

The ANNUAL Meeting of The Mayor and The Borough Council of The Borough of Glen Ridge was held on Monday, January 6th, 2014 in the Council Chamber of The Municipal Building, Glen Ridge, New Jersey at 6:53 p. m.

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

Municipal Clerk Rohal called upon Councilman - Elect Stuart K. **PATRICK** to present himself to The Clerk for the purpose of subscribing to the Oath Of Office.

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 Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Theodorou, Dawson and Murphy.

Absent: None.

The following Borough Officer was in attendance: Borough Attorney Malyska, Police Chief Byron - Lagatutta and Planning And Development Director Zichelli, III.

It was moved by Councilperson Lefkovits, seconded by Councilperson Murphy that Councilman **THEODOROU'S** name be placed in nomination to serve as **President** of The Borough Council for the year **2014**. No further nominations were offered. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson and Murphy voting aye and noes none. Council President-Elect Theodorou abstained from voting. Mayor Hughes declared that Councilman Theodorou will serve as this Council's President for the year **2014** and he offered him his congratulations.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Murphy, seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 1 - 14)

BY - LAWS OF THE COUNCIL - ADOPTING FOR 2014

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 1)

Mayor Hughes appointed the following STANDING Committees of The Borough Council for the year **2014**: (the first named on each Committee shall serve as that Committee's Chairperson)

- FINANCE** And **ADMINISTRATION** Committee: **PATRICK**, Lefkovits & Theodorou
- PUBLIC SAFETY** Committee: **LISOVICZ**, Patrick & Dawson
- COMMUNITY AFFAIRS** And **PUBLIC RELATIONS**: **LEFKOVITS**, Murphy & Patrick
- PUBLIC WORKS** And **PUBLIC UTILITIES**: **DAWSON**, Theodorou & Murphy
- PARKS** And **RECREATION** Committee: **THEODOROU**, Dawson & Lisovicz
- PLANNING** And **DEVELOPMENT** Committee: **MURPHY**, Lisovicz & Lefkovits

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 Lisovicz, seconded by Councilperson Murphy and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 2 - 14)

MALYSKA, JOHN N. - ATTORNEY - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 1)

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 Patrick, seconded by Councilperson Theodorou and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou, Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 3 - 14)

BREWSTER, ELIZABETH A. - PROSECUTOR - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 1)

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 Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 4 - 14)

MURPHY, DELIA J. - PUBLIC DEFENDER - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 1)

With the advice and consent of The Borough Council, Mayor Hughes appointed the following **OFFICERS** and **EMPLOYEES** for the year **2014**:

- Irene C. W. **WHEAT** - - - Certified Finance Officer
- Donna **ALTSCHULER** - - - Certified Municipal Tax Collector
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Construction Official
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Building Subcode Official
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Building Inspector
- Michael **DeFRINO** - - - Electrical Subcode Official
- Michael **DeFRINO** - - - Electrical Inspector
- Robert **LANGFELD** - - - Acting Plumbing Subcode Official
- Robert **LANGFELD** - - - Plumbing Inspector
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Fire Subcode Official
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Fire Inspector
- John J. **BUONANNO** - - - Zoning Officer

The following was introduced by Councilperson Baker, seconded by Councilperson Lefkovits and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 5 - 14)

OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - APPOINTMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 2)

