

Public Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on January 10, 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. No one came forward

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2159 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 375 "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" SECTION 375-6 "LIMITED DURATION PARKING AREAS" TO ADD ADDITIONAL AREAS"

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:
58-2011	Mayor Suarez	Proclamation Radon Action Month
60-2011	Councilman Jimenez	2010 Reductions in Assessed Valuation
61-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Reduction in Assessment-721 Broad Ave., Apt 4A
62-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Overpayment of Taxes-485 Oak Street
63-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Tax Court Settlement Stipulation-1145

64-2011 Councilman Jimenez Edgewater Avenue
Return of Escrow Monies

Roll Call on Consent Agenda:

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

RESOLUTIONS:

59-2011 Councilman Vincentz Approval of Emergency Asbestos Air and
Wipe Testing- Pulled from the agenda

Roll Call

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

65-2011 Mayor Suarez Appoint of Architect for Recreation Facility

Roll Call

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

66-2011 Councilman Jimenez Transfer Public Assistance Operation to
Bergen County

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	No
Councilman Vincentz	No

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

67-2011 Councilman Jimenez Warrants: motion to remove checks
77,224,77225,77228,77232,77238,77239,77
244,77247,77248,77253,77260,77261,41763
,41764,71765,71776, total = \$6057.50

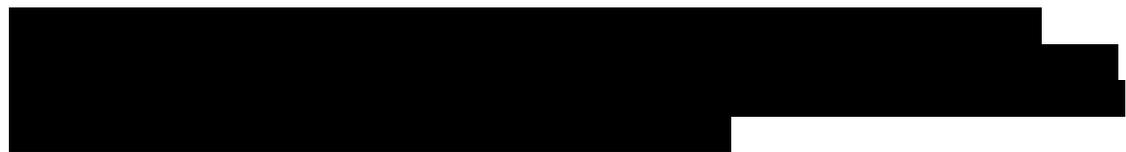
Roll Call

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

Mayor Suarez made a Motion to approve the remainder of the warrants

Roll Call on revised warrants

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



Roll Call

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

Motion made to authorize the borough attorney to seek an extension of time to fill an answer to the complaint regarding Calabrese Vs Ridgefield and if no extension is granted by the Plaintiff. Then the borough attorney is authorized to file an answer if the matter is not quickly resolved.

Roll Call

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

Motion made to authorize the borough administrator to contact the new borough planner Katherine Gregory and request her to review the December 20, 2010 memoriam for Kouker and Kouker pertaining to the boroughs new round certification and to obtain her opinion on the memoriam and the recommendation to what action the borough should take

Roll Call

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

Motion made that Joesph Marinello Jr Esq. to provide a legally opinion pertaining to the Mayors ability to vote on certain professional appointments at an hourly rate of \$175.00 per hour and not to exceed \$2, 500.

Roll Call

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

Motion made to authorize the borough administrator and the borough attorney to obtain a hold harmless agreement from the owner of Kathleen Court for any liability resulting from the borough plowing Kathleen Court for the next upcoming snow storm

Roll Call

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

COMMENTS BY MAYOR:

Received the December monthly report from the fire prevention bureau totaling \$ 12,965, the year end total revenue \$98, 240.55; The Police department monthly report in his office; Wished everyone a Happy New Year and hopes the new council will come together and make the borough of Ridgefield a better place especially in these hard times with all these budget cuts; thanked everyone for attending tonight's meetings

Coin Toss Request:

RMHS Varsity Baseball Team	Approved
Sunday, March 6, 2011	
9:00 am-3:00 pm	
Rain Date: Sunday, March 20, 2011	

COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEN:

Councilman Castelli: Welcomes the new recreation building committee but believes the committee doesn't need to consist of forty members; they should selected certain members such as Ray Ramirez, Councilman Severino, Councilman Acosta and himself and some members from the sporting events.

Councilman Todd: Understands taxes need to be lower but consolidation may not be the resolution.

Councilman Vincentz: Commented on the event that took place in Arizona and hopes everyone keeps those victims in their prayers.

Councilman Severino: Hopes that the potential Redevelopment plan doesn't fall by the "way side" and believes the redevelopment can be a huge key of success for the future of Ridgefield; believes a committee should be formed regarding this issue. Councilman Castelli agrees with Councilman Severino on this issue. He stated that the three properties have to be in agreement and receptive to what the town wants.

Councilman Acosta: No Comment

Councilman Jimenez: Received a letter from the Mayor regarding the cleanup work done around the streets of Ridgefield during the last few snow storms and believes the DPW has done a tremendous job.

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATOR:

Gary Bonacci: Stated that the DPW always does a great job cleaning up the streets during inclement weather

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

Pat Decandia: Requesting again from the new Council that the governing body create and pass a resolution regarding telecommunication towers in town and charging residents fee.

Mayor Suarez is investigating this issue and is trying to pursue it.

Tony Van Zwaren: commented on Councilman Castelli remarks regarding the redevelopment. He wanted to know if Councilman Castelli believes Pfister is such a problem wasn't there a resolution by the Supreme Court passed regarding Municipal authority to eminent domain.

Councilman Castelli stated that if we were to persuade this according to the supreme court it could go into the courts for ten years and incur a excessive amount of court fees and that's if we even win.

