

Public Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on March 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, 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 presented a proclamation to the 5th and 6th grade boy's basketball team for becoming the South Bergen Championship.

129-2011	Mayor Suarez	Proclamation-5 th & 6 th Grade Boys Basketball
----------	--------------	--

Coach John Miano thanked the Mayor and Council for their support; congratulated all the boys for all their hard work and dedicated.

Roll Call

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

Mayor Suarez presented a proclamation to the 7th and 8th grade Boys basketball team for becoming the South Bergen Championship

Coach Rudy thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and presented all the boys and thanked them for all the hard work and dedication.

130-2011	Mayor Suarez	Proclamation-7 th & 8 th Grade Boys Basketball
----------	--------------	--

Roll Call

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

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

Albert Gil: questioned warrants, check number 77762, Wright Express Financial Gasoline and questioned what type of company are they, and questioned the charges for the month of February,

Mayor Suarez stated that this is the credit card company that's used for gasoline use for Borough of Ridgfield vehicles such as police, DPW and ambulance.

Safargar Carter: question why where there so many towing companies on Resolution 131-2011, he believes the towing companies in town that pay taxes should be given the business. Councilman Acosta stated that he wants to table this resolution and discuss it further in detail.

Approval of Minutes of July 12, 2010 Public Session Meeting and June 28, 2010 Work Session Meeting – APPROVED (H. Jimenez Abstained)

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2165 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1661 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FIXING FEES FOR PROGRAMS OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT"

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, but concerned about the 25% increase.
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

As advertised, hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 2166 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 355 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD ENTITLED PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS”

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

Councilman Vincentz is concerned with the 11 percent increase on the individual rate for out-of-towners may drive away. Out-of-towners paid much more than the resident which helps our bottom line. Mayor Suarez stated that last year we experienced a deficit at the pool.

Roll Call

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

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2167 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 333-33, STORMWATER DISCHARGE AND SUMP PUMPS, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD”

First Reading of Ordinance

Councilman Vincentz stated that we have had no discussion regarding this issue and would like a discussion to be held before a vote is taken.

Councilman Vincentz commented on the issue from paragraph one regarding “directed to a drywell or storm sewer” he stated that the dry well has a spill-over , which is when the pits are being installed and has a spill over that brings the water back into a storm drain or into the gutter of the road-way. Furthermore the Building Department is approving an installation and construction and then will come back and say it does not comply with this chapter.

Councilman Acosta stated they’re there trying to address the issue regarding discharging, that people are connecting subbasements and pushing it out, he stated that he knows at least five or six homes where we had to send out the DPW because the ice went into the street and made the streets unsafe condition for driving. He stated people need to be made

aware to not discharge the water; people will become liable if another accident occurs on Route 46. Councilman Vincentz stated that he agrees with Councilman Acosta for sump-pump because the sump-pump provides a surge but to have a gravity fed roof drain which have been approved and allowed to be installed , he foresees this as a problem. Councilman Vincentz would also like the spill over to be address and be required an escape on the seep pits, they do fill up and over full and that could bring the water back to the gutter line. He stated that based on those issues the council should not be making approval on something not acceptable.

Mayor Suarez suggested that Councilman Vincentz communicate with Stephen Pellino before the next meeting and express his concerns and see if changes need to be made.

Roll Call

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

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2168 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 208 PERTAINING TO CONTAINERS FOR WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL”

First Reading of Ordinance

Councilman Vincentz questioned if we are picking up garbage on holidays; Councilman Acosta responded No.

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:
131-2011	Councilman Acosta	Towing Licenses – TABLED
132-2011	Councilman Jimenez	JKG Agreement Tax Cancellation

133-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Tax Court Judgment-800 Banta Place
134-2011	Councilman Acosta	Hire DPW Seasonal Employee
137-2011	Councilman Jimenez	PS&S Professional Service Agreement
138-2011	Councilman Acosta	Place to Place Liquor License Transfer
139-2011	Councilman Acosta	Approve 12.18 Ruling from Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for S. Squared
140-2011	Councilman Acosta	Approve 12.39 Ruling from Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for S. Squared
141-2011	Councilman Acosta	Person to Person Liquor License Transfer
142-2011	Councilman Acosta	Appointment of Deputy Safety Director
143-2011	Councilman Acosta	Appointment of Community Center Attendants

Stephen Pellino stated some disclosures on resolution 139-2011 Approving 12.18 Ruling from Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for S. Squared; 140-2011 12.39 Ruling from Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for S.Squared; 141-2011 Person to Person Liquor License Transfer, he wanted to be clear he had no involvement in the review of the application or involvement in the background check conducted by the police department, he wasn't involved in the decision making process in any of these three applications.

