

Public Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on June 13, 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.

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

No one came forward.

Correspondence:

Mayor Suarez stated that the Rabies Clinic for animals will be held on June 23, 2011 at the Ambulance Corp Building; Karen Reide sent correspondence to Councilman Jimenez regarding the Environmental Commission and curbing where trees and vegetation exist; a workshop will be held regarding Community Development with regards to the application for the CDBG, the home program and emergency solution grant program on June 22, 2011; the May monthly report for the Fire Prevention totaling \$3, 285.000; May monthly report for the Police Department is located in his office; Elm Avenue Roadway Improvement Project from the Dept of Transportation will not be receiving any funding.

Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2011 Work Session Meeting, February 28, 2011 Work Session Meeting, February 28, 2011 Public Session Meeting and March 7, 2011 Special Public Session Meeting - APPROVED

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2178 entitled, "PAY TO PLAY REFORM ORDINANCE"

First Reading of Ordinance

Councilman Todd requested this be tabled until he gets answer to some question; Mayor Suarez stated that he will be able to ask more question during the second reading and can not request to table an ordinance in the middle of a roll call.

Councilman Vincentz believes this doesn't address legal defense funds, trust funds, wheeling or disgorgement and believes this should be considered before the next meeting and incorporated into this ordinance by the next meeting.

#### Roll Call

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

#### Introduction of Ordinance No. 2179 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL MONITORING SYSTEM"

#### First Reading of Ordinance

Stephen Pellino suggested that in the ordinance under section one, that there be a reference that it is amending chapter 375 the code of the borough of Ridgefield entitled vehicles and traffic, it would be a new article under that section; Stephen Pellino made another suggestion; under section 5 Fines; where violations are \$150, late fees \$ 30; he believes these should be stricken and suggested we go with the state statute.

Councilman Vincentz asked if the state statute defines the amount; Stephen Pellino stated that yes the state does define the amount. Councilman Vincentz stated that we will not be defining the amount? Stephen Pellino stated that we don't have the authority to establish those penalties.

Councilman Vincentz questioned what intersections are being considered? Stephen Pellino stated at this time its undetermined and a meeting will occur with the Chief of Police; Councilman Vincentz asked how will it be determine; if a violation occurring at an intersection and or the revenue generates warrants the expenses of implementing this system. Councilman Acosta stated that this system isn't costing the borough anything; he stated that he spoke to Chief Gallagher and a special officer will be trained.

Councilman Jimenez stated that he had a meeting with Chief Gallagher, and Chief Gallagher stated they will do reviews of certain intersections before the system is installed.

#### Roll Call as amended

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Abstain
Councilman Severino	Yes

Councilman Acosta Yes  
Councilman Jimenez Yes

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA:

	Motion:	Second:
194-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Authorizing to Advertise for RFQs for Auditing Services for Six Month Conversion Year
196-2011	Councilman Castelli	Rescind Award of Contract-July 4 Ever/Award Contract-International Fireworks
197-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Redemption of Tax Title Lien #10-06
198-2011	Councilman Jimenez	100% Disabled Veteran Deduction-Block 2703, Lot 24
199-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Overpayment of Taxes 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011
200-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Redemption of Tax Title Lien #09-01
202-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Exceed Bid Threshold-Firefighter Protective Clothing & Equipment
203-2011	Councilman Castelli	Authorize Agreement between County of Bergen and Borough of Ridgefield for Donation of Fire Safety Trailer to Ridgefield
204-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Tax Appeal Settlement-Block 3104, Lot 2
205-2011	Councilman Acosta	Authorize Preparation/Advertisement of RFPs for Traffic Control Signal Monitoring System
206-2011	Councilman Castelli	Hire Additional Swim Pool Personnel
207-2011	Mayor Suarez	Arbor Day Proclamation

Roll Call on Consent Agenda

Councilman Castelli Yes  
Councilman Todd Yes  
Councilman Vincentz Yes

Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

RESOLUTIONS:

195-2011	Councilman Castelli	Hire 2011 Summer Playground Personnel *Amended to add Natalie Morales and Kevin Garcia.
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Roll Call

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

201-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Ratify and Confirm Council's Prior Authorization for the Mayor and CFO to Execute the Reversion to Calendar Year Budget Acknowledgment and Agreement
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Roll Call

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

208-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Warrants
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Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes, No 78413, 78422, 78449, 78450, 78467, 78468,78478,48879,4880
Councilman Vincentz	Yes, No 78413, 78422, 78449, 78450, 78467, 78468, 78478,48879,4880
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

COMMENTS BY MAYOR:

Mayor Suarez stated along with Councilman Jimenez attended the Meadowlands Commission Meeting and stated that we're supposed to be receiving 1.2 Million dollars from the Meadowlands Commission, as we received in the previous years, however this year certain towns that have been paying into this funds refused to make payments which is giving our town a huge shortfall especially at this point of the year; commented on the success of the Memorial Day parade; May 31<sup>st</sup> was the poetry contest held at the library; June 7<sup>th</sup> attended the Scholarship dinner for the senior high school students which was a great success and wished all the graduating seniors the best of luck; Thanked members of the Ambulance Corp for their hard work and responding to a call

**Coin Toss Request:**

American Legion  
Saturday, July 9, 2011

APPROVED

RMHS Girls Volleyball  
Saturday, June 25, 2011

APPROVED

**COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEN:**

Councilman Castelli: congratulated our Acting Borough Clerk Linda Prina for passing the Borough Clerk exam; received a letter from the New Jersey Home Keeper Program regarding helping residents that lost their jobs and needs assistants and qualifies, information will be posted on the borough website

Councilman Todd: Congratulated Linda Prina for passing the Borough Clerk exam; was impressed with the Memorial Day ceremonies and dedication to former Mayor Veale; had questions regarding 'Pay to Play Ordinance', he wanted to know why in the ordinance it didn't list anything regarding Legal Defense Fund, also question the timing in which this ordinance is being put into action; he has a strong objection to the wording of this ordinance, he believes something should be added to donating money to legal defense funds; Mayor Suarez stated that if he has no problems with Councilman Todd concerns and add-ons should be no problem

Councilman Acosta: is annoyed that Mayor Suarez keeps getting hassled from certain members of the governing body.

