

A Regular Meeting of The Mayor And Borough Council of The Borough Of Glen Ridge was held on Tuesday, May 27th, 2014 in the Council Chamber of The Municipal Building, Glen Ridge, New Jersey at 7:30 p m.

Mayor Hughes announced that today is Student Government Day in The Borough and that tonight's meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council would be run by Student Council leaders from Glen Ridge High School who will be serving in the capacity as The Mayor and The Borough Council.

Mayor Hughes turned the meeting over to Acting Mayor **Matthew Hopkins** who led the Council and the citizens in attendance in a salute to the Flag.

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

Acting Mayor Hopkins introduced the Student Council / Councilpersons and stated for the record whom they will be representing this evening.

Lindsey **Freed** will be representing Councilperson Patrick, Sarah **Singh** will be representing Councilperson Lisovicz, Anna **Whitney** will be representing Councilperson Lefkovits, Cassidy **Serano** will be representing Councilperson Dawson, Eva **Buggy** will be representing Councilperson Theodorou, Bethanna **Dekeizer** will be representing Councilperson Murphy, Allie **Fiorentino** will be representing Administrator / Municipal Clerk Rohal, Mia **Hildebrandt** will be representing Borough Attorney Malyska, Anna **Whitney** will be representing Police Chief Byron - Lagatutta.

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

Absent: None.

The following Borough Officers were in attendance: Borough Attorney Malyska, Police Chief Byron - Lagatutta and Deputy

The Minutes Of The **Regular** Meeting that was held on May 12th, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Acting Municipal Clerk Fiorentino representing Borough Administrator/ Municipal Clerk Rohal presented the following written communications:

A letter to Mayor Hughes and The Borough Council from Ralph A. LaRossa of P.S.E.&G. expressing his deep appreciation and thanks for Glen Ridge's support of the Energy Strong proposal. Acting Mayor Hopkins ordered that the correspondence be filed.

Acting Mayor Hopkins reported that the County has installed four new crosswalks on Ridgewood Avenue. The newly installed crosswalks are at the intersections of Ridgewood Avenue and Sunset Avenue, Baldwin Street, Osborne Street and Carteret Street. Acting Mayor Hopkins reviewed the state statute regarding motorists yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.

The following was introduced by Acting Councilperson Freed, seconded by Acting Councilperson Singh and adopted by an aye and no vote; Acting Councilpersons Freed, Singh, Whitney, Serano, Buggy, Dekeizer voting aye and noes none:

(Resolution No. **72 - 14**)

CLAIMS - APPROVAL OF

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 42)

Acting Councilperson Singh, Acting Chairperson of The Public Safety Committee, reported that the Police Department, Mayor Hughes and The Borough Council, The Board Of Education and The Glen Ridge Municipal Alliance Committee arranged to have renowned speaker David Toma address the students of Glen Ridge High School on substance abuse this past Fri., May 23rd. Substance abuse is a continuing and dangerous problem nationwide. Mr. Toma is a former U.S. Marine and retired Newark Police Detective who has been nicknamed the "Compassionate Cop." He has written six best seller books and has had two television series based on his career.

After Mr. Toma's presentation he spoke privately and individually with many student's. The department feels that this was an important information - sharing event for the community.

The following was introduced by Acting Councilperson Singh, seconded by Acting Councilperson Buggy and adopted by an aye and no vote; Acting Councilpersons Freed, Singh, Whitney, Serano, Buggy, Dekeizer voting aye and noes none:

(Resolution No. **73 - 14**)

ABC - LAGER RUN - AUTHORIZING PERMIT

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 43)

Acting Councilperson Whitney, Acting Chairperson of The Community Affairs And Public Relations Committee reminded the audience that meeting will be broadcast on Channel 36 for Comcast subscribers and Channel 38 for Verizon subscribers.

The following was introduced by Acting Councilperson Whitney, seconded by Acting Councilperson Buggy and adopted by an aye and no vote; Acting Councilpersons Freed, Singh, Whitney, Serano, Buggy, Dekeizer voting aye and noes none:

(Resolution No. **74 - 14**)

TAX - AUTHORIZING REFUND

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 43)

Acting Councilwoman Serano, Acting Chairwoman of The Public Works Committee, reported that the crews spent last week preparing for the Memorial Day weekend festivities. The Park crew continues their spring time activities - the fields were dragged and striped each day and the grass was cut on all Borough properties. The roads crew laid down eight tones of asphalt repairing potholes and as part of our

shared service agreement with Bloomfield our streets have been swept clean.

