

## **REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 24, 2012**

Mayor Baratta called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, annual notice of meetings from April through August 2012 was published in "The Record" issue of March 23, 2012. Notices were also posted on the bulletin board located on the first floor of the Municipal Building; copies were mailed to The Community News and posted on the Borough of Fair Lawn website. The annual notice identified the meeting location and the time of Council Meetings and Work Sessions.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Baratta, Deputy Mayors Cosgrove and Trawinski, Councilmembers Peluso and Swain.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Manager Metzler, Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski, Assistant Municipal Clerk Bojanowski and Attorney Mondello

### **PROCLAMATION: ARBOR DAY**

Municipal Clerk read the Proclamation.

### **GOING GREEN AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE GREEN TEAM**

Councilmember Swain explained the Green Team's program and the Going Green Awards which they were going to present to recognize efforts in energy efficiency and sustainable energy initiatives. She and Joan Goldstein, Chair of the Green Team presented the Going Green Awards to Pat and Michael LoRocco for their many "green" efforts in their home and the Thomas Jefferson Middle School who was awarded grants from the Bergen County Utilities Authority in 2010 and 2011 to construct an outdoor classroom which includes composters and the Warren Point School who formed their green team in 2007 and have also received two grants from the Bergen County Utility Authority to make an outdoor garden that is totally made from recyclable materials and they designed and made a lunch bag from reusable materials. She mentioned that honorable mention was given to Johnny & Hanges for their recycling activities.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Peluso congratulated Larry Metzger as the Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias. He thanked Manager Metzler for his efforts on the budget. He and Manager Metzler met to review several options to reducing the budget including furloughs and layoffs but those plans were not acceptable. They will be looking at those plans later this evening. He suggested that anyone

who has a suggestion to control taxes attend the meeting and present their suggestions.

Councilmember Swain also congratulated Larry Metzger. She mentioned the paper shredding day on June 3. She congratulated Marianne Pettineo for receiving the Community Building Award for her efforts for those with special needs. She attended the All Sports Parade with Mayor Baratta and Deputy Mayor Cosgrove and wished all the athletes well.

Deputy Mayor Cosgrove remembered Henrietta Vander Platt who died this weekend. She was the wife of former Mayor Richard J. Vanderplaatt who played a big part in the development of Fair Lawn. She was a registered nurse who loved to paint. He attended the Fair Lawn Street Hockey Association Dinner and the All Sports Parade where the Mayor threw out the first pitch.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski stated that Adopt a Soldier Platoon has adopted the USS New York on its first deployment. He mentioned that several youth discovered that matches fires and windy days do not mix when they were unable to control a fire that destroyed the playground equipment at Brookdale Park. The Joint Insurance Fund will pay for some of the costs roughly about \$30,000 but the Borough will have to pay \$16,000 to rebuild the playground. The Council will be discussing the possibility of seeking restitution from the parents of the minors. He expressed his outrage about the brutal attacks on the County Executive about the unfortunate incident concerning her adult son. He noted that no one will wish to run for elected office and face those kind of attacks.

Mayor Baratta advised that the Borough has received a Certificate of Approval for Fair Lawn's Forestry Plan. She thanked the coaches for taking the time every year to teach the youth. She performed her first biker's wedding this weekend on the steps of Borough Hall.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Metzler advised that the report was on the table.

Manager Metzler explained the process of preparing the budget for submission to the Council. He and staff develop a budget to maintain the services that resident's expect. He looks for direction from the Council. They had to cut \$600,000 to get under cap.

He explained that he believes that a strong surplus makes a strong community. He expressed concern that the surplus is only about \$2 million. They have reduced operating costs. Twenty-seven positions have not been filled. The strategy is to share the amenities they have with other communities that can no

longer provide those services. He has continually asked the Council for guidance. He believes that in order to stabilize future budgets a plan must be created. They must decide what services are going to be cut and then explain that to the residents. Fair Lawn has to either cut services or generate new revenue. The Council is going to make decisions that will affect how the community operates for many years to come. He urged the residents to engage the Council by telling them what services they want cut and if they do not want services cut they must tell the Council that as well.

### **ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING**

Upon motion by Councilmember Swain and a second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski, it was unanimously agreed to read the following ordinance by title.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2237-2012  
(RESOLUTION NO. 143-2012)**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR  
LAWN, 2000, SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 94, ENTITLED "FEES" MORE  
SPECIFICALLY SUBSECTION 94-12 "MISCELLANEOUS FEES"**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Swain, Resolution No. 143-2012 introducing Ordinance No. 2237-2012 was discussed.

Manager Metzler explained that this ordinance will allow residents who are members of Memorial Pool to sponsor non-residents. The ordinance establishes the guidelines and the fees.

Councilmember Swain pointed out that she proposed allowing residents to sponsor non-residents because a resident suggested that they should consider allowing sponsorships to increase membership. The Council concurred and the ordinance was drafted.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 143-2012 introducing Ordinance No. 2237 - 2012 was unanimously passed.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Cosgrove and a second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski, it was unanimously agreed to read the following ordinance by title.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2238-2012  
(RESOLUTION NO. 144-2012)**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REVISED GENERAL  
ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN, 2000, BY  
AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 232 ENTITLED  
VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE III, TRAFFIC**

Upon motion by Councilmember Swain and a second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski, Resolution No. 144-2012 introducing Ordinance No. 2238-2012 was unanimously passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Upon motion by Councilmember Peluso and a second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski, the time for public comments on Agenda items only was opened.

There being no comments from the public, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Swain, the time for public comments was unanimously closed.

**RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT #9-2012**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Peluso, Consent Agenda 9-2012 containing the following items was unanimously passed.

- a. Resol. #145-2012 – Approval of Minutes:
  - Work Session 3/13/12
  - Regular Meeting 3/13/12
  - Closed Session 3/27/12
  - Closed Session 3/30/12
  - Special Meeting 3/30/12
- b. Resol. #146-2012 – Final Disposition of Former Manager Stafford
- c. Resol. #147-2012 - Award of Bid: Tree Planting
- d. Resol. #148-2012 - Inter-local Agreement with the Borough of Haledon for Use of Memorial Pool

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Upon motion by Councilmember Peluso and a second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski, it was unanimously agreed to open the time for public comments.

Joan Goldstein, 12 Bedford Place, reminded everyone that the Green Fair is on May 22 in the D wing at the High School from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Craig Miller, 5 Ramapo Terrace, suggested charging interest on the payment plans for Municipal Court fines. Attorney Mondello stated that the State will not allow them to add interest to a payment plan that the Judge and the defendant have devised. He added that the Mayor and Council will be discussing allowing the use of credit cards which may decrease the number of payment plans.

There being no comments, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Swain the time for public comments was unanimously closed.

**ADJOURNMENT TO WORK SESSION**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Cosgrove and second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski the meeting was adjourned to work session at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joanne M. Kwasniewski, RMC/CMC/MMC  
Municipal Clerk

The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.

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Mayor Jeanne Baratta

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Deputy Mayor John Cosgrove

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Councilmember Kurt Peluso

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Councilmember Lisa Swain

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Deputy Mayor Trawinski