Councilman Vincentz: congratulated Linda Prina for passing her borough clerk exam; appreciated the Veale family for all their dedication to the Borough of Ridgefield; commented on a letter he received from Bergen County Board of Freeholders from the Chairman of a Flood Control Committee and their reaching out to every municipality in Bergen County and asking for resumes for potential members for this counsel, he would like to volunteer and be a member of this counsel representing Ridgefield; commented on the Library testing and would like to have Carl Jenne come to the next work session;

Councilman Severino: commented on the Library HVAC system, back in November work started on the system and he hopes Carl Jenne will attend the next work session;

Councilman Castelli stated that he is becoming very frustrated with amount of time Carl Jenne is taking with responding back with answers regarding the HVAC system: commented on the Doc Miller field and stated that many kids are using that field when its suppose to be designated for baseball players between ages 12-13 years of age, Councilman Acosta stated that signs are hung to notify people of the rules and regulations at that field, however he will speak to the Chief of Police and see if we can have special police officers work more hours during the summer;

Councilman Jimenez: stated that Ridgefield's Ambulance Corp will be holding a Blood Drive which will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> and recommended any residents whom are able to give blood should for it's a very worthy cause and if you do donate blood you will receive a \$5 gift card for Circle Pizza; stated that along with Mayor Suarez he had the honor of sitting on the scholarship committee for the high school seniors and was inspired to see how many students desire to achieve great and promising things with their future; Commented on the great success of all the Memorial Day festivities.; stated that when he was elected he began to look into ways to reduce cost to the Borough of Ridgefield and help stabilize taxes, he looked at all the legal bills for the entire fiscal year ending May 31<sup>st</sup>. He stated from July 31<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 our borough attorney made \$124,000, the tax attorney made \$19,300 which totals \$143,000. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> when he became Finance Chairman, all the legal bills including Borough attorney, tax attorney, labor attorney and the Special attorney add up to \$38,504 which is \$105,000 less;

Councilman Jimenez commented on the resolution that was passed tonight authorizing the auditor for the transition of the budget and would like to make a motion that the RFQ committee review the RFQ which will include the finance committee and him as the chairman

#### Roll Call

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

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

Rosa Biondi: commented on the water issue she been having on her property; along with Councilman Acosta she has been trying to resolve the issue with Mr. Martini and Mr. Conroy. She waited months for a solution, She last spoke to Mr. Marini on May 24 and he stated that she didn't need a permit to water proof her foundation, then Mr. Conroy show up on May 24 to inspect the fence that was going up on 540 Prospect Ave and he

wanted to work out a problem between her and a neighbor, he began to take pictures and that made her frustrated because she wasn't require to get a permit.

Mayor Suarez stated that along with two council members he had a meeting with Mr. Marini. Mayor Suarez stated that Mr. Marini stated that Mr. Quarenga never deviated from his plans and he built his house according to his plans. Stephen Pellino stated that although the Mayor and Council is sympathetic towards residents when they have problems with their property and neighbors however from the towns point to view it's a fine line to what's a public issue and a private issue between two property owners, he stated that its not always the towns job to make sure everything functions properly between two property owners.

John Quaregna: stated that his house was approved by the local engineer, local building inspectors, electrical, plumbing, Zoning Officials and the DCA. He stated everything was approved and in regulation. He is frustrated that the blame is on him regarding the water issue, which has been an issue for years prior to him even building his house. He stated that he made sure that he was in full compliance with all the rules of Ridgefield and every code within the State of New Jersey. He offered the report from Mr. Conroy for anyone to review.

Gus Peek: commented on Clark Avenue and the way traffic speeds thru and drives reckless and requested that Councilman Acosta investigate that roadway and possibly install a road bump in the street.

Kendra Hanes: asked if there is a possibility of a traffic light at the intersection of Maple and Broad Ave, Councilman Todd stated that we're waiting on the State due to it's a state road. Kendra questioned if you need a permit to be on the baseball field, Councilman Castelli stated that your'e suppose to get a permit from the Recreation Department.

Lynda Becker: Questioned Councilman Vincentz regarding a flyer she received prior to the primary, that indicated the borough has a surplus of 1.3 million dollar surplus and where is it? Councilman Vincentz stated that if you look it's on the June 30 2010 audit report the borough surplus for 2009 was \$1,373,802 and for 2010 was \$1,391,332.

David Osmanski: Questioned if any neighboring towns have the monitoring system we want to install for traffic purpose, Councilman Castelli stated that Palisade Park has the same monitoring system

Dennis Blystick: is against the traffic monitoring system that will be installed.

Meeting adjourned: 9:15 P.M

Respectfully submitted  
Linda M. Prina  
Acting Borough Clerk