Ordinance No. **1616** entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE
GRANTS FUNDS FOR VARIOUS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

was presented for final reading. The Ordinance title was read by Acting Councilperson Serano. Acting Municipal Clerk Fiorentino reported that this Ordinance had been published and posted as required by statutes. Acting Mayor Hopkins declared the meeting open for a public hearing on the Ordinance. No one wished to be heard on the Ordinance. Acting Mayor Hopkins declared the public hearing closed. It was moved by Acting Councilperson Serano, seconded by Acting Councilperson Kinley that Ordinance No. **1616** be finally adopted. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Acting Councilpersons Freed, Singh, Whitney, Serano, Buggy, Dekeizer voting aye and noes none. Acting Mayor Hopkins declared that this Ordinance is finally adopted.

Acting Councilwoman Buggy, Acting Chairman of The Parks And Recreation Committee, reported the following:

Tonight I have no formal report, but would like to make some general comments and announcements.

Our thanks go out to Jim O'Grady and the Kiwanis members for once again organizing our town's Memorial Day Parade. It is a special day in Glen Ridge and it always comes off seamlessly.

Pool update;

There is a lot going on at the town pool. First of all the pool opened this weekend and we had a nice turnout. I hope everyone noticed the improved and expanded seating area. Also, we have completed the work on the entrance and exit to the pool off of Clark St. It has been greatly enhanced and has been made much more clear and efficient. The changes will also provide much needed additional parking and with the placement of new signage and directional arrows, moving around in the parking lot has been made much clearer. But the most exciting news is the upcoming construction of a permanent pool house. Meetings have already started and things are moving along towards the goal of actually starting construction late this year with the intention of having a pool house ready for our members by this time next year.

Clay Field update;

We have also held meetings to plan the construction phase of our new children's playground at Clay Field. The target user for the new facility will be children from ages 2-5. The reason for the update stems from new rules concerning playground equipment, but it gives us a chance to renew a somewhat dated park. The preliminary timeline to get this work done would hopefully be toward starting and finishing the work during the month of August.

Tennis update;

Pickleball...For those of you who have never heard of it, is a sport played on a slimmed down tennis court with paddles and a specially crafted whiffle ball. It is meant as a fast paced alternative for those who do not want to cover the larger tennis court area or play winter time paddle tennis. A small number of individuals have expressed interest in the sport so we are reaching out to the community to determine if there is a general interest in adding this sport to our tennis facility. If you have interest please call Jim Cowan in the Recreation Department at 973-748-2924.

Acting Councilperson Buggy reported that she has Ordinance No. **1617** entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE
GRANTS FUNDS FOR VARIOUS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

(Washington Field - Open Space)

for introduction. The Ordinance title was read by Acting Councilperson Buggy. It was moved by Acting Councilperson Buggy, seconded by Acting Councilperson Serano that Ordinance No. **1617** be passed on first reading. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote; Acting Councilpersons Freed, Singh Whitney, Serano, Buggy and Dekeizer voting aye and noes none. Acting Mayor Hopkins referred the Ordinance to Acting Municipal Clerk Fiorentino for the purposes of statutory publication and posting.

Acting Councilwoman Dekeizer, Acting Chairperson of The Planning And Development Committee reported the following:

Why is it so important to have a Historic District in the Borough of Glen Ridge?

One does not have to look to far from our town to understand the importance of having a Historic District:

In Newark, sadly, many important buildings have been forever lost and there are now only two 18th-century structures remaining... so how does one connect to Newark's sense of history if there are no architectural examples of Newark's glorious and historic past, rather its more recent blight?

In Bloomfield, the town recently allowed 2 major 18th century houses to be knocked down on Montgomery Street for condo development; allowed vinyl siding on a 1780's tavern on the Green at Belleville Avenue and let a really important and rare 1720's house (and one of Essex county's 1st jails) fall into ruin behind the McDonald's on Broad Street. The good news for Bloomfield is that the town recently voted to expand its Historic District's boundaries.

Having a Historic District is not so much about "making it look pretty" for a few people, it's about making tough strategic decisions today which will have only a small impact on residents today, but an ever increasing one on our community in generations to come.

Glen Ridge has an interesting architectural heritage, which includes the highest concentration of pre-war (WWII) homes in the State of New Jersey.

