

The ANNUAL Meeting of The Mayor and The Borough Council of The Borough of Glen Ridge was held on Monday, January 4th, 2010 in the Council Chamber of The Municipal Building, Glen Ridge, New Jersey at 7:00 p. m.

Municipal Clerk Rohal called upon Councilwoman - Elect Elizabeth K. Baker to present herself to The Clerk for the purpose of subscribing to the Oath Of Office.

Municipal Clerk Rohal called upon Councilman - Elect Paul A. Lisovicz to present himself to The Clerk for the purpose of subscribing to the Oath Of Office.

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

Mayor Hughes called the meeting to order and 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 Officer was in attendance: Borough Attorney Malyska, Public Safety Director Magnier, Public Safety Chaplain Bulgia and Sergeant McCann.

Mayor Hughes called upon P.B.A. Chaplain and Deacon Thomas J. Bulgia to Pronounce The Invocation.

It was moved by Councilperson Lisovicz, seconded by Councilperson Baker that Councilwoman **Seyffarth's** name be placed in nomination to serve as **President** of the Borough Council for the year **2010**. No further nominations were offered. 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 declared that Councilwoman Seyffarth will serve as this Council's President for the year **2010** and he offered her his congratulations.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Dawson, 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. **1 - 10**)

BY - LAWS OF THE COUNCIL - ADOPTING FOR 2010

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

Mayor Hughes appointed the following **STANDING** Committees of The Borough Council for the year **2010**: (the first named on each Committee shall serve as that Committee's Chairperson)

FINANCE And **ADMINISTRATION** Committee: **SEYFFARTH**, Patrick & Provost
PUBLIC SAFETY Committee: **PATRICK**, Seyffarth & Lisovicz
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS And **PUBLIC RELATIONS**: **PROVOST**, Baker & Patrick
PUBLIC WORKS And **PUBLIC UTILITIES**: **DAWSON**, Lisovicz & Baker
PARKS And **RECREATION** Committee: **LISOVICZ**, Dawson & Seyffarth
PLANNING And **DEVELOPMENT** Committee: **BAKER**, Provost & Dawson

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed John N. **MALYSKA** to the position of Borough **ATTORNEY** for the term of one (1) year.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Patrick, 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. 2 - 10)

MALYSKA, JOHN N. - ATTORNEY - APPOINTMENT OF

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

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed Elizabeth A. **BREWSTER**, Esq. to the position of Borough **PROSECUTOR** for the term of one (1) year.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Baker, seconded by Councilperson Provost and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 3 - 10)

BREWSTER, ELIZABETH A. - PROSECUTOR - APPOINTMENT OF

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

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed Delia J. **MURPHY**, Esq. to the position of Borough **PUBLIC DEFENDER** in the Municipal Court for the term of one (1) year.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Dawson, seconded by Councilperson Seyffarth and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 4 - 10)

MURPHY, DELIA J. - PUBLIC DEFENDER - APPOINTMENT OF

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

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed the following **OFFICERS** and **EMPLOYEES** for the year **2010**:

- Irene C. W. **WHEAT** - - - Certified Finance Officer
- Donna **ALTSCHULER** - - - Certified Municipal Tax Collector

The following was introduced by Councilperson Provost, seconded by Councilperson Baker and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Baker, Dawson, Lisovicz and Provost voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 5 - 10)

OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - APPOINTMENT OF

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

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed the following to serve as members of the various **BOARDS**, **COMMISSIONS** and **COMMITTEES**:

- The Board Of Adjustment: (4 Year Term) Timothy **HEGARTY**
- " " " " " " " Tanmoy **MUKHERJEE**
- " " " " (Alt. No. 1) (2 Year Term) Deborah **COLLINS**
- " " " " " " " " " " " "
- The Planning Board (Class I) (1 Year Term) Peter A. **HUGHES**
- " " " " II " " " Michael J. **ROHAL**