Roll Call

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

RESOLUTIONS:

135-2011	Councilman Jimenez	Certification of Funds for Professional Service Agreements
----------	--------------------	--

Roll Call

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

136-2011 Councilman Jimenez Legal Cost Control Contract

Councilman Vincentz questioned who has the preliminary review stated in the resolution.

Roll Call

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

143-2011 Councilman Acosta Appointment of Community Center Attendants

Councilman Vincentz questioned Stephen Pellino asking if we should have any concerns with Linda Kowatch regarding a law suit in the past. Stephen Pellino stated that no it does not have any effect with that particular person or position in which we're hiring.

Roll Call

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

144-2011 Councilman Jimenez Warrants

Councilman Vincentz asked the Mayor if any of these payments are being made to vendors who contributed to his legal defense fund?

Roll Call

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	Yes, No on checks 77855,77856,77871,77872

Councilman Vincentz	Yes, Abstain on checks 77764,77765; No on checks 77855,77856,77871,77872,41826
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes

Mr. Cialone made a motion regarding a letter the borough received from the attorney representing Tele-Comp LLC. There looking to receive consent from the borough to install fiber- cables above and below some of the borough Streets. Motion is made for authorization from the Mayor and Council to begin discussion with the borough attorney to negotiate with the attorney with New Jersey Data-Net Telecomp LLC for consent on installing fiber option cables on Borough of Ridgefield Roadways.

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 gave an update on the municipal building and becoming ADA compatible; he stated that he reached out to the company that represented the borough with regards to the ADA action in Federal District Court, and William Cody represented us. William Cody will conduct an evaluation at Borough Hall and let us know what the ADA issue are and the estimated cost; Councilman Acosta recommended that we have William Cody also evaluate the pool complex to see what we can do to make it handicap accessible; Mayor Suarez stated that he charging \$150 per hour but will do it for a set cost of \$1200 which is more than reasonable, a resolution doesn't have to be passed until the next meeting not to exceed \$1,200. Mayor Suarez stated no vote is needed tonight and suggested members of the council to research Cody and his background in this field.

Raffles License Application:

Ridgefield Memorial High School PTA Carnival Veterans Memorial Park April 27, 2011 – 6:00 pm-12:00 midnight April 28, 2011 – 6:00 pm-12:00 midnight April 29, 2011 – 6:00 pm-12:00 midnight April 30, 2011 – 1:00 pm-12:00 midnight May 1, 2011 – 12:00 noon-10:00 pm	APPROVED
--	----------

Fairview Lions Club
Cash Raffle
Café Tivoli, 533 Shaler Blvd.
June 8, 2011 – 8:00 pm

APPROVED

COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEN:

Councilman Castelli: No comment

Councilman Todd: had a question regarding some towns that have ordinances regarding “Pay to Play”, Mayor Suarez stated that he has done research and has a draft done and is more welcome to that information.

Councilman Acosta: Commented on his attendance to the Beef Steak dinner for the high school baseball team and stated it was well attended and a great success.

Councilman Vincentz: commented on the Broad Ave, Pleasant View Terrance sewer. Councilman Acosta stated that this issue has been addressed and the problem will be fixed; commented on the carnival and the gate which is to be installed to preserve the new sod, Councilman Acosta stated that a new entrance gate will be installed; commented that last meeting a resolution was created regarding Fios which was tabled and was curious if there was a time limit; Mayor Suarez stated that’s it’s a resolution taking place over Leagues of Municipalities; Provided flyers regarding a company that would come in and take any furniture, wood, lamps, electronics and styform off your hands and requested Linda Prina make more copies for the council and DPW. Commented on the mini re-evaluation and stated that we got an estimate from appraisal systems for \$90,000 and believes we could get it for a little cheaper, Mayor Suarez heard estimates that cost at approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 and stated that we will look into this with the auditors;

Councilman Severino: commented that at Meadowlands Field the soccer field is 20 yards short, he would like to make more use of that field and have the borough engineer to conduct a survey and see how we could extend the field beyond the fence.