With the recent adoption of the second historic district expansion on May 12, 2014, over 90% percent of the homes in the borough are now located in the historic district.

The Historic Preservation Commission, established by municipal ordinance in 1987, is charged with conserving, protecting, enhancing and perpetuating the landmarks, properties and improvements within the Glen Ridge Historic District.

As a homeowner, what exactly does it mean to own a home in the historic district ?

By ordinance, all exterior changes which can be seen from any street (regardless of existing or future trees, shrubs, or other landscaping) to the houses and properties in the Historic District are subject to review by the Historic Preservation Commission before a Building Permit for such changes is issued.

The Historic The Historic Preservation Commission members own homes in the historic district themselves, and know from personal experience how challenging it can be to fit a 21st century family's needs into an "older" home, while acting responsibly as history's caretakers and keeping within a realistic budget. The Historic Preservation Commission is there to assist homeowners strike the right balance, and its members (which include three architects and a builder) are committed to making the review process as helpful as possible. In return, the Historic Preservation Commission asks that homeowners "think historic," being sensitive to what the original architect of your home may have proposed for your 21st century project.

The Historic Preservation Commission strives to assist owners in planning renovations or remodeling to meet the historic preservation criteria and standards. Historic Preservation Commission meetings are held monthly in the Council Chambers at Borough Hall, and, by law, are open to the public.

The Historic Preservation Commission encourages residents to attend one of their monthly meetings, just to see how they function. For most projects, homeowners should seek their informal advice well before making a formal application as this could potentially save time and expense. For large projects, the Historic Preservation Commission strongly suggests that applicants retain an architect to facilitate the review process.

The following was introduced by Acting Councilperson Dekeizer, seconded by Acting Councilperson Buggy and adopted by an aye and no vote; Acting Councilpersons Freed, Singh, Whitney, Serano, Buggy, Dekeizer voting aye and noes none:

(Resolution No. 75 - 14)

HURRELL FIELD - COMMUNITY FUND - USE OF FIELD

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 43)

Acting Mayor Hopkins suspended the Regular Order Of Business to receive the final report from the Turf Committee. (8:53 p. m.)

Ms. Sujana Chandrasekhar of 312 Forest Avenue, Glen Ridge and Mr. Joseph Auburn of 254 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, Co-Chairs of The Turf Committee presented the Committee's final report and findings. Their report included, but was not limited to, the members of the Committee, the stipulations / recommendations, the pro's and con's, the four sub-committees - (Usage, Surface Options, Risks and Costs) and Summary and Recommendations.

Mr. Auburn reported that their 72 page report will be made available to Mayor Hughes and The Borough Council and to anyone wanting to read and study the findings.

At the conclusion of their report there was a brief question and answer period with Mayor Hughes, the Council and members of the public in attendance.

Acting Mayor Hopkins resumed the Regular Order Of Business at 8:54 p. m.

Mayor Hughes offered his sincere thanks to Ms. Chandrasekhar and Mr. Auburn and he stated that he personally appreciates the efforts of all the Committee members.

Acting Borough Administrator Fiorentino presented the following report on behalf of Administrator Rohal:

First, the Borough staff thanks Ms. Purciello and the Student Government representative for participating in Student Government Day. We hope it was a worthwhile experience for you.

I am pleased to report the Borough has received the FEMA reimbursement for the 2011 October Snowstorm and partial reimbursement for Hurricane Sandy. The reimbursements amounted to \$213,336.46. The remaining debt we incurred from the storms is \$218,620. The budget will be amended to pay off the notes this year.

The Council will hold a hearing on a budget amendment at the next Council meeting which is June 9th. If state approval is received, the budget will be adopted at that meeting.

The Borough is pursuing a joint project with the Township of Bloomfield to reconstruct Essex Avenue. The two municipalities have received over \$1,000,000.00 in grants from the Department of Transportation. Funding from the grants should cover the entire construction costs. Bid should be let in July.

Bid documents have been completed for the relining of sanitary sewers in Ridgewood Avenue from Osborne Street to Watchung Avenue. The estimated cost for the project is \$600,000. If council approves Resolution 77 - 14, we anticipate a June 23rd award of contract.

Primary Election Day is June 4th. Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. For information on your polling place or to confirm voter registration, please call 973-748-8400, extension 222.