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)	Felicia BERGER
" " " "	(Alt. No. 1) 2 " "	Raymond SCOTT
" " " "	" " 2 " " "	Dennis KRIEN
The Planning Board	(Class II) (1 Year Term)	Michael J. ROHAL
" " " "	" III " " "	Daniel T. MURPHY
" " " "	" IV 4 " "	Timothy HEGARTY
" " " "	" IV " " "	Robert MORROW
" " " "	(Alt. No. 1) 2 " "	Thomas R. BORGER
" " " "	" " 2 " " "	Anthony TURIANO
The Board Of Health	(2 Year Term)	S. CHANDRASEKHAR
" " " "	" " "	Jacqueline YUSTEIN
" " " "	" " "	Michael SHERMAN
The Borough Risk Manager	(1 Year Term)	Bruce D. RODDY
The Library Board Of Trustees	(5 Year Term)	David GINSBURG ut
" " " " "	1 " "	Stuart K. PATRICK
" " " " "	" " "	Dr. John MUCCIOLA
The Borough Historian	(1 Year Term)	Sally Jane MEYER
The Historic Preservation Commission	(4 Year Term)	Daniel McMAHON (B)
" " " (Alt. # 1 C)	2 " "	Glen TRUNLEY ut
" " " " " 2 B	" " "	Geoffrey DARBY
The Municipal Alliance Committee	(1 Year Term)	Nancy McMAHON
" " " "	" " "	Christine HEINCKE
" " " "	" " "	Lorijeane MOODY,
" " " "	" " "	Aubrey BLANDA
" " " "	" " "	Peter A. HUGHES
" " " "	" " "	Michael J. ROHAL
" " " "	" " "	Elizabeth K. BAKER
" " " "	" " "	Yvonne S. PROVOST
" " " "	" " "	Sheila E. BYRON
" " " "	" " "	Joseph CARAVELA
" " " "	" " "	Mark A. CLEMENTE
" " " "	" " "	James T. COWAN
" " " "	" " "	Mary Lynn DePIERRO
" " " "	" " "	Maria DiCONDINA
" " " "	" " "	Lauren DUTTON
" " " "	" " "	Kathy WEISSENBERGER

"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Dr. John MUCCIOLO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael DONOVAN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Deborah FITZPATRICK
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Fredric A. EGNEZZO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Vivian MARINO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Jon HEITMANN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Michael MEDICO
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Heather KOBYLINSKI
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sharon HARMS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Robert J. WOHLGEMUTH
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Megan GUILLIANI
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lisa KOLLBERG
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tracey ST. AUBORN
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Susan HUGHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tami KINLEY
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	L.O'DRISCOLL-MARCHES
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Suzzane O'CONNOR
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Dirk PHILLIPS
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lynneve BERKOWITZ
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Leah ZWEIG
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Cindy REYNOLDS

The Cable Channel-36 Citizens Advisory	(1 Year Term)	Richard WATERS
"	"	Peter A. HUGHES
"	"	David A. LEFKOVITS
"	"	Linda W. SEYFFARTH
"	"	Kathryn SCHACKNER
"	"	Eric GOLDMAN
"	"	Mark H. DAVIS

The Shade Tree Commission (1 Year Term) Larry **STAUFFER**

The Environmental Advisory Committee	(1 Year Term)	Elizabeth A BREWSTER
"	"	Elizabeth K. BAKER
"	"	Eric HANAN
"	"	Megan GUILANELLI
"	"	Joan LISOVICZ
"	"	Deborah MANN
"	"	Michael J. ROHAL
"	"	Sydney YOUNG
"	"	Jacqueline S YUSTEIN
"	"	Alexia De FAYS
"	"	Lauren PINCUS
"	"	George MUSSER
"	"	Alice ROBERTS
"	"	Chris HANSON

Rep. To Second River Joint Meeting	(1 Year Term)	Arthur D. DAWSON
Rep. To Third River Joint Meeting	(1 Year Term)	Peter A. HUGHES
Rep. To Essex County S.W.A.C.	(1 Year Term)	William BARTLETT
" " " " "	" " "	Michael J. ROHAL
Recycling Coordinator	(1 Year Term)	William BARTLETT
Clean Communities Coordinator	" " "	William BARTLETT
Rep. To Essex County C.D.B.G. Program	(1 Year Term)	Michael P. ZICHELLI
" " " " "	" " "	Arthur D. DAWSON
Emergency Management Coordinator	(3 Year Term)	Michael J. ROHAL
Dep. " " "	" " "	Robert WOHLGEMUTH
" " " " "	" " "	Fredric A. EGNEZZO

