

A Regular Meeting of The Mayor And Borough Council of The Borough Of Glen Ridge was held on Monday, April 12th, 2010 in the Council Chamber of The Municipal Building, Glen Ridge, New Jersey at 7:30 p m.

Mayor Hughes led The Council and the citizens in attendance in a Salute to the Flag.

Mayor Hughes read a prepared statement that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided to the public as required by statutes.

Present: Mayor Hughes, Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker.

Absent: None.

The following Borough Officers were in attendance; Borough Attorney Malyska and Acting Police Chief Byron - Lagattuta.

The Minutes Of The Regular Meeting that was held on March 22nd, 2010 were approved as submitted.

Administrator Rohal presented the following written communications:

A letter to Mayor Hughes from Richard Loveless, Supervising Engineer, Department Of Transportation, State Of New Jersey, advising of fully executed Agreements in the amount of \$ 360,000 for road work on various streets in Glen Ridge. Mayor Hughes ordered that the correspondence be filed.

A letter to Administrator Rohal from Steve J. Albanese, Essex County Department Of Public Works, Division Of Mosquito Control, outlining the scope of work should the be involved in area-wide mosquito control in Glen Ridge. Mayor Hughes ordered that the correspondence be filed.

Mr. Patrick Pignatello of 277 Baldwin Street, Glen Ridge,

Residents of Oakwood Avenue and Burnett Street, Glen Ridge appeared before the Mayor And Council and presented a petition signed by 23 residents asking that to stop the speeding and decrease the traffic on Burnett and Oakwood Steets. They expressed their opposition to the diverter on Forest Avenue. They requested that no left turn signs be placed on the east corners of Forest Avenue and Watchung Avenue, Oakwood Avenue and Watchung Avenue and Hawthorne Avenues (Bloomfield) and Watchung Avenues from 7 - 9 a. m. and 4 - 6 p. m.

The following residents address the Mayor And Council personally in support of the petition:

Christine Yewasis, 30 Burnett Street

Tom Lawton, 30 Oakwood Street

Matt & Julie Law, 32 Oakwood Street

Armine Gallarmen, 3 Oakwood Street

Lawton, 11 Oakwood Street

Administrator Rohal stated the Borough will conduct a comprehensive traffic study of the area and hold a community meeting to review the results and possible solutions.

Trisha Barrett, 213 Sherman Avenue stated her opposiotin to the tubing screens and the placing of signs on the interior fence at Sherman Avenue Field. She requested that the signs be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Kenny Myles, 42 Victor explained the GRAA's reasoning in soliciting for signs.

Bowman, 219 Sherman Avenue, objected to the screening tubing and signs.

Mr. Christopher Bowman of 199 Sherman Avenue, Glen Ridge, stated that he recently moved from a home on Maolis Avenue and he is against the posting of advertising signs on the fence at the Sherman Avenue field and he supports the residents in the area in this regard. Mr. Bowman also stated that he appreciates the efforts of the Mayor And Council.

Ms. Lisa Bull of 198 Sherman Avenue, Glen Ridge, voiced her objections to the yellow piping that was placed on top of the fence, the netting and the signage. She stated that she would work with the Glen Ridge Athletic Association to find alternative funding and she too supports the neighbors.

Mr. Brett Buchanan of 189 Sherman Avenue, Glen Ridge, voiced his objections to signage being place on the fence at the field.

Mayor Hughes reported that advertising signs would provide much needed funds (\$ 10,000.) to the Borough for field maintenance and that the tubing on top of the fence was placed there for safety purposes. Mayor Hughes also stated that the Borough receives no state aid and that all Borough fields and tennis courts have been upgraded in the last 4 years.

Ms. Pamela Kortrey of 219 Sherman Avenue, Glen Ridge, asked the Council if this was the only way to raise funds and has the Council exhausted all fund raising avenues. Mrs. Kortrey asked the Council to protect the esthetics of the Sherman Avenue neighborhood and she reported that she has written to the Historic Preservation Commission chairman, Daniel Murphy, as to the legality of the signage.

Administrator Rohal reported that the signage on the fence at the field is only visible from inside the field and not the street. Mr. Rohal also reviewed the Historic Preservation Commission regulations.

Mr. Robert Salvatelli of 25 Hawthorne Avenue, Glen Ridge, President of the G.R.A.A. reported that the yellow tubing on the fence is there only for safety issues and that the color could be changed to green or black. Mr. Salvatelli stated that 14 signs have been purchased to date and that the G.R.A.A. is trying to cooperate with all involved parties.

Councilman Lisovicz voiced his personal concerns with the yellow tubing on the fence and he stated that it was placed there with good

intentions of good volunteers. Councilman Lisovicz also stated that good money is being raised and that the signs would only be up for a short period of time.

