincentz asked that if the Planning Board can not approve an extension on a sanitary sewer, then how can the Mayor and Council. Stephen Pellino stated that he believes only the DEP can. Stephen Pellino stated that in order to get approval from the DEP you need the Mayor and Council to sign off on it, that's not a Planning Board function. Councilman Vincentz then posed the question to Stephen Pellino "adding to a sanity sewer is not a Planning Board approval then Councilman Vincentz would like to know who makes that approval? Councilman Vincentz asked if we can have Nick Gambardella and the borough engineer looked at the plans before the Mayor and Council approves it. Stephen Pellino stated this issue has to do with the DEP and BCUA. Also Councilman Vincentz asked if a flow meter would be installed since the usage may qualify as Tier II billable.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Prina
Acting Borough Clerk