"	"	"	"	III	"	"	"	Yvonne PROVOST
"	"	"	"	IV	4	"	"	Rick MASON
"	"	"	"	IV	"	"	"	J. Kelly CONKLIN
"	"	"	"	(Alt. # 2)	"	"	"	Norbert TROJANOWSKI
The Board Of Health					(1 Year Term)			Elizabeth K. BAKER
"	"	"	"		2	"	"	Sujana CHANDRASEKHAR
"	"	"	"		"	"	"	Jacqueline S YUSTEIN
"	"	"	"		"	"	"	Roseann MURRAY
The Borough Risk Manager					(1 Year Term)			Bruce D. RODDY
The Library Board Of Trustees					(5 Year Term)			David GINSBURG
"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	Stuart K. PATRICK
The Borough Historian					(1 Year Term)			Sally MEYER
Mayor's Construction Advisory Committee					(1 Year Term)			Steven P. PLATE
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Ravi R. MEHROTRA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Jeff THEODOROU
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Dan MURPHY
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Rick MASON
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Arthur DAWSON
The Historic Preservation Commission					(4 Year Term)			Daniel MURPHY (B)
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Daniel McMAHON (B)
"	"	"	"	(Alt # 2)	2	"	"	Kathryn SCHACKNER
The Municipal Alliance Committee:					(1 Year Term)			Aubrey BLANDA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Kathy WEISSENBERGER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Peter A. HUGHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Elizabeth K. BAKER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sheila E. BYRON
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lynneve BERKOWITZ
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Joseph CARAVELA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Joseph T. CONNOLLY
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	James T. COWAN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Mary Lynn DePIERRO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Maria DiCONDINA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Joy DeKEIZER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lauren DUTTON
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael DONOVAN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Dr. John MUCCIOLO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Deborah FITZPATRICK
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Fredric A. EGNEZZO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Robert GROPPER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Carol P. HAPRSTER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Jon HEITMANN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Carlos A. ALVAREZ
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Heather KOBYLINSKI
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Charles LEA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tania LIDDY
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	John R. MAGNIER

"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Karen	MARTIN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nancy	McMAHON
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Susan	HUGHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Robert	McCORMICK
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Dayna	NICLES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Suzzane	O'CONNOR
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Dirk	PHILLIPS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Cindy	REYNOLDS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Kenneth	ROTA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lauren	SMITH
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Carolyn	TWITCHELL
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lea	ZWEIG
Cable Channel-36 Citizens Advisory					(1 Year Term)			Richard	WATERS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Peter A.	HUGHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Elizabeth K.	BAKER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Linda W.	SEYFFARTH
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	John	HORSKY
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Alan	LEVINE
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Shamir	LEVINE
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Walter	OLIVER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Kathryn	SCHACKNER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Jed	SCHULMAN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Alfredo	VILLELA
Rep. To Second River Joint Meeting					(1 Year Term)			Peter A.	HUGHES
Rep. To Third River Joint Meeting					(1 Year Term)			Peter A.	HUGHES
Rep. To Essex County S.W.A.C.					(1 Year Term)			Jay A.	WEISENBACH
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael J.	ROHAL
Recycling Coordinator					(1 Year Term)			Jay A.	WEISENBACH
Deputy Recycling Coordinator					(1 Year Term)			William	BARTLETT
Clean Communities Coordinator					"	"	"	Jay A.	WEISENBACH
Rep. To Essex County C.D.B.G. Program					(1 Year Term)			Michael P.	ZICHELLI
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Linda W.	SEYFFARTH
Emergency Management Coordinator					(3 Year Term)			Michael J.	ROHAL
Dep. "	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	John R.	MAGNIER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Fredric A.	EGNEZZO
The Pool Board Of Trustees					(1 Year Term)			Peter A.	HUGHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Stuart K.	PATRICK
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Paul A.	LISOVICZ
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Linda W.	SEYFFARTH
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Elizabeth A.	BREWSTER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	James T.	COWAN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	John N.	MALYSKA
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael J.	ROHAL
The Glen Preservation Committee					(1 Year Term)			Thomas	DANIELS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Peter A.	HUGHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Linda W	SEYFFARTH