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lisovicz seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none. (Resolution No. **6** - 14)

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES - APPOINTMENTS TO

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 2)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Dawson, seconded by Councilperson Murphy and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **7** - 14)

2014 REGULAR MEETINGS - MAYOR AND COUNCIL

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 3)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Theodorou, seconded by Councilperson Patrick and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **8** - 14)

2014 OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS - ESTABLISHMENT OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 3)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Patrick, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **9** - 14)

CLAIMS - APPROVAL OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 4)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Patrick, seconded by Councilperson Lefkovits and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **10** - 14)

2014 TEMPORARY BUDGET - ADOPTING

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 5 & A)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Lefkovits, seconded by Councilperson Patrick and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou, Murphy and Mayor Hughes voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 11 - 14)

BAKER, ELIZABETH K. - COMMENDING

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 6)

Mayor Hughes presented his seventh "State Of The Borough" address to the citizens in attendance.

I would like to welcome everyone to the 119th reorganization meeting of the Borough of Glen Ridge. Tonight we swear in (2) councilpersons - Councilman David Lefkovits and Councilman Stuart Patrick, and we appoint the many volunteers who so ably staff our various boards and committees. We also recognize those volunteers who are leaving their service to the Borough. I will also take the opportunity to review some of the events of 2013, and present some of our goals for 2014.

Let me start first by extending an official welcome back to the Council to David Lefkovits and to Stuart Patrick.

I am delighted that both of you are willing to serve for another 3 years on the Council. I can't thank you and your families enough for the service you give to the Borough. You have both proved yourselves to be excellent stewards of your community, and you both willingly give of your time, energy, and personal talents to maintain and to promote the high quality of life and standards of good government that we have all come to expect here in Glen Ridge.

I want to thank Elizabeth Baker for her 7 year of service as a member of the Council and acknowledge the many contributions she made to the Borough. Councilwoman Baker was a highly energized, effective and passionate member of the council and was someone who felt issues deeply. She was instrumental in the formation of the Shade Tree Commission, launched Town Talk and was a driving force behind the Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets initiatives, which have led to some important changes in both awareness and behaviors. For many years, Elizabeth led the Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee and was a driving force behind the "Eco-Fair". Going forward, Elizabeth will continue as a member of the Environmental Advisory Committee and Shade Tree Committee.

I also want to acknowledge other members of the community who are completing their service to the Borough:

Ann Alix, Library Board of trustees
Dan Murphy, Historic Preservation Committee
Kelly Conklin, Planning Board
Jennifer Weissman, Environmental Advisory Committee
Tanmoy Mukherjee, Board of Adjustment
Betsy Ginsberg, Shade Tree Commission

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and remember Pat Pignatello, who passed away in December. Pat truly loved this community and served as an unofficial member of the public works department. Generous of spirit, Pat was always ready to lend a hand whenever there was something to be done. He cleaned out catch basins when a storm was forecasted. After a snowfall, he shoveled sidewalks and spread ice melt. In the fall he helped clean up Freeman gardens. On his own he constructed the bus shelter on Bloomfield Avenue and he cleaned and maintained it regularly. He handed out American flags at the Memorial Day parade and he collected a garage full of GR memorabilia. Pat consistently attended Council meetings and always had a kind word to say. He was proud to be a Ridger and gave freely to the community he loved. He will be missed.

Let's now take a look back at 2013.

We successfully negotiated new contracts with our two unions in 2013. These new contracts with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) are significant because all parties recognized the importance of providing service to the Borough at a cost that is sustainable over the long-term. In the new contracts, salary increases were in line with the State imposed 2% cap on spending increases and important concessions were agreed to limiting or reducing the long-term costs of pensions and healthcare.

We are all very proud of our Town. All of us chose to live and raise families in GR after looking at homes in surrounding communities. We chose GR in part because it is a safe, beautiful, historic community, and our police and municipal employees work very hard to maintain the quality of life that we expect.