Peter Caminiti: Had two questions for the council that was raised during the Planning Board Meeting, Councilman Jimenez Vs the Council

Councilman Jimenez stated that it was left at the last planning board meeting for John Schettino to review the ordinance and the borough engineer is suppose to review other towns ordinances to see what they do regarding this matter. Councilman Jimenez stated that right now you have to go to the Planning Board if you have any improvements over \$25,000. So if your put in a refrigerator and a Washer that will cost \$25,000; what he is trying to see if either we raise that amount to be higher than \$25,000 or take out the amount and see what the exact construction is. The Planning Board and Engineer are investing this before Councilman Jimenez brings it in front of the council.

Steve Pellino stated that the basis for this is that residents are coming in for a \$30,000 application and spending \$6,000 on legal fees and engineers just to get it in front of the Planning Board when ultimately it shouldn't be for the Board. He stated that there just trying to figure out a smarter way to get the right application so there not wasting anyone time or money.

Peter Caminiti stated that he noticed at the last Mayor and Council Special Meeting on the agenda , that the Council made another payment towards the Borough Administrator Gary Bonacci semester for his masters and is that correct? Mayor Suarez stated that Yes that is correct but some council members did object. It was an advance payment for classes that were not yet taken for this upcoming year for the amount of \$ 5,000. Some members of the council did object because they believe that he should take the course first and show proof he passed the class then get reimbursed. Rather than get the money before finishing the class

Peter Caminiti believes from his past experience it should go by what his contract states. He posed the question, how many borough part time employees receive tuition reimbursement? The council responded by saying they did know of any other employees.

Councilman Jimenez stated that even though he is a part time employee his contract does include it; the contract for Mr. Bonacci did include tuition reimbursement. Peter Caminiti then asked the council if the tuition reimbursement is included, do they understand the precedent their setting when they give one part time employee tuition reimbursement, and now open the doors for any part time employee for tuition reimbursement.

Mayor Suarez stated that it was Councilman Vincentz, Councilman Todd and Councilman Severino in favor for Gary Bonacci to get tuition reimbursement. Councilman Severino stated that if he did not pass the class then he would have to reimburse the borough. Peter Caminiti believes this is absurd and to have held a special meeting in the middle of the day is unbelievable and not hear of. Peter Caminiti wants to know why it was so important to get the money to the borough administrator before he even took the class and passed the class. Councilman Castelli stated that this was not the only matter discussed at the special meeting however at that special meeting they requested to see Mr. Bonacci grades from the previous courses he had taken and still haven't received them. Mayor Suarez stated that he just received them at this meeting.

Peter Caminiti requested that the council gets that money back and doing this properly, have him pass the course first and then if it's in the contract then pay the money.

Gary Bonacci addressed Peter Caminiti comments by stating that in his tuition aid package in his contract was part of his salary negotiation, as a dollar figure in his salary negotiation, like any other contract. Now after it was brought up at the last council meeting and several concerns were stated, they feel that the reimbursement should occur after the course is completed and after he submit proof he passed the course. He did agree after the last meeting with the borough attorney and council that going forward all reimbursement will occur after completion of said courses. Peter Caminiti then asked after the last time he was reimbursed was it after he paid, Gary Bonacci stated Yes. Peter Caminiti then wanted to understand why after this time did he need to be paid before he actually took the course. Gary Bonacci stated that his understanding of the course was once he personally laid money out he would be reimburse for the dollar amount he submitted to the college. Gary Bonacci stated that he agreed to open his contract up only for this matter and will take a loan from financial aid until he completes that course and

extends that payment until completion of that course so there will be no occurrence that the borough is laying out any money until the course is completed and he will have no out of pocket expenses before the course is completed. Gary Bonacci believes this is a win-win for both parties going forward.

Peter Caminiti stated that's fine for going forward but does not address the problem going on now. Gary Boancci stated that it doesn't address the problem now but the council members that seem to object to this particular payment for reimbursement also voted No on his previous reimbursement. Gary believes that it has nothing to do with the fact they feel he's entitled to reimbursement, they don't feel he's entitled to tuition aid in general. Regardless of how they feel he has a labor contract with the borough of Ridgefield and accepted \$60,000 less than the previous administrator and accepted a no benefit package. He stated for that \$ 60, 000 less than the previous borough administrator and lack of no benefits he negotiation tuition aid. He also stated that he probably works more than the last borough administrator but only gets paid for 19.5 hours per week.

Councilman Castelli stated that Gary Bonacci is receiving \$60,000 less than the previous Borough Administrator however the previous Borough Administrator was a full time employee as Gary Boancci is Part time. Councilman Castelli stated that yes he voted No for the first reimbursement because he feels when you take a job position you should be educated in that position already, not go for an education after you're already hired for that position. Councilman Casettelli believes he should have already had that education before becoming Borough Administrator.

Peter Caminiti stated that he is not concerned in why he took the class but now is concerned with why there are a certain number of hours stipulated; how many hours he puts into the borough. Gary Bonacci stated that it doesn't stipulates how many hours he works but how many hours he gets paid for, 19.5 per week.

Eros Ronchi: Stated that tonight he wished the council focus on senior citizens housing. The Council will take his comments under advisement.

Si Andrew: agrees with Eros Ronchi comments and that we should be more focused on Senior Housing rather than a Recreation center.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 P.M

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Prina
Acting Borough Clerk