"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael J. ROHAL
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Carl A. BERGMANSON
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Jean BEHREND
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Pru BORLAND
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Beverly DeFILIPPIS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Timothy DELORM
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sam JOSEPH
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Christine KAY
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Gordon LEAVITT
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Caren MARINEAU
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sally MEYER
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lori McDONALD
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Cherry PROVOST
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Karin ROBINSON
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Curtis SCHADE
The	Environmental	Advisory	Committee	(1 Year Term)	Elizabeth A	BREWSTER		
"	"	"	"	"	Elizabeth K.	BAKER		
"	"	"	"	"	Miriam	ASCARELLI		
"	"	"	"	"	Theresa	DOSS		
"	"	"	"	"	Patricia	DOYLE		
"	"	"	"	"	Sally	ELLYSON		
"	"	"	"	"	Megan	GUILANELLI		
"	"	"	"	"	Christine	HEINCKE		
"	"	"	"	"	Janet	BERNHARD		
"	"	"	"	"	Joan	LISOVICZ		
"	"	"	"	"	Deborah	MANNS		
"	"	"	"	"	Ellen	MORRIS		
"	"	"	"	"	Michael J.	ROHAL		
"	"	"	"	"	Paul	ROMANO		
"	"	"	"	"	Darrius	SOLLOHOB		
"	"	"	"	"	Dawne	TOUCHINGS		
"	"	"	"	"	Jennifer	WEISSMAN		
"	"	"	"	"	Sydney	YOUNG		
"	"	"	"	"	Jacqueline S	YUSTEIN		
The	Caring Community Alliance	Committee	(1 Year Term)	Kate	PATRICK			
"	"	"	"	Elizabeth K.	BAKER			
"	"	"	"	Michael	GIRONTA			
"	"	"	"	Paula	ELY			
"	"	"	"	Kim	PATERSON			

The following was introduced by Councilperson Provost, seconded by Councilperson Baker 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. 6 - 10)

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES - APPOINTMENTS TO

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

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lisovicz, seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Baker, Dawson, Lisovicz and Provost voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 7 - 10)

2010 REGULAR MEETINGS - MAYOR AND COUNCIL

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

The following was introduced by Councilperson Baker, seconded by Councilperson Patrick and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Seyffarth, Patrick, Baker, Dawson, Lisovicz and Provost voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 8 - 10)

2010 OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS - ESTABLISHMENT OF

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

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. 9 - 10)

2010 TEMPORARY BUDGET - ADMINISTRATIVE & EXECUTIVE

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

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. 10 - 10)

WATER & POOL - 2010 TEMPORARY BUDGETS

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

The following was introduced by Councilperson Seyffarth, 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. 11 - 10)

CLAIMS - APPROVAL OF

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

Mayor Hughes presented his third "State Of The Ridge" address to the citizens in attendance.

I really look forward to this meeting every year. There are so many things about it that I like: The formality of the swearing in ceremony, the appointment of over 100 volunteers to the various board and committees, the recognition of past service, and the opportunity to review what I feel are the accomplishments of 2009 and to set forth some goals for 2010. Let me start with an official welcome back to the Council for well-deserved second terms, past Council President Paul Lisovicz and Councilperson, Elizabeth Baker. All of us in Glen Ridge appreciate your willingness to serve on the Council and I for one am very glad to have back such smart, hardworking and dedicated individuals. Welcome back Paul and Elizabeth.

I would like also to personally thank and recognize some volunteers who are leaving this year: On MAC Leah Zweig and Aubrey Blanda are stepping down as co-chairs but will remain on the MAC. Ann Russomano is leaving the Historic Preservation Committee. In Ann's place, Kit Shackner has agreed to return to HPC after a 1 year hiatus. I would like to thank Aubrey, Leah, Ann and all of the many volunteers who serve on all of our committees and Boards. We just can't say it often enough: Without your generous service we could not provide the level of service that we do. Incidentally, we are always looking for volunteers to serve in some capacity. If anyone is interested please contact me, any council person or our administrator,

Michael Rohal. There is also a form you can use called the Citizen's leadership form which is on our website that can be filled out and emailed to us.