Administrator Rohal reported that the H.P.C. does not require that notice be given to the neighborhood on matters such as this and only the Board Of Adjustment of Planning Board has such a requirement.

Mrs. Kathy Weissenberger of 184 Midland Avenue, Glen Ridge, reported that during her tenure in Glen Ridge she has fund raised for many different organizations and that fields in Glen Ridge are a huge problem. She also reported that the G.R.A.A. has investigated all fund raising avenues and that the actions taken at the Sherman Avenue field were not done maliciously by any members on the G.R.A.A.

Mrs. Deborah Glancy of 376 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, stated that although she is a former resident of the neighborhood she supports the wonderful Sherman Avenue neighborhood and she offered to help fund raise if necessary.

Mr. James Grady of 269 Forest Avenue, Glen Ridge, offered his congratulations to Chief Byron-Lagattuta and he said that the G.R.A.A. is trying to help maintain all the fields.

Mrs. Susan Cancro of 174 Sherman Avenue, Glen Ridge, said that the field is a baseball field and she respects the efforts of the G.R.A.A. to maintain the fields.

Mayor Hughes stated that the Council has a very difficult roll in attempting to balance all sides that are involved.

Mayor Hughes asked Chief Byron to inspect the screening at the field and to report back to the Council.

Mr. Daniel Barrett of 213 Sherman Avenue, Glen Ridge, volunteered to assist in the fund raising efforts.

Jim Mallick, baseball commissioner in G.R.A.A., reported that the sponsors of the signs want the signs as opposed to team shirts and he stated that he will remove the yellow fence cap if asked to. Jim stated that he wants to work with all parties to get the job done.

The Council took a 10 minute recess.

Mayor Hughes asked Attorney Malyska to update the Council and Mr. and Mrs. Proto on the status of the interlocal agreement with Montclair on the jurisdiction issues at Glenmont Square.

Attorney Malyska reported that this interlocal agreement is a work in progress. Ordinances are being prepared to give Montclair Police jurisdiction on the Glen Ridge side of the property and Glen Ridge jurisdiction on the Montclair side of the property along with right of enforce other town laws within each jurisdiction. Attorney Malyska stated that this is a very delicate and difficult area to enforce municipal laws.

Mayor Hughes told the Proto's that the Council is working very hard to remedy this situation.

Mrs. Eleanor Proto of 92 Glen Ridge Avenue, Glen Ridge, reported that the trees that were put on the property by the developer are

inadequate. Mrs. Proto also stated that she is finding trash in her yard everyday and the ventilation system at Smash Burger is not working properly in her opinion. Mrs. Proto further stated that the lighting on the site was not adjusted when the time changed last month.

Administrator Rohal stated that he is working with Montclair and the developer to correct the buffer between the properties but that a higher fence would require a Montclair variance.

Councilwoman Seyffarth, Chairperson of The Finance And Administration Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and that the 2010 Municipal Budget was the only agenda item.

Councilperson Seyffarth reported that she has Ordinance No. **1528** entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE
MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A
CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

for introduction. The Ordinance title was read by Councilperson Seyffarth. It was moved by Councilperson Seyffarth, seconded by Councilperson Provost that Ordinance No. **1528** be passed on first reading. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none. Mayor Hughes referred the Ordinance to Municipal Clerk Rohal for the purposes of statutory publication and posting.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Seyffarth, seconded by Councilperson Baker and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **59** - 10)

2010 - BUDGET - READING BY TITLE ONLY

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 13)

Municipal Clerk Rohal reported that the 2010 Municipal Budget will be available for viewing on the website and for inspection in the Clerk's office within the week.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Seyffarth, seconded by Councilperson Patrick and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **60** - 10)

2010 - SCHOOL TAX TO SURPLUS

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 13)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Seyffarth, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none. Councilwoman Provost abstained.

(Resolution No. **61** - 10)

2010 - BUDGET SUBMISSION

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 13)

Councilwoman Seyffarth reported that the 2010 Municipal Budget continues to be a work in progress. This is by no means the final copy of the budget. There will be amendments up until the scheduled Public Hearing on May 22nd.

Councilwoman Seyffarth high-lighted portions of the 2010 budget. A public hearing on the 2010 Budget is scheduled for the May 24, 2010 Council Meeting. The Budget will not be adopted until the state finalizes its budget. This action typically occurs in July.