I believe that these new contracts maintain the strength of our departments at a cost that is sustainable over the long term. You have heard me talk about municipal consolidation and the threat that this initiative poses to our community. I believe that these contracts reduce this threat and will help us to remain small, efficient and independent community that we are and want to be.

I would like to recognize and thank those members of the CWA and PBA who worked with us to negotiate these contracts:

From the CWA:

Brian Roth (DPW), Betty Morasly (GRPD-Admin staff), and Mike Decker (CSO)

From the PBA:

Patrol officers, Nick Salerno and Chris Grogan
Retired patrol officer, Eric Dehope
Patrol Sergeant Tim Farranda
And Detective Sergeant Dean Nardellis.

I am pleased to report that in 2013, we hired 3 new police officers:

Officer Patricia Romaine
Officer Gabriel Suarez
And Officer Matt Perigo.

Our staff is now at full complement with 12 patrol officers, 4 patrol sergeants, 1 detective sergeant, 2 detectives, 3 senior officers, 5 community service officers and 2 administrative staff members. In the past years we have had to reduce the size of our police force. It is a credit to our Chief Shelia Byron Lagatutta and to the entire department that we have been able to maintain the high quality of service and public safety in the borough with fewer staff and less expense.

In 2013 we realized the impact of the town-wide reassessment that the Borough undertook in 2012. This revaluation was a direct result of the recession that began in late 2008, and the steep drop in housing values occurred in 2009 thru 2011. As a result of the drop in home values, the Borough had to deal with a large number of high cost tax appeals. The fall-out from these tax appeals was two-fold: first, the County Tax Board ordered us to do a revaluation, and second, our budget and surplus were significantly affected as the Town, when it loses an appeal, has to absorb any reduction in the amount of tax that goes to the County or to the Schools. You can appreciate how difficult it is to manage budget not knowing if your revenue will be reduced and by how much. It's been very difficult over the past couple of years, but since the revaluation, in 2013 the number of tax appeals dropped from 119 to 48, and the number of appeal lost was _(will obtain number from George).

As a result of the revaluation, the assessed values of homes in town are much closer to the market values, and we are seeing homes sell at prices that are very close to assessed values. This is good news for

our budget process. We now have a reliable revenue stream and can make budget plans without the fear that we will be hit by unexpected and large tax refunds. Hallelujah!

Equally important is that we are projecting a budget surplus in 2014, something we have not seen in the past years. It's bad practice to operate without any surplus or savings that is available to pay for emergencies like October ice storms or hurricanes like Sandy. Getting our budget back on solid ground is also very important to maintaining our continued independence as a community. The surplus comes from the revaluation and the addition of the Mountainside Hospital as a for-profit and tax paying entity. The surplus also comes from our efforts to receive reimbursements for the monies we spent to clean up after the two October storms in 2011 and 2012. I am please to report that we expect that we will receive from FEMA over 90% of the monies we spent on these two storms.

Overall, the budget is in much better shape than it has been over the past two or three years. Our costs are lower but we have maintained a high level of service to the community. In 2013, the average municipal residential property taxes went down by \$6.03. This is a historic low and reflects the impact of the tax revaluation and the hard work of this Council to reduce the cost of municipal government.

Several significant public works projects were completed in 2013. The entire length of Ridgewood Avenue was paved and I want to acknowledge and thank the County and in particular the County Executive, Joe DiVincenzo, for making this project one of his priorities and for footing 100% of the bill. Prior to paving Ridgewood Avenue, the Borough made significant repairs to the sewer lines underneath the roadway and paid for ADA sidewalk improvements using CDBG funds.

In 2014, using funds State DOT funds from 2013 and 2014, the Borough will pave Essex Avenue from Osborn to Bay Street. This is a project that was long overdue and was delayed because Essex Ave is split down the middle of the road between the Township of Bloomfield and the Borough of Glen Ridge. To resolve this problem, and to secure the necessary funds to complete the project, the two communities entered into an interlocal agreement and partnered with the State making it a joint project for all three entities. This is an excellent example of governmental units working together to stretch funding and address a long standing problem.

In 2014, we plan to plant 200 new trees as part of a multi-year commitment to plant a total of 1000 new shade trees in the Borough. In 2013, the borough planted 130 new trees while taking down only 60. This reverses a multi-year trend where we have planted fewer new trees than we have taken down. All of us feel very strongly that our trees are an important asset of the Borough that greatly affects the look and feel of our community. I want to thank the Shade Tree Commission for its excellent work and I look forward to receiving from the Commission a new master plan for our trees in 2014.

In 2014 we intend to expand the historic district to include 245 more structures. This plan was begun in 2012 with a series of studies and a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Committee. In 2013 this plan was approved at the State and federal levels.

I think we all recognize the importance of the historic district in our community. Maintaining the distinct character and charm of our homes and neighborhoods is critical to maintaining our identity as a community and the values of our homes. We all benefit from the preservation of our architectural heritage and we will all benefit from the expansion of the district. This is a very important project for 2014.

In 2014, we will look to rejuvenate and expand our neighborhood watch system, which we think will help us in two significant ways. The first is that all of us are needed to help keep our neighborhoods secure. Residents can greatly assist our police department by reporting anything that doesn't look right on their street. Second, we want to enlist the support of neighborhood volunteers to help us identify any

resident in need of special assistance during a storm, power outage, or other weather-related event. We want to know who these residents are so we can check in on them before and after a storm and so we can alert PSE&G if there is an urgent situation that requires immediate attention from them.

The Neighborhood Watch system can also be expanded to include assisting responders in the aftermath of a storm like Sandy. We are looking to create a system whereby volunteers will identify homes that are without power so that we can have an accurate count of the properties affected in an outage. This will help us to communicate our needs more accurately to PSE&G and help them to better help us.

In 2013 we implemented a new communication system called NIXLE that is similar to a reverse 911 system except that it sends out emails and texts. The advantage of this system is that you don't have to have a smart phone to receive messages from the Borough. We learned from the two October storms of 2011 and 2012 that timely communication is key, especially when the power is out. So I urge all residents to go on our web site and register for both Nixle and for borough emails.

There are a number of other items on our "To Do" list for 2014:

1. We want to upgrade the electric poles on Ridgewood Avenue from Snowden to Bloomfield Avenue to improve the lighting in this area.
2. We want to address the need for an upgrade to the primary electric feed along Midland Avenue in the south end. This area has seen too many power interruptions and we have to look at how we can upgrade the service without sacrificing rear yard power delivery.
3. We want to upgrade our radio system from the Police department and for the Volunteer Ambulance squad.
4. We want to purchase a new jitney and a new heavy duty multiuse roll-off truck to replace our 1994 vintage dump truck.
5. We want to come up with a plan to replace the existing pool house at the Town Pool with a larger, permanent structure. The pool has been very successful both financially and operationally. Each year it generates a surplus and can well afford to expand its office, locker and restroom facilities.
6. In 2014 we want to expand our success in lowering our community's environmental impact and we will seek silver sustainable NJ certification by improving the way we interact with the environment. Currently we are at a Bronze level with 250 points; we need 350 points for Silver.
7. In 2014 we want to upgrade playground equipment at Clay Field and Carteret Park to meet new ADA and safety requirements.
8. We also need to improve Washington Field which we share with Montclair, and we need to reconstruct Hurrell field this summer.

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 Theodorou, seconded by Councilperson Lefkovits that this meeting be adjourned. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilperson Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Murphy voting aye and noes none.

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

Mayor Hughes extended an invitation to everyone in attendance to attend the Council reception at Fitzgerald's immediately following this meeting.

The Council adjourned at 7:28 p. m.

Michael J. Rohal

Michael J. Rohal,
Municipal Clerk