On a sad note, this year we lost Former Mayor Midge Bourne and Former Councilman Lacelle Stites. Councilman Stites served on the Council from 1987-1992 under Mayors Callahan and Bourne. He was chair of the Parks and Rec Committee and was Chair of the Finance Committee. Mayor Bourne was a personal friend and the consummate volunteer. During her two terms as Council person from 1985-1990, and her term as Mayor from 1992-1995, she dealt with some very large and difficult issues. Under Mayor Callahan, while Midge was on the Council, Radon was discovered on the South End of Town. Midge dealt with the ongoing remediation efforts and was faced with having to work with the federal government to begin the cleanup of private homes as well as Carteret Park. As Councilperson, Midge oversaw the installation of town-wide cable service which required easements throughout Town and the determination of where those cable lines would go. Let me ask "Does anyone know where TV cables cross roads in Town?" I don't. But I do know that if it had been left to the cable company we would all know where they are. They would have been put wherever it was easiest for them and without concern for the character of Glen Ridge. Midge also dealt with the expansion of Mountainside Hospital and fought NJT over the Montclair Connection. After her service as mayor, Midge remained very active and she, as well as Councilman Stites, will be missed by all of us.

Now let me talk very briefly about some of the highlights of 2009.

- The Planning and Development Committee under Councilwoman Yvonne Provost oversaw big changes at the Ford Motor site on Bloomfield Avenue and we welcomed into town a new Panera, a new Seven Eleven, Smash Burger, a new T Mobile store and a new PNC bank branch. After years of trying, we finally got good news on the Benson St. Train Station and we are very pleased that a GR family with a with a long history of historic restoration has begun restoring what was once an eyesore into something useful and beautiful in the new year. Another important development was the advent of weekend train service to Glen Ridge. This is a wonderful development and is one that will benefit all of us. We are pleased to announce a new interlocal agreement with our neighbor Montclair that transfers water line and sewer maintenance to them. They will also take over meter readings from us once we have installed new digital water meters which we plan to do in 2010. Councilwoman Provost spent time with the Planning Board last year to re-examine the Town's Master Plan and served as my delegate to a joint meeting of Essex County towns, which are looking for ways to share services and lower costs.
- The Community Affairs Committee under Councilwoman Elizabeth Baker continues to lead us in several new and exciting directions. In May, along with our environmental committee we hosted our second Eco fair that introduced a number of new Green initiatives in town. As a direct result of Councilperson Baker's efforts, we have greatly expanded our recycling effort: Starting in 2010 we will introduce weekly pickup of single stream recycling. There is a lot of good news here: weekly pickup should encourage more recycling and less impact on our environment; weekly pick up should also result in lower tipping fees for trash, and single stream recycling means its easier to recycle: simply get 1 large container and put in cans, bottles, paper and plastic. And for the first time virtually all plastic including milk and juice containers can be recycled. During 2009, Councilwoman Baker helped the Council to better understand all of the issues involved in the creation of a shade tree commission. The details are important and we will get them right. I am personally committed to doing a better job of managing the shade trees that are owned by the Town and that line our streets. This is something that we will work very hard on in the new year.
- The Parks and Rec committee wasn't always such a tough assignment and I want to compliment Councilman Paul Lisovich and our rec director Jim Cowan for doing the best they can with what we have. Simply put we do not give these men the resources they need to deliver the services they are asked to provide. Two years ago parks and rec was able to keep all of our programs running at full capacity even though forest Ave field was out of use and Carteret field usage was severely restricted to protect the new grass surface there. Last year, we opened Forest and Carteret, but closed Hurrell Field for a complete rebuild of the grass field and the track. Each year many of our sports programs have to go outside the borough as we don't have enough fields to support all of the programs in Town. 2010 doesn't look like it will be any easier.