The Budget Calendar follows:

- Budget Process Initiated - 10/1/09
- Department Budget Submittal 12/1/10
- Departmental Budget Hearings 2/24/10
- Assessment Appeal Deadline - 4/1/10
- Introduction of Budget 4/12/10
- Budget Hearing 5/22/10
- Budget Amendments Allowed 5/22/10
- Adoption of State Budget - 6/30/10 Deadline
- Adoption of Municipal Budget - 2nd Tuesday of either July or August 2010

This year's budget decreases annual appropriations from \$12,023,822.19 to \$11,847,329.38, a reduction of \$176,492.81 or 1.57%. Municipal taxes comprise 22.1 % of the property tax levy. (School - 62.4%, County 15.5%)

Even with a reduction in expenditures, the tax levy increases \$333,884.82 or 3.81% due to revenue reductions. Due to tax appeals the municipal property tax the municipal tax rate will increase by 4.7%. The reduction due to appeals in the 2010 net valuation is \$13,504,797.

General Revenue (local revenues, state aid & surplus) decreased \$544,572 from 2009. State Aid decreased \$122,394 from 2009. State aid has been reduced \$360,519 since 2007.

The major cost drivers in this year's budget are health insurance, pension and property, causality and workers comp insurance.

Staff reductions were necessary in order to achieve the 4% tax rate increase. In the police department, the table of organization was reduced by 2 positions and both administration and public works were each reduced by 2 full time equivalents employees.

The revenue problem is evident reviewing the Borough's appropriation & tax levy caps. The tax levy is \$234,338 under cap, and the appropriations are \$1,450,287.38 under cap.

The Council will be pursuing additional revenue enhancements and cost reductions before the adoption of the 2010 budget to reach the target goal of a 4% municipal property tax increase.

The Mayor & Council look forward to hearing from the public at the May 24th Public Hearing or by email at budget@glenridgenj.org.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available in Room 102 in the Municipal Building, the Library as well as Borough's web page.

Councilwoman Seyffarth reported that the Finance Committee appreciates the efforts and support of the Mayor and Council, Administrator Rohal and the staff.

Mayor Hughes thanked Councilwoman Seyffarth for all her hard work on this budget.

Councilwoman Seyffarth thanked the staff and the Borough employees for the work with the additional work burden put on them due to the staff reductions.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Seyffarth, seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 62 - 10)

CLAIMS - APPROVAL OF

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 13)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Seyffarth, seconded by Councilperson Baker and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 63 - 10)

TAX OVERPAYMENT - REFUND

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 13)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Seyffarth, seconded by Councilperson Baker and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 64 - 10)

HUMAN RESOURCES - ADOPTING MANUAL REVISIONS

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 13)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Patrick, seconded by Councilperson Provost and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz, Baker and Mayor Hughes voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 65 - 10)

ACTING POLICE CHIEF - APPOINTING - BYRON

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 1)

Mayor Hughes congratulated Chief Byron on her promotion and stated that he was glad to have her on board.

Councilwoman Provost, Chairwoman of The Community Affairs and Public Relations Committee, reminded everyone that applications for the film fund grant are due on or before April 30th.

Councilman Dawson, Chairman of The Public Works Committee, reported that the Public Works crews were very responsive during the heavy rain storms in late March and that the Borough experienced minimal storm damage.

Councilman Dawson reported that there was a tremendous turnout for the electronics collection this past weekend and that the garbage collection is improving with each collection.

Councilman Dawson also reported that work continues on Hurrell Field and the work on the exterior of the Municipal complex is progressing with the painting of the windows and the replacement of the bricks.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Dawson, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote;

Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 66 - 10)

SURVEYOR - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 1)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Dawson, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote;

Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 67 - 10)

UTILITY ENGINEER - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 1)

Councilman Lisovicz, Chairman of The Parks And Recreation Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and that the Committee extends its sincere thanks to Jackie Yustein and County Executive DiVincenzo on their commitment for the restoration of Watsessing Field in Bloomfield for use by Glen Ridge residents.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lisovicz, seconded by Councilperson Patrick and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 68 - 10)

CLARKTON, LTD - AWARDING CONTRACT

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 14)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Seyffarth, seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote;

Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 69 - 10)

TAX OVERPAYMENT - REFUND

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 13)

Administrator Rohal congratulated Chief Byron on her promotion.

Administrator Rohal announced that the water meter replacement program will begin within the next two weeks and that it will be done by appointment only. He advised that the installers will all have identification that there will be no door-to-door installers. Police should be contacted if the resident has any concerns.

Borough Attorney Malyska congratulated Chief Byron on her appointment.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Baker, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote;

Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 70 - 10)

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION - OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

(See Resolution Book No. 17 - Page No. 17 - 14)

Mayor Hughes declared that this meeting is hereby adjourned.

The Council adjourned at 10:06 p. m.

Michael J. Rohal

Michael J. Rohal,
Municipal Clerk