

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012

At 7:01 p.m. Mayor Rustin read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting, are posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center, published in the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year, and copies are sent to the Suburbanite and Northern Valley News. Notice of this meeting by Resolution #12-412 has been sent to the Record, the Suburbanite and Northern Valley Press and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center."

Present: Mayor Peter S. Rustin

Council members: Anthony Barzelatto (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Barry Honig (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), Martha Kerge, Nadia LaMastra, Jon Warms, Mark Zinna

Borough Administrator: Jewel Thompson-Chin

Borough Attorney: William R. McClure, Esq.

Absent: None

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Rustin recognized Borough Attorney William McClure, who read into the record Resolution 12-416.

BE IT RESOLVED in compliance with NJSA 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly are going into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. Collective Bargaining
 - 1. Contract Negotiations Update
 - 2. Outcome of PBA Grievance re: Health Benefits
- B. Personnel
 - 1. Retirements – Administration, Finance, and Police Departments

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room to resume the Committee of the Whole meeting.

On a motion from C. Kerge, seconded by C. Zinna, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was recessed to the Closed Session in the Committee Room at 7:03 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting resumed at 8:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Rustin read the following statement:

Public Comments: A total of 15 minutes has been allocated for this purpose. Citizens are welcome to address the Mayor and Council on any governmental item of concern to them, whether or not it is scheduled on the agenda below. Citizens must give their names and addresses when recognized to speak. Large groups are urged to select someone to represent them. The public is advised that these meetings are recorded and are subject to the Open Public Records Act.

Paul Renaud – 24 Sunset Terrace – Questioned the combined side yard portion of Schedule B that is being proposed as it is unclear; stated that the entire proposal seems confusing and requires interpretation; recommended that zoning issues should be addressed by district. He explained how there is a massive overhaul taking place in Englewood Cliffs of zoning ordinances and that they are raising the height limit because of the appearance of roofs on big homes.

Mayor Rustin explained the reasoning of the Planning Boards proposal regarding the streetscape, visual appeal, and lack of space between homes. C. Kerge expressed her concern about these changes diminishing property value for property owners.

TO BE CONSIDERED

Planning Board Recommended Changes to Building Height and Combined Side Yard Definitions

C. Kerge recommended that every lot should conform with the zone they match to control size and growth. C. Honig stated that he believes the proposals are more of a taste issue than a burning issue, the side yard issue should not be dealt with across town but in a neighborhood or individual zone scale, and questioned what happens to people when nonconforming homes are destroyed and have to be rebuilt.

Mayor Rustin responded that the proposal is the result of the Planning Board's desire to address issues that have been a common thread for many years and that they believe these recommendations are the tools to address these issues.

C. Honig inquired if the Borough Engineer and Construction Official have provided any input. Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that the Borough Engineer has responded that the proposal will close the loopholes and Construction Official supports the proposal. C. Zinna stated that she believed that recommendation on the combined side yard will not cause any economic harm to property owners.

Council determined to hold this item for further discussion until the December 4th work session since the Borough Engineer and Construction Official will be present.

2013 Meeting Calendar

Council reviewed the proposed 2013 schedule and changed the March 26th meeting to Thursday, March 28th as it is the second night of Seder for Passover. The Recess meeting was scheduled for Sunday, January 6th at 1:00 p.m. C. Barzelatto advised that Council needs to devote a whole work session to discuss emergency management issues and that he is working on a public emergency preparedness similar to the one this past September for early next year, which will include participation from PSEG. A special Emergency Management work session will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Rustin advised Council if they want to recognize anyone at the Recess Meeting, to let him know during the December 4th work session.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mrs. Thompson-Chin reported that the Borough received the JIF grant for the Police accreditation. The RFP has been advertised in the Borough and League of Municipalities websites. Proposals are due on December 4th, and it is anticipated that a contract will be awarded on December 11th.
- She noted that Chief Bruno is taking a significant role in the evaluation of handicapped parking in the downtown and will be working with ADA committee and Borough Engineer. The Borough Engineer will provide a cost proposal for the evaluation process.
- Little Ferry has appointed Judith Pecse as the Borough Registrar following the retirement of Pat Lazarro. Ms. Pecse will be serving Tenafly under the same terms contained in our existing Shared Services Agreement.
- FEMA is holding a mandatory kick off meeting this Friday at 10am. C. Barzelatto will attend the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lubavitch on the Palisades RE: Menorah Lighting
Council reviewed and approved the request for the annual Menorah lighting at Huyler Park. The Borough Clerk will notify Rabbi Shain.

Tenafly Nature Center RE: Encroachments
Council reviewed and acknowledged the letter from the Tenafly Nature Center. Mayor Rustin encouraged Council to attend the border walk held in the spring.

Zimmermann/Red Mango RE: Request for Dismissal of False Alarm Fine
Council reviewed the letter and declined the request to dismiss the fee. The Borough Clerk will advise the business manager of the decision.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Outdoor Fitness Equipment**

C. LaMastra advised that the Recreation Board wishes that the Borough use open space funds to purchase the equipment and install it in the oval. Mrs. Aportela-Hernandez advised that an appropriation ordinance may be required to expend the funds. She will review with the Chief Financial Officer and advise. C. LaMastra noted that she will obtain a cost estimate for the equipment from the Recreation Board.

- C. Kerge inquired about the lighting at Huyler Park. Mrs. Thompson-Chin stated that a preconstruction meeting was held regarding the lighting of the train station and they are trying to have the lighting installed for December.

NEW BUSINESS

- C. LaMastra mentioned that TVAC is looking for meeting space to conduct 4 days of training for 30 participants. They were initially looking at reserving Council Chambers. She will follow-up with TVAC if there is interest in using McCandless room.
- C. LaMastra requested that Council think about holding a brainstorming/goal setting session.
- Mayor Rustin advised that there was an emergency meeting of the Police Commission. Chief Bruno has requested that 2 new recruits be hired to begin the academy due to the retirement of Officer Economou and that Officer Savitsky has been activated to military duty in Afghanistan. Consensus of Council was to grant Chief Bruno the permission to acquire 2 new recruits to maintain the table of organization. Mayor Rustin requested that there be a discussion on recognizing Officer Savitsky's deployment and Officer Economou's retirement for the first work session in January.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Zinna, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk