

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN PUBLIC WORK SESSION
SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2016 – 7:30 P.M.**

Mayor Kevin J. Rooney opened the Work Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor municipal court room.

Municipal Clerk Santimauro read the 48 Hour Notice statement: “The Township Committee of the Township of Wyckoff rescinds the 48 Hour Notice that cancelled its August 16, 2016 7:30 pm Work Session and 8:00 pm Business Meetings.

This notice serves as a 48 Hour Notice to re-schedule the regular Township Committee meetings for August 16, 2016 with the regularly scheduled Open Work Session meeting starting at 7:30 pm, and the regularly scheduled Business Meeting commencing at 8:00 pm. Meetings will be conducted in the second floor court room in Memorial Town Hall, 340 Franklin Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ 07481. A copy of said 48 Hour Notice has been posted on the Bulletin Board in Memorial Town Hall; a copy has been filed with the Municipal Clerk, The Record, The Ridgewood News and the North Jersey Herald and News – all newspapers having general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting the Agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed and mailed to said newspapers.”

Present: Mayor Kevin J. Rooney, Committeemen Brian D. Scanlan, Rudolf E. Boonstra and John A. Carolan

Also Present: Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr., Township Attorney Robert Landel and Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro

Absent: Committeeman Thomas J. Madigan

Mayor Rooney advised that the Finance Committee has reviewed and signed vouchers.

Mayor Rooney opened the meeting for the ten (10) minute total public comment period for any item on or off the Agenda, two (2) minutes per speaker, with a motion from Committeeman Scanlan, seconded by Committeeman Carolan.

1. John Unglert, 360 Cornell Street expressed good wishes to the governing body.
2. Tim Buchman, 430 Meer Avenue conveyed his regrets with the ordinance adopted last meeting regarding impervious coverage. Mr. Buchman commented it was regrettable that pavers and bluestones are listed as permeable materials in the ordinance. He also stated that residents are unhappy with drainage issues which result from rain water and cited the drainage problem at the Russell Farms Community Park where the majority of the park is grass but still results in drainage runoff.

Committeeman Boonstra motioned to close the public comment period, seconded by Committeeman Carolan with an affirmative voice vote.

Township Committee Reports:

Mayor Rooney:

1. Mayor Rooney reported that a house fire occurred this afternoon at 85 Morley Drive and requested Committeeman Boonstra include the family in the prayer to open the business meeting this evening. The fire appears to have begun in a refrigerator in the basement. The Township secured assistance from most of the adjacent municipalities including Midland Park, Oakland, Franklin Lakes and Waldwick. Mayor Rooney commented that our mutual aid agreements significantly facilitated in the various heat/humid conditions by providing additional firefighters to extinguish this blaze.

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2. This evening, the Township Committee will consider a resolution to establish a shared service with Bergen County which will allow the Township to utilize the Tower Ladder from the Bergen County Fire Academy during the short period our tower ladder is out of town for repair.
3. A e-mail request was received from the Newcomers Club to utilize Town Hall on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a “Trunk or Treat” event. Mayor Rooney reviewed a list of potential parking lots that could accommodate the group request. Town Hall is not a good location because there are recreational football games scheduled at Memorial Field that day with the concomitant traffic. Also, there may be firefighters and ambulance corp. members responding to calls for assistance at their respective firehouse/ambulance stations. The Pulis Soccer Complex is not a good location as soccer games are expected that evening. The Larkin House may be the best location although the Recreation Director has suggested Eisenhower School as the best choice. The Administrator was instructed to contact the Newcomers Club and disseminate this information.
4. The Township received an e-mail and a diagram from Mrs. Joffe who resides at 813 Charnwood Drive. The Township Committee previously discussed vacating Beekman Place to provide half the street to the owner of 813 Charnwood Drive and the remaining half of the street to the owner of 801 Charnwood Drive. Previously, the governing body had requested certain requirements before considering an ordinance to vacate the property. Mrs. Joffe’s e-mail and diagram was fully discussed and several questions remained which will be posed to Mrs. Joffe by the Township Attorney.
5. Mayor Rooney advised that at the last meeting Committeeman Scanlan suggested that the Township Committee is required to meet twice a month due to an article that appeared in the Bergen Record that the City of Hackensack is required to meet twice a month as per N.J.S.A. 40A:85-19. Mayor Rooney asked the Township Attorney to review this statute and it was revealed that this statute applies to a “township manager” form of government of which the Township of Wyckoff is not. Additionally, Mr. Scanlan felt the Township should be available to the public twice a month via public meetings.

John Carolan:

1. Mr. Carolan provided a brief synopsis on current DPW activities:
 - a. The Pulis Field Recreation Complex is almost complete. The chip path track has been extended.
 - b. Tasks which remain are limited to painting a crosswalk across the driveway and completion of the Charles Avenue extension for access to the complex through Charles Avenue. This work is expected to begin in two (2) weeks.
 - c. The DPW Has completed the removal of seventy (70) tree stumps and is compiling a new list of stump removal requests.
2. Mr. Carolan and Mayor Rooney interviewed Mr. Michael Tode who has extensive knowledge and experience in the Green Industry for the vacancy on the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Carolan recommends the appointment of Mr. Tode. Committeeman Scanlan requested the appointment be removed from the Consent Agenda as the appointment was presented this evening and not included in the weekend packet.

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Committeeman Boonstra stated there are a number of Planning Board and Zoning Board applications which require Shade Tree Commission guidance and a full board is duly necessary.