- It is well known that we have a problem with the new grass field at Hurrell, that it doesn't drain as it should, despite the installation of a state of the art under field drainage system. I believe that we are close to an agreement with the installation contractor to make recommended repairs to the field, and we are hopeful that these repairs will greatly improve the ability of the field to dry out after a rain. The good news is that the new synthetic track at Hurrell is in excellent shape and is a benefit to many groups in Town. Our pledge is that we will soon have a field that is in as good a shape as the new track. We are also hopeful that Essex County will move forward with its plan to build a new synthetic field in Watsessing park. In my opinion, we have to have the use of at least one synthetic field to take the load off of our grass fields. For without a synthetic playing surface, we will be forever stuck in an expensive circle of field rehabilitation due to overuse.
- For the past two years, Councilman Dawson and the Public Works Committee were busy overseeing over \$4M dollars in repairs to nearly all of the facilities we have in Town. I think it is important that we recognize that all of these projects came in under budget and on time. This year, using the proceeds of a \$675,000 Historic Trust Fund grant, a grant that took us 9 years to get, this building will get a new roof, extensive repairs to the masonry brick face, refurbished windows, and on the inside paint and carpeting. The 12 members of the Public Works crew are the unsung heroes of the borough. They handle all of the quality of life issues many of which we tend to take for granted. Art has jumped into every project feet first, and he has mud on his boots and dirt on his hands to prove it. We have all seen Art overseeing sewer repairs on Washington Street and Adams Place, and assembling bleachers at Hurrell field. When we needed a new Jitney bus, Art went down to Philadelphia with Bill Ferdun to inspect and purchase a replacement at a very attractive price. In 2010, Art will oversee the largest amount of paving that we have ever done, thanks to a \$360,000 dollar grant from NJ Department of Transportation. In 2010 we will pave: Highland Ave between Bellville and Bloomfield Ave, and the area on Highland in front of the hospital, Roswell Terrace, Inness Pl, Sherman Ave between Bay and Oxford, Oxford St, Tuxedo Rd, Yantacaw Ave, Oakwood Road, Linden Between Ridgewood and the Bloomfield border, and Rudd Court. In 2010, Art will also oversee our continuing efforts to improve our water infrastructure as we replace all of the old meters in Town and finish the replacement of all lead-lined service in town.
- The Finance and Administration Committee has the difficult task of keeping costs and taxes down, while delivering a very high level of service.. In 2009, despite all of the problems in the larger economy, and despite a reduction in aid from the State and a significant reduction in local revenues, GR did not cut any essential services: normal hours were maintained at the library, rear yard trash pickup was collected twice a week, snow removal was still the best in the area, and our police department was fully staffed. In fact, in 2009 we maintained all of our services and we reduced the Municipal budget by \$200,000.

In 2010 this job will not get any easier. We anticipate that aid from the State will be further reduced in 2010, income from permits, fees and investments will also go down, and we know that medical and pension costs will go up 22%. That means that Councilwoman Seyffarth will have a \$650,000 cost increase to deal with as we start the New Year. The good news, if there is any, is that the town's finances are in good hands. This time last year the headlines were filled with stories of towns that had lost significant amounts of money having invested in esoteric financial instruments such as derivatives and auction rate securities. Other headlines told of towns that had invested in money funds that had become illiquid. We had none of those problems to deal with. Last year, as banks were failing throughout the region, Councilperson Seyffarth did a complete review of our cash management program and we were reassured that all of our funds were safely invested and protected. Last year also saw the success of our long-term effort to clear up some long standing audit issues as we received our first ever non-qualified financial statement.

- Next, the Public Safety Committee under Councilman Patrick continued its important efforts to streamline our Police department and our Municipal codes. During 2009 we saw a continued reduction in our overall crime statistics and a sustained effort to improve pedestrian safety throughout the Borough. During 2009 we installed 4-way stop signs at Linden and Hawthorne, Maolis and Hawthorne, and Carteret and

- Hawthorne. At the urging of the Public Safety Committee, Essex County installed new pedestrian signage at all Ridgewood Avenue pedestrian crossings. In 2009, a crossing guard has been stationed at Ridgewood and Snowden Place and we have been working with our School Board and the Principals at all of the schools to expand our pedestrian safety education program. I would also like to thank Mountainside Hospital for donating the use of the electronic message trailer which we are using to reinforce driver safety.
- In 2009, our police commissioner, Councilman Stuart Patrick, successfully oversaw exams for both sergeants and lieutenants and he has made a number of new appointments as we experienced several retirements of senior officers this past year. Fred Egnezzo and Bob Wohlgemuth have been promoted to acting lieutenants: Carlos Alvarez and Glen McCann have been promoted to acting sergeants. Let me congratulate all of these officers on their well-deserved promotions. It has been said before but it is worth saying again, we have an excellent Police Department and we are proud of its achievements. In these recent promotional exams, all of the officers who took the exams passed with very high marks which speak loudly to the quality of these individuals and of the entire department. Let me also recognize two veterans of the department who retired this year: Lieutenants Paul Bruno and Mark Daily who retire after 25 years of service on the Glen Ridge Police Department
- I would also like to take a moment to recognize the excellent reputation of our Glen Ridge Municipal Court. Under our Judge, Joe Connolly, prosecutor Liz Brewster, Public Defender, Delia Murphy, our Court is recognized each and every year for its superior efficiency and professionalism by the County Assignment Judge who oversees Municipal Courts. Not only is our court efficient in handling matters fairly and expeditiously, it operates on a break- even basis. Our Court is a true asset for our Town. I am very pleased to reappoint Judge Connolly, Prosecutor Brewster and Public Defender, Delia Murphy.

