

A **REGULAR** Meeting of The Mayor And Borough Council of The Borough Of Glen Ridge was held on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 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 Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Baker.

Absent: None.

The following Borough Officers were in attendance: Borough Attorney Malyska and Police Lieutenant Egnizzo.

The Minutes Of the **REGULAR** and the **WORKSHOP** Meeting of The Mayor And Borough Council of The Borough Of Glen Ridge that was held on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 were approved as submitted.

Municipal Clerk Rohal presented the following written communications:

A letter to Municipal Clerk Rohal from Ms. Joan Codey-Durkin, Tax Administrator, Essex County Board Of Taxation advising of their approval to implement a municipal-wide revaluation in The Borough. Mayor Hughes ordered that the correspondence be filed.

Mrs. Jacqueline S. Yustein of 326 Washington Street, Glen Ridge, and Essex County Liaison to County Executive DiVincenzo advising of the many activities taking place during the annual Essex County Cherry Blossom Festival, including; a bike race, a festival fundraiser, a 1-mile fun run/walk, a community picnic, a 10-K run, bloomfest, trolley tours, cellphone tours and a backyard lecture.

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 Baker voting aye and noes none: ( Resolution No. **52 - 12** )

**CLAIMS - APPROVAL OF**

( See Resolution Book No. 18 - Page No. 18 - 65 )

Councilman Patrick read a prepared statement The 2012 Glen Ridge municipal budget was prepared under the direction of the Council Finance Committee in concert with the Library Board, other Council Committees and Department Heads.

The introduced budget is a work in progress. The proposed budget maximizes the resources of the Borough, while at the same time it minimizes the impact on property taxes for municipal purposes.

A public hearing on the 2012 budget is scheduled for the April 23, 2012 Council Meeting. We anticipate amendments to the introduced budget, which will decrease the proposed tax rate before final adoption.

Total appropriations were decreased by \$34,200.87 from 2011 to \$11,885,661.65. Even with the decrease in expenses, the municipal tax

rate will increase. Based on the introduced budget; the municipal tax levy will increase by \$404,391.47 which amounts to a 4.2 % increase compared to the last year's budget. A major factor in the increase in the tax rate is the result of the decrease in surplus due to tax appeals. In 2011, surplus was reduced by \$461,400.00. Since the last reval in 2008, the Borough lost \$1,204,900 in tax dollars. Another factor for the increase is deferred charges from Hurricane Irene & the October snow storm.

The Council will be pursuing additional revenue enhancements and cost reductions before the adoption of the 2012 budget. FEMA reimbursements for Hurricane Irene & the October snowstorm were not factored into the budget introduction. It is our hope that we will receive the grants prior to the adoption of the budget which will decrease the tax levy by over 1%.

The Council Finance Committee is appreciative of the efforts of the Mayor, Council members and staff for assistance in the preparation of the Budget. We look forward to hearing from the public in April. Copies of the proposed budget will be posted on our webpage and will also be available in Room 102 in the Municipal Building as well as The Library.

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 Baker voting aye and noes none: ( Resolution No. **53 - 12** )

**2012 BUDGET - AUTHORIZING INTRODUCTION**

( See Resolution Book No. 18 - Page No. 18 - 66 )

Mayor Hughes stated that the Council is carefully reviewing the revenue figures vs. the expense figures and that funds are expected in the near future from F. E. M. A. for the October storm.

Councilman Lisovicz, Chairman of The Public Safety Committee, reported that the Mayor And Council and the Department Heads are trying very hard to do more with less and he offered his thanks to Chief Byron and the Department Of Public Safety for their 2012 Budget Preparation.

Councilman Lefkovits, Chairman of The Community Affairs And Public Relations Committee, reported on the annual Volunteer Ambulance Squad awards dinner and the acknowledgements / tributes given to the new members of the squad.

Councilman Dawson reported on the recently completed fund raising campaign to raise funds to purchase a new ambulance. The campaign was a huge success and their goals have been met.

Councilman Lisovicz reported that there are 8 or 9 new members to the ambulance squad and that this is very inspiring.

Councilman Dawson, Chairman of The Public Works Committee, gave an update on the water infrastructure report and he stated that all water service has been moved from the 4 inch main to the 12 inch main.

Administrator Rohal reported that all construction work should be completed by March 13<sup>th</sup> and that milling work on Ridgewood Avenue will hopefully begin in 30 days.

Councilman Dawson reported that field maintenance is about to begin and that the fields are in good shape because of the very mild winter.

Councilman Theodorou, Chairman of The Parks And Recreation Committee, reported that the Borough's fields are open for business including the field at Watsessing Park.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Theodorou, seconded by Councilperson Dawson and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Baker voting aye and noes none: ( Resolution No. 54 - 12 )

**CLARKTON - FIELD MAINTENANCE - AUTHORIZING CONTRACT**

( See Resolution Book No. 18 - Page No. 18 - 67 )

Councilwoman Baker, Chairwoman of The Planning And Development Committee, reported on the Borough's recycling program since the Borough went to single-stream recycling in 2011. Councilwoman Baker stated that the Borough has realized \$ 30,000. in recycling revenue. Councilwoman Baker encouraged everyone to get involved in recycling and that it is illegal to put electronics in the garbage stream. Councilwoman Baker also reported that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Glen Ridge homes are not recycling.

Councilman Lisovicz reminded everyone that recycling is the law.

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 Baker voting aye and noes none: ( Resolution No. 55 - 12 )

**RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES - COMPUTING RATE**

( See Resolution Book No. 18 - Page No. 18 - 68 )

The following was introduced by Councilperson Dawson, seconded by Councilperson Theodorou and adopted by an aye and no vote; Councilpersons Patrick, Lisovicz, Lefkovits, Dawson, Theodorou and Baker voting aye and noes none: ( Resolution No. 56 - 12 )

**ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION - OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

( See Resolution Book No. 18 - Page No. 18 - 68 )

Mayor Hughes declared that this meeting is hereby adjourned.

The Council adjourned at 8:03 p. m.

*Michael J. Rohal*

Michael J. Rohal,  
Municipal Clerk