Finally, the Borough is participating in the development of a complete corridor plan for Bloomfield Avenue with Bloomfield, Montclair and Verona. We currently have a survey on the Borough's website to seek your input which will help to inform & guide the development of the plan to improve Bloomfield Avenue. We invite you to spend a few minutes providing your thoughts and perceptions about the Avenue.

Acting Borough Attorney Hildebrandt presented the following report on behalf of Attorney Malyska:

The role of the Glen Ridge Attorney is to assist the Borough in legal matters. The attorney's job includes reviewing ordinances before they are passed by the Borough to make sure that they comply with the law and reviewing contracts before the Borough enters into them to make sure that the rights of the Borough are protected. The attorney's job also includes representing the Borough in lawsuits to enforce the Borough's rights and defending the Borough in lawsuits when someone starts a legal action against it. Because a great deal of what the attorney does involves confidential matters, often times the Borough Attorney has little to say in the public session. The Borough Attorney is appointed by the Mayor but the appointment must be approved by the Council. The attorney serves a one-year term and must be appointed from year to year.

Acting Police Chief Whitney presented the following report on behalf of Police Chief Byron - Lagatutta:

David Toma was a guest speaker for the high school students and faculty on Friday, May 23, 2014. he spoke to the high school students about drug /alcohol use and the perils of teenage suicide, bullying and inappropriate behavior. For those students and faculty who missed the presentation due to spring day there was a short video tape made of the event which will be shared with the high school principal Mr. Phillips.

Saturday, May 31 is emergency vehicle day ! All residents are reminded that emergency vehicles, including the fire department volunteer ambulance squad, Glen Ridge Police Department and Essex County vehicles will be on display in the Glen as a part of a program run by the glen ridge library.

All residents are reminded that the Glen Ridge Police Department Crime prevention bureau offers free home security surveys to any resident who wants to get tips on how to keep their particular home safe from burglary. please call the crime prevention unit at 973-748-8400 extension 118 to schedule an appointment.

The police department is participating in the statewide program "click it or ticket ". Between May 21 and June 1, 2014 all drivers should be advised that seatbelt laws are being strictly enforced by the Glen Ridge Police Department.

Detective Daniel Manley, from the juvenile Aid bureau at the Glen Ridge Police department will be presenting a safety speech prepared specifically for the graduating students of the high school. He will speak specifically about the perils of driving under the influence of

alcohol and any other injuries that are related to graduation festivities in general.

On behalf of The entire Glen Ridge Police Department I would like to congratulate the class of 2014. We all wish you much success in your future endeavors.

The following was introduced by Acting Councilperson Serano, seconded by Acting Councilperson Singh and adopted by an aye and no vote; Acting Councilpersons Freed, Singh, Whitney, Serano, Buggy, Dekeizer voting aye and noes none:

(Resolution No. 76 - 14)

SHADE TREE - LETTING OF BID

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 44)

The following was introduced by Acting Councilperson Serano, seconded by Acting Councilperson Dekeizer and adopted by an aye and no vote; Acting Councilpersons Freed, Singh, Whitney, Serano, Buggy, Dekeizer voting aye and noes none:

(Resolution No. 77 - 14)

UTILITIES - LETTING OF BID

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 44)

Jacqueline S. Yustein of 326 Washington Street, Glen Ridge and Essex County Liaison to County Executive DiVincenzo, reported that the Turtle Back Zoo will be open to the public on Sat., May 31st for the summer season.

Borough Attorney Malyska of 115 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, reported that there is a big pot hole at the intersection of Thomas Boulevard and Ridgewood Avenue. Mr. Malyska reported that the pot hole may actually be in East Orange.

Acting Mayor Hopkins reported that the Council will advise Essex County officials of this condition.

Mayor Hughes thanked Ms. Purciello for coordinating this years Student Government Day with Administrator Rohal and Mayor Hughes reported how much the Council looks forward to this event every year. Mayor Hughes also complimented the student representatives for their participation in today's activities.

Mayor Hughes stated that it is very important to volunteer your time to your town.

The following was introduced by Councilperson Theodorou, 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. 78 - 14)

STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIONS - RATIFICATION

(See Resolution Book No. 19 - Page No. 19 - 44)

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

Acting Mayor Hopkins declared that this meeting is hereby adjourned.

The Council adjourned at 9:07 p. m.

Michael J. Rohal
Michael J. Rohal,
Municipal Clerk