Ok, for 2010, we can expect to see the following:

1. at no cost to the Borough 2 new jitneys using a \$150,000 grant from New Jersey Transit.
2. A new program of single stream recycling with weekly pick up that will reduce municipal waste in the Borough.
3. Creation of a shade tree commission to protect and improve this important town asset..
4. Correction of the drainage issue at Hurrell field.
5. Continued improvements to the interior and exterior of Borough Hall using a grant of \$650,000.00 from State Historic Trust Fund.
6. Town-wide installation new water meters to reduce loss in the system due to old and slow meters and to encourage conservation of this important resource.
7. Finishing our lead water abatement program to eliminate all lead pipe connections from Town mains to residential service.
8. Continue to study the town's sewer system and map out system wide needs for improvements.
9. Continued effort to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in the borough.

As a final comment before I close, as we anticipate sharply lower revenues in 2010, and as we sensitize this years budget to accommodate reduced revenues in an era when there is so much pressure to consolidate services to reduce costs, it is very important that we all consider and get clearly in our minds what it is that makes Glen Ridge special. Because, in the months and years to come, as residents and as elected officials, we will have to make some tough choices regarding the future of this Town that we all love so deeply. We will have to decide what services we will continue to provide ourselves and which ones we will contract with other communities to provide. We will have to look at the many institutions that we have in town and decide which ones will stay. Essentially we will be faced with having to decide what it is that makes Glen Ridge a unique place to live, what we have to fight to preserve, and what we can live without. I believe that our police department, public works department, library and Town Administration are essential parts of this Town's identity. So are our Judge, prosecutor and public defender. In my opinion, these entities like our many volunteers and volunteer groups, care deeply for this Town, are part of the fabric of Glen Ridge, and must be preserved. We can't function without volunteers, but without the professional support of our police department, public works crew, our administrator, engineer, attorney, and the members of the Borough staff, our volunteers would not be as effective as they are and the service level we provide would not justify Glen Ridge remaining independent. Certainly we have

to look at what these institutions do and what they cost, but as we make decisions on shared services, we have to be mindful that at some point we can go too far. We don't ever want to get to the point where we share so much that the reasons for our existence have disappeared.

Jacqueline S. Yustein, Essex County liaison to County Executive Divincenzo, brought greetings from the County Executive and she thanked both the Mayor and Council on their service to this Borough.

Harry Rush, 53 High Street, Glen Ridge noted that the Council and the Board of Education meetings will be held on the same nights in 2010. He expressed his concern the residents and the press will only have the opportunity to attend one. Mr. Rush also reported that he is delighted with the new recycling schedule and the new recycling material that is now being collected. He also stated that one goal of the Borough is to obtain an equitable use of the County athletic fields.

Councilman Lisovicz stated that this Council works weekly with County Officials and the lines of communication are wide open when it comes to out-of-town field availability.

Councilman Patrick stated that both the Council and the Board Of Ed meeting are recorded and shown on Channel 36 for those who can't attend the meetings in person.

With no further remarks or business to come before this Council, Mayor Hughes entertained a Motion to adjourn this meeting.

It was moved by Councilperson Provost, seconded by Councilperson Patrick that this meeting be adjourned. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilperson Seyffarth, Patrick, Provost, Dawson, Lisovicz and Baker voting aye and noes none.

Mayor Hughes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and he declared that this meeting is hereby adjourned.

The Council adjourned at 7:43 p. m.

Michael J. Rohal
Michael J. Rohal,
Municipal Clerk