

Public Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on January 24, 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

68-2011 Mayor Suarez Proclamation-Reverend Sheehan

Roll Call

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

Father Sheehan gave the invocation.

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 received letter from Chief Hoffman from Fire Company One requesting the use of Willis Field facilities excluding the track and turf field to introduce the company's new apparatus that represents the town of Ridgefield on May 21, 2011- Approved; Received Ridgefield's court report total disbursement \$60, 551.00;

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2158 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING THE POWERS AND JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD AND AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "LAND USE" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD AND ABOLISHING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT"

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. 2159 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 375 "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" SECTION 375-6 "LIMITED DURATION PARKING AREAS" TO ADD ADDITIONAL AREAS"

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. 2160 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE ABOLISHING THE POSITION OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPUTY MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR”

First 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

Councilman Todd was curious on who would now take on the duties of the administrator if his position was abolished?

Stephenio Pellino stated that different employees within the borough will take over the various duties.

Councilman Severino believes the Borough Administrator is vital to oversee the business of the Borough of Ridgefield.

Councilman Acosta stated that Roberta Stern was criticize for holding a position as administrator, and now everyone is switching their stories that its vital to the Borough.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA:

	Motion:	Second:
69-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Additional Holdover-Relocation Officer
70-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Settlement Stipulation-487 Shaler Boulevard
71-2011	Mayor Suarez	Appointment to Library Board
72-2011	Councilman Acosta	Hire Part-Time Employee-Municipal Court
73-2011	Mayor Suarez	Appoint Alternate Public Defender
74-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Insurance Agent/Risk Manager

75-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Borough Auditor- REMOVED FROM AGENDA
78-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Borough Planner
79-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Borough Prosecutor
80-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Public Defender
81-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Labor Attorney
82-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Substitute Prosecutor
83-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Substitute Public Defender
84-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Tax Appeal Attorney

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes on 69, 70, 71 No to 72,73,74,78,79,80,81,82,83,84
Councilman Severino	Yes, No 72,73,74,78,79,80,81,82,83
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

RESOLUTIONS:

76-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Professional Services Agreement-Bond Counsel
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Councilman Severino made a motion to make Stephen Pellino Bond Counsel. Mayor Suarez stated that Stephen Pellino didn't submit an RFQ for bond counsel, therefore the motion is out of order. This is would be a violation of state law due to the fact that he didn't submit an RFQ

Roll Call

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

77-2011 Councilman Jimenez Professional Services Agreement-Borough Engineer

Councilman Severino commented on the fact that the previous borough engineer was paid for part time work at \$1,900 for 23hrs of work and the new terms would be 19 hrs with \$1,900 so we actual get fours less of work from the borough engineer, Mayor Suarez stated that will be amended. Councilman Severino stated that our previous engineer Carl Jenne would carry over hours to the next month that he didn't work and requested the new borough engineer do the same.

Mayor Suarez read the conclusion to the report of the attorney that the counsel actually approved at the last meeting: "There nothing with in the New Jersey Election Law campaign contributions expenditures reporting act pay to play law or local public contract laws which prohibits hiring of individuals or corporations that have given to Mayor Suarez Legal Defense Fund" Councilman Severino wanted to know if that should be forwarded to the state ethics board? Mayor Suarez wanted to talk about disclosures, he directed questions towards Councilman Severino regarding Instant Imaging Printing , and he asked Councilman Severino if they did \$7,000- \$8,000 worth of work for the borough, Mayor Suarez then asked Councilman Severino who is part of the DPW committee who approves the vouchers for the work to be done, Mayor Suarez than asked Councilman Severino if he did work on their house on Oak Street, Councilman Severino stated that yes he did do work for them on Oak Street, Mayor Suarez wanted to know why that wasn't disclosed? Councilman Severino stated that Instant Imaging Printing has been doing work for the borough hired under Nick Gamberdella years before he became councilman.

Roll Call

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

85-2011 Councilman Jimenez Warrants

Councilman Jimenez requested to pull two checks off the list, Check 77382 and 77383.

Councilman Vincentz requested that Checks 77418 thru 77424 be removed because there is ethical conflict.

Councilman Todd made a motion to pull n check 77399

Roll Call on all pulled checks

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

Councilman Jimenez requested to pull two checks off the list, Check 77382 and 77383.

Roll Call

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

Roll call on the warrant list as amended

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes except for Checks 4181 thru checks 41789
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

86-2011

Councilman Castelli

Audio taping Policy for Closed Session Meetings

Councilman Castelli stated that this is a resolution to stop the audio-typing during executive session. Councilman Castelli stated that they held a seminar at the League of Municipality which they stated that no executive session should be recorded, its not suppose to be public knowledge, believes it hinders Mayor and Council procedures. Councilman Vincentz stated that he does not recall any discussion about not recording but did hear that the information not be released until action on executive session was completed. Stephen Pellino stated that no law requires executive session to be recorded. Councilman Severino asked if we had any legal trouble accrue in the past for having the meetings recorded, and if we haven't he believes there's no need to change our procedures; If they can't be distributed to the public we should keep recording so we have verbatim what happen at any particular meetings. Stephen Pellino stated that from an attorney's point of view he would stop recording executive session meetings.

