

A **REGULAR** Meeting of The Mayor And Borough Council of The Borough Of Glen Ridge was held on Monday, February 8th, 2016 in the Council Chamber of The Municipal Building, Glen Ridge, New Jersey at 7:30 p m.

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

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

Present: Mayor Patrick, Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow.

Absent: None.

The following Borough Officers were in attendance: Borough Attorney Malyska, Police Lieutenant Quinn and Planning And Development Director Zichelli, 111.

It was moved by Councilperson Lefkovits, seconded by Councilperson Hughes, that the Minutes Of The **REGULAR** Meeting of The Mayor And Borough Council of The Borough Of Glen Ridge that was held on Monday, **January 25th**, 2016 be approved as submitted. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote. Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none.

Mayor Patrick reported that the next Regular Meeting of The Mayor And Borough Council will be held on Monday, February 22nd at 6:00 p. m. so that he members of the Council can attend The County Executive's annual State Of The County Address.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Hughes, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **37 - 16**)

CLAIMS - APPROVAL OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 219)

The following was introduced by Councilperson Hughes, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **38 - 16**)

TAXES - AUTHORIZING REFUND

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 220)

Ordinance No. **1637** entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND

CHAPTER 10.05.130 (Towing)

was presented for final reading. The Ordinance title was read by Councilperson Lisovicz. Deputy Administrator Zichelli reported that the Ordinance has been published and posted as required by statutes. Mayor Patrick declared the meeting open for a public hearing on the Ordinance. No one wished to be heard on the Ordinance. Mayor Patrick declared the public hearing closed. It was moved by Councilperson Lisovicz, seconded by Councilperson Hughes that Ordinance No. **1637** be finally adopted. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote;

Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none. Mayor Patrick declared that this Ordinance is finally adopted.

Councilman Lefkovits, Chairman of The Community Affairs And Public Relations Committee, reported that the intermittent video signal that he reported on at the last meeting has been repaired and he thanked Mr. Zichelli for his efforts in this matter.

Councilman Lefkovits reported on the sudden passing of Glen Ridge resident David Ginsberg. Councilman Lefkovits stated that Mr. Ginsberg was the Treasurer of the Library Board Of Trustees.

Mayor Patrick reported that Mr. Ginsberg was a very dedicated member / volunteer on the Board for many years.

Ordinance No. **1636** entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE
GRANT FUNDS FOR VARIOUS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (Generator)**

was presented for final reading. The Ordinance title was read by Councilperson Dawson. Deputy Administrator Zichelli reported that the Ordinance has been published and posted as required by statutes. Mayor Patrick declared the meeting open for a public hearing on the Ordinance. No one wished to be heard on the Ordinance. Mayor Patrick declared the public hearing closed. It was moved by Councilperson Dawson, seconded by Councilperson Lefkovits that Ordinance No. **1636** be finally adopted. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none. Mayor Patrick declared that this Ordinance is finally adopted.

Councilman Hughes thanked Mr. Zichelli for his diligent efforts in securing the grant to purchase this new generator.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Dawson, seconded by Councilperson Murphy and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. **39 - 16**)

PLANT DETECTIVE - TREES - AUTHORIZING CONTRACT

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 221)

Mr. Zichelli reported that 116 trees are to be obtained with this Resolution.

Councilman Dawson, Chairman of The Public Works Committee, reported that since the last Council meeting much of the department's time and effort has gone towards snow removal and the carting away of snow from various streets to accommodate on street parking and drop off zone around the schools. Catch basins around town were dug out to capture the run off from the melting snow. All D.P.W. vehicles and equipment used have been checked for proper operation and prepared for the next storm and the salt shed and reserve storage area are full.

Councilman Murphy, Chairman of The Parks And Recreation Committee, reported that he met earlier today with Recreation Coordinator Cowan and a playground equipment vendor to discuss and inspect the equipment at Carteret Park.

Borough Attorney Malyska updated the Mayor And Council on the pending litigation against the Borough regarding an affordable housing lawsuit (Council On Affordable Housing). Attorney Malyska reported; on what the C.O.H.A guidelines are and the certifications that the Borough has received thus far; Glen Ridge is one of about 9 municipalities in Essex County involved in current litigation; proposals to purchase 5 contiguous lots (a total of 2.3 acres) on Baldwin Street (lots 2, 3, 4, 9 & 10) and to put at many as 125 housing units there; properties in question don't comply because they are not in a blighted area; the appointment of one Judge in each County to hear this litigation;

The following was introduced by Councilperson Morrow, seconded by Councilperson Lisovicz and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none: (Resolution No. 40 - 16)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSULTANT - AUTHORIZING CONTRACT

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 221)

Councilperson Morrow stated Resolution 40-16 is on the agenda this evening to award a contract for professional planning services for a study of the borough's affordable housing needs and obligations. I'd like to offer some background as to why we feel this is a necessary step to take at this time. As was noted in the presentation made by the Borough Attorney, the state of the law in NJ regarding a municipality's obligations under the Fair Housing Act has been in a state of flux for many years following the Mt Laurel decisions in the 70's and 80's. COAH, the agency created to implement the rules and enforce compliance has been challenged in the courts for the last 10 plus years, and efforts to revise the regs and satisfy the courts have been stalled with no progress. As was noted, the NJ Supreme Court most recently ruled in March of 2015 that in the absence of COAH providing revised rules and regs (as the court had previously mandated in 2013) - the trial courts and not the state agency would have jurisdiction over affordable housing compliance and builders and developers were free to file actions in the local courts. This has opened the door to litigation being commenced throughout the state by developers seeking approval of various building projects. Over the course of the summer and into the fall there were judges appointed across the state in every county to hear the cases that have been and continue to be filed. There are currently 9 cases pending in Essex County. As reported by the Borough Attorney, this litigation includes

one against the borough brought by the developer regarding a proposal to develop certain Baldwin Street parcels.

To assist the Borough in determining its affordable housing obligations, we wish to retain a professional engineer and consultant to do a review and analysis so that we are in a better position to know what the Borough's affordable housing obligation may be. This involves the preparation of an affordable housing needs report (which involves data gathering in a number of specific areas mandated by statute) and an updated Housing Element and Fair Share Plan report (again, specific data to be gathered on housing stock, occupancy, demographics). We believe this is necessary irrespective of the current lawsuit. We acknowledge we have an obligation to comply with the law and wish to be in the best position to know what that might require so that we can work together with the Planning Board, administration and the public to insure we meet our obligations in a manner that takes into account sound land use policy for our town. In response to the RFP we received three proposals and of the three we recommend H2M insofar as the scope of the proposal as outlined was the most extensive, they were the most responsive and the least expensive.

Councilwoman Morrow reported that the next meeting with representatives for Mountainside Hospital will be held on Monday, February 29th at 7:30 p. m. at the Montclair Fire Headquarters and at that time H2M will present their initial draft. This draft report will be posted on the Borough's website during the week of February 15th.

Police Lieutenant Quinn reported that the Police will be participating in the State's initiative against texting and also enforcement against drunk driving during the Super Bowl.

Lieutenant Quinn also cautioned all residents to be aware of their surroundings when walking around the train station late at night.

Ms. Deborah Dine of 6 Laurel Place, Glen Ridge, questioned the status and traffic survey's involving Laurel Place and whether or not it would be included on the draft report. Ms. Dine also inquired as to any potential zoning changes that would be necessary for the properties in question on Baldwin Street.

Planning And Development Director Zichelli responded that Laurel Place is not included on the initial draft report.

Glen Ridge, N. J. February 8th, 2016. 20

It was moved by Councilperson Murphy, seconded by Councilperson Dawson that this meeting be adjourned. The Motion was adopted by an

aye and no vote; Councilpersons Hughes, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Murphy and Morrow voting aye and noes none.

Mayor Patrick declared that this meeting is hereby adjourned.

The Council adjourned at 8:32 p. m.

Michael J. Rohal

Michael J. Rohal,
Municipal Clerk