Councilman Jimenez: commented on the Broad Ave, Pleasant View Terrance Sewer regarding Tarhil.; stated that April 9th is annual clean-up day for the borough; questioned Councilman Todd on why he didn’t disclose the information that he was a sitting Councilman whom has a local business, a license tourist home regarding the new hotel proposal.

Councilman Todd didn’t see a reason to disclose such information. He stated that he doesn’t see the relation between him operating a seven room tourist home compared to a hotel.

Mayor Suarez believes that this information should have been disclosed and there is a conflict of interest. Mayor Suarez asked Councilman Todd if he violating any Zoning Ordinance by renting parking spots . Mayor Suarez stated that if he's zoned for a rooming house, and is using it as a parking lot. Mayor Suarez stated that Councilman Todd also caused his block to have residents parking only, he voted on the ordinance, so residents on that block adjoining his tourist home, cant park there unless they live on that street; however Councilman Todd has let people use his parking lot. Councilman Todd stated that only when it snows he allows friends on Maple Ave to park in his lot. Councilman Jimenez made a motion we censure Councilman Todd for his actions and sent it to whatever authority is necessary- No 2nd to motion.

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

Rosa Biondi: commented on a letter she sent to the Mayor and Council regarding the storm water that leads into her house. She stated that a large house was built next door to her, 540 Prospect Ave, which when it rains it rains in her basement. She stated that since October 2010 this has been accruing, she stated that she went thru all the proper channels, she spoke to Carl Jenne, Gary Bonacci, and the DPW. Rosa stated that she even hire her own engineer and was told that the the house,540 Prospect Ave, is causing her a lot of problems. She stated now she has to hire a contractor to remediate that problem. She stated now she needs the municipal engineer impute on it. She stated that she spoken to Mr. Marini and he will be sending it to Brian Conroy. She stated that she need this problem address immediately. She requested the documents from the plan and hasn't received anything at this point.

Mayor Suarez stated they will investigate this issue and Councilman Acosta will be contacting her.

She stated that she has tried to fix the problem with Mr. Quaregna, the homeowner of 540 Prospect Ave, and he believes she should fix the wall and then they can talk. She thinks Mr. Quaregna needs to install a pipe on his side of the retaining wall. Rosa argument is the cost should be Mr. Quaregna's responsibility and wont be too costly for him whereas for her its will be a financial burden for her, she said she will have to dig out the entire wall to her house and then waterproof it. She's not asking him to pay for that, just asking him to do the right thing. Mayor Suarez understands, but would like the point of determination. Rosa stated that she trying to hire an contactor to remediate her wall, but at this point she needs the borough engineer.

Councilman Vincentz made a suggestion on how to contain water and not pass further on her property.

Eros Ronchi: Commented on Councilman Severino comments regarding the soccer field and asked Councilman Severino if he has seen the new soccer fields at the new Overpeck Park. Councilman Vincentz understands that we would have to rent the field and pay by the hour. Also parochial schools have leased some fields for the fall and summer seasons.

Eros also commented on the conversation that occurred at the last Mayor and Council meeting regarding Senior Housing. Councilman Acosta stated that he remembers that conversation and visited the town of Norwood to investigate their Senior Housing situation. He stated that the town of Norwood lease a piece of property to a group of developers. The group of developers went out and built the Senior Housing, however they had a problem with occupying all the units to the residents that lived in the town and had to open it up to residents from other towns. The only thing the township of Norwood did was sign over that piece of property. Eros Ronchi responded by saying he was informed that the Norwood housing had a waiting list of over one hundred people. Eros Ronchi stated that the town of Norwood lease the piece of property and the developers were responsible for property taxes and the borough never supply any money for the building of the units. Councilman Acosta stated he wished this process was as easy as Eros is making out to sound; he stated that the building and units took over nine years to build for use because contactors went bankrupt and what not throughout the progress. Councilman Acosta believes there is no money in this economy to build a new building like this.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 P.M

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Prina
Acting Borough Clerk