Roll Call

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

87-2011

Councilman Acosta

Elimination of Part-Time Position

Councilman Acosta stated that they have no dissatisfaction towards Mrs. Florinda Fuentes it just a cost saving measure; this could save the borough roughly \$66,000. Councilman Vincentz believes that her bargaining agent should have been sent a copy of the Rice notice on the termination of Florinda Fuentes . Councilman Todd stated that this is not a termination at the time just a discussion, no action will be taken at this time and she will have time for recourse. They have made her aware at this time that she could be possibly terminated.

Doris Kedes also received a Rice Notice and indicated that the discussion be held in public. Her position could possibly be terminated for cost saving measurement and this has no reflection on any dissatisfaction regarding her work. Councilman Todd would like to know who will take the responsibilty of those tasks. Councilman Severino question why someone was hired in court and another borough employee position is being eliminated? Mayor Suarez stated that in the municipal court that they have a court reporter and an alternate court reporter that get paid a higher salary, Mayor Suarez stated that the person who got hired tonight will assist with the running of court at a lower salary than the court recorder or alternate therefore is a cost saving measure. Councilman Vincentz asked why Doris wasn't consider for that new position as court recorder? Councilman Vincentz stated that Mrs. Kedes assisted the tax department; she provides

vacation coverage and also helps with accounts payable. Councilman Castelli stated that once again this is not personal or reflects any dissatisfaction.

Doris Kedes stated that it was a pleasure working for the Borough of Ridgefield. She believes she was very flexible when they needed coverage for other departments and was always available. Doris stated that at the time she was hired she was notified that someone else was available to work for free when later she discover that was under false pretenses from the previous borough administrator Roberta Stern.

Mr. Hamilton stated that his wife at the time was the one who volunteer for free for Doris Kede's position.

Councilman Severino posed the question that within the next few months there is a revelation and that position is necessary will Doris be the first one considered for that position.

Mayor Suarez thanked Doris Kedes, its just a cost saving measurement not a personal matter.

Motion of the elimination of the position of Doris Kedes part time position.

Roll Call

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

88-2011 Councilman Vincentz Holdover-Housing Inspectors

Councilman Vincentz made a motion to carry this matter over to the next meeting on February 14th

Roll Call

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

89-2011 Councilman Castelli Authorize Signing of Safargar Properties
Sewer Extension Permit Application

Roll Call

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

COMMENTS BY MAYOR:

Mayor Suarez commented on Project Graduation Latin Dance fundraiser and stated it was a huge success and reminder all residents that Project Graduation is a great fundraiser that helps supports all the seniors within our school district; stated that he believes that this governing body needs to change their tone and come together.

Banner Request:

Notre Dame Interparochial School March 18, 2011-April 16, 2011 Columbus Park	APPROVED
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N.J. State Firemen's Association Membership:

John Joseph Rubino 609A Shaler Boulevard Company No. 3	APPROVED
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Andrew Chartoff 592 Hillside Street Company No. 1	APPROVED
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Dennis Bollhardt 39W Homestead Avenue Palisades Park Company No. 1	APPROVED
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Gina Hoffman Company No. 1	APPROVED
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Raffles License Application:

St. Matthews Church
555 Prospect Avenue
50/50
March 20, 2011 – 1:15 p.m.

APPROVED

COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEN:

Councilman Castelli: commented on the fact that all resident's taxes went up 5% and if someone's saying different that is false.

Councilman Todd: stated that the changes in the borough are nerve wrenching and believes the Borough of Ridgefield is special and doesn't want it to become like surroundings boroughs.

Councilman Acosta: No comment.

Councilman Vincentz: commented on the resolution regarding Holdover-Housing Inspectors.

Councilman Severino: No comment

Councilman Jimenez: commented on his attendance at the Zoning Board meeting and thanked them for their years of service because in the near future they will be merging with Planning Board; requested Michael Kees explain to certain members of the Public why we have three fire companies.

Michael Kees explained that we have three Fire Companies due to insurance purposes and IOS rating; the structure of the companies is essential for how the borough is built especially because we have to respond to the turnpike.

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATOR:

Gary Bonacci: thanked 2010 Mayor and Council for giving him this position and believes so much has been accomplished in 2010;

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

Gus Peek: commented on his disbelief on abolishing the borough administrator position, he believes this a very important position and believes Gary has done a terrific job thus far.

Mary Fioravanti: resides on Abbott Avenue between Alan Place and Slocum Ave and stated there is a disastrous parking problem and something needs to be done; She requested parking permits be permitted for residents on those particular streets.

Meeting adjourned: 9: 35 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Prina
Acting Borough Clerk