3. Mayor Rooney requested Mr. Carolan discuss the status of trees in the municipal right-of-way. Mr. Carolan advised that discussions have focused on how to manage trees in the municipal right-of-way similar to how other towns approach this challenge. Currently, it is a 50/50 divide between municipalities which appropriate funds to perform branch elevations, branch prunings and tree removals to communities that have adopted ordinances providing property owners with those responsibilities. It was indicated that the County of Bergen has established an ordinance requiring all trees in the Bergen County right-of-way to be the responsibility of the property owner. Mr. Carolan suggested that the current subcommittee working on an ordinance to preserve trees on private property also include in that ordinance as a component the clear cutting of trees and the removal of the municipal government from managing trees that are in residents front yards (right-of-way). The Administrator was instructed to re-circulate information in this regard.

Rudy Boonstra:

1. The Zabriskie Trustees met a week ago with the discussion focusing on procurement and the process to obtain price quotations to “stretch” the dollar for historical preservation measures. The process continues.
2. The Planning Board Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, August 10, 2016. One of the applications, the Bergen Brick & Tile property which is the former Mowerson’s Feed Mill is a pre-existing, non-conforming use and previously never had a site plan. Now, through the process of Planning Board review, a site plan has been obtained with a new and improved parking plan layout.
3. Mr. Boonstra recommends to the Township Committee adopt the shared service agreement with Bergen County to allow Wyckoff to utilize a loaner fire apparatus when the town’s fire apparatus is out of town for repairs. This program is limited to a maximum of an eight (8) period for borrowed equipment. There is no cost for this program however, any damage to the vehicle would be the responsibility of the municipality. The Township’s Tower Ladder is expected to be repaired within three (3) weeks.
4. Today, the Township suffered a working house fire at 85 Morley Drive. Fortunately, the homeowners were away on vacation. A neighbor that is home during the day called to report the fire condition. The fire department responded and executed an aggressive suppression to the fire. Joseph Vander Plaat and Scott Fisher both led “hose teams” into the house which knocked down the fire. Mr. Boonstra publicly thanked the mutual aid communities that encompass the Northwest Bergen Mutual Aid Shared Service area for their help.

Brian Scanlan:

1. The subcommittee of the Wyckoff Board of Health has been discussing the activities to replace the annual health fair and to promote residents to obtain influenza vaccinations. The Board of Health will also provide an evening at the firehouse for our first responders and municipal employees to receive flu shots as well.

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2. The Recreation Advisory Board Meeting on Monday, August 15, 2016 reported that this Summer's camp program was the most well attended program in many years with resident children engaging in a very positive and memorable experience. It was also pointed out that a number of children had an enjoyable experience serving in their first position in the working environment either as a counselor or counselor in training.
3. Mr. Scanlan said that in the Township Committee packets these past weeks, there have been a number of police reports regarding political signs. Mr. Scanlan expressed his opinion that if the majority of the Township Committee wanted to enforce the Township ordinance regarding political signs, which he said we know from recent experience is of highly questionable constitutionality, he would recommend that the property maintenance official, not the police, be used. Mr. Scanlan opined that sending our police on political missions is not just bad policy, it's bad for police morale. Mr. Scanlan said it's clear the use of the police to enforce the ordinance regarding political signs is designed to scare the residents.

Report of the Administrator:

1. The improvements to Crescent Avenue are still delayed. The Township placed considerable resolve into publicly advertising and bidding the project so as to begin and complete the project before Lincoln School opens in September. However, the New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund funding controversy between the Governor and the Legislature continues. The Township has engaged in efforts to request that the low bidder extend his price for an additional sixty (60) days.
2. The Declaration for Intent for the Bergen County Open Space Grant opportunity was submitted. The Administrator has been working with the Environmental Commission and has drafted approximately twelve (12) policies for the Sustainable Jersey application to maintain the Township's Silver Certification. Wyckoff is the only town within Bergen County's seventy (70) municipalities to have achieved Silver Certification.
3. The Administrator completed the Joint Insurance Fund renewal application with assistance from the Township's Municipal Risk Consultant and the Chief Financial Officer.
4. The work on the Fall Newsletter and the 2017 Municipal Calendar continues.
5. Mayor Rooney noted that last week Administrator Shannon posted safety signs for folks playing the "Pokemon Go" iphone game. A public service announcement was issued and posted on the Township's social media regarding safety considerations. A number of "Pokemon" stops have been made in Wyckoff including in front of Fire Company #1 and the Ambulance Corp. building. Notices were also posted at the Wyckoff Community Park, Gardens of Wyckoff, Wyckoff Public Library, Wyckoff Recreation Department and Russell Farms Community Park.

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Township Attorney Report:

1. Mr. Landel completed the ordinance to establish a four (4) way stop intersection at the corner of Lafayette and Ravine Avenue. This ordinance will be presented to the governing body for introduction this evening.
2. A COAH Mediation before the Court Appointed Master has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 2016.
3. Mr. Landel spoke to Mrs. Joffe concerning the potential vacation of Beekman Place. A follow-up conversation will transpire based on the governing body's comments this evening.
4. With regard to a letter received by Mr. Speck, owner of a home located on Greenwood Avenue (between St. Elizabeth's Church and the Wyckoff Post Office), which requested the Township Committee to rezone the three (3) residential properties due to the site plan approval of the proposed Shop Rite store. Mr. Landel advised the property owner of his hesitation to recommend a rezoning but referred the request to the Township's Planner for review. It was also mentioned that the new site plan approval is less square footage of retail space that currently exists and more green area.

The Open Work Session Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Kevin J. Rooney
Mayor

Joyce C. Santimauro
Municipal Clerk