

REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2010

Mayor Tedeschi called the meeting to order at 7:38 P.M.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, annual notice of all meetings of the Borough of Fair Lawn was published in the Record issues of December 18, 2009. Notices were also posted on the bulletin board located on the first floor of the Municipal Building and the Maurice Pine Free Public Library. Copies were mailed to The Community News and posted on the Borough of Fair Lawn Website. The annual notice identified the times and locations of the Council meetings and work sessions.

PRESENT: Mayor Tedeschi, Deputy Mayor Swain, Deputy Mayor Weinstein, Councilmembers Baratta and Councilmember Trawinski.

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Manager Kwasniewski, Assistant Municipal Clerk Bojanowski and Attorney Rosenberg.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting Manager Kwasniewski stated that the Manager's Report is on the table. She spoke about the flooding and reported that she spoke to the OEM Director who has compiled data on the Passaic River which is expected to crest around midnight tonight. The OEM Director advised that he doesn't anticipate any flooding, however, there will be updated information on the Borough website.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Baratta also referred to the flooding and commended the Office of Emergency Manager (OEM) for the wonderful job they did. There are many people with special needs in the community who were very pleased with the special attention they received during this situation.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein echoed what Councilwoman Baratta had said. Borough employees were out helping residents and pumping out homes during this very difficult time.

Deputy Mayor Swain stated that the storm was awful for everyone but the silver lining is that it is times like this that highlight what wonderful employees the town has. It was also great to see residents helping each other out.

Deputy Mayor Swain reported that the Veteran's Council ordered a large sign noting the men and women currently serving in the military. The sign has been installed in the front of the Municipal Building.

Mayor Tedeschi thanked the Borough employees and the volunteers who stepped forward to help during this period of bad weather. He particularly thanked Ira Marks, Jim Van Kruiningen and Wendy Demeraski for keeping him advised constantly throughout the storm.

Councilmember Trawinski agreed with the other Councilmembers and thanked the Acting Manager for keeping in touch with everyone by phone so they could be advised of what was going on. He also thanked the Acting Municipal Clerk for sending daily updates to everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

Richard Safer, 501 1st Street, stated that he lived on the river front for 23 years and has never had water in his home. He said that many of his neighbors living on 2nd Street, which is a block from the river, experience severe water problems. He knows that something could be done to help with this situation.

There were no further comments from the public, and upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Baratta, the time for public comments was unanimously closed.

RESOLUTION BY CONSENT #7-2010

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Weinstein and second by Councilmember Baratta, Consent Agenda 7-2010 containing the following items was unanimously passed.

- a. Resol. #137-2010 –Approval of Minutes:
 - Work Session 12/15/09
 - Closed Session 12/15/09
 - Special Meeting 12/15/09
 - Closed Session 12/15/09
- b. Resol. #138-2010 – Award of Bid: Scada System Maintenance
- c. Resol. #139-2010 – Award of Bid: Tree Planting
- d. Resol. #140-2010 – Transfer of Funds
- e. Resol. #141-2010 – Authorizing Submission of Recycling Tonnage Grant Application
- f. Resol. #142-2010 – Tax Reimbursement Certification
- g. Resol. #143-2010 – Approving Fire Board Actions
- h. Resol. #144-2010 – Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- i. Resol. #145-2010 – Authorizing the Issuance of Requests for Qualifications for Professional Services for Court Collection Fines

- j. Resol. #146-2010 – Resolution of Concurrence for Speed Reduction on Broadway

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Richard Safer, 501 1st Street continued to speak about the water problems in his neighborhood. He has advised his neighbors to go to Borough Hall and explain the situation, however, many say that nothing would get done and this is the reason he is here tonight. He suggested a meeting for a verbal exchange of ideas because they can't continue to be washed out year after year. His in-laws live on Jerome Place and lose power during heavy storms. He asked if these people could be bought out via eminent domain or could be helped with an engineering solution. On a different subject, Mr. Safer commented that he was very impressed with the snow plowing this season.

Mayor Tedeschi said that Mr. Safer is welcome to use the municipal building to bring everyone together. He added that he doesn't know what the answer is in this situation. Mr. Safer said that he would like to give these people the opportunity to speak to Councilmembers.

Mayor Tedeschi suggested that Mr. Safer and his neighbors compile a "what if" list asking about what might be possible. The list would be given to the engineer for his evaluation. Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated that they attempted to alleviate the problem in the past for residents on 2nd Street. They tried to get funding from Blue Acres and Ira Marks has recently conducted studies in order to try to get some help. Deputy Mayor Weinstein said he realizes that this is a very frustrating situation time for these residents. He pointed out that FEMA has been contacted and they were in Fair Lawn about a week ago.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that FEMA initially turned down their application for a grant to buy a house on 2nd Street, however, they saw how big the problem actually is several days ago. He is hoping now that they will get the funding they had asked for even though the grant would only involve one house.

Councilmember Trawinski said that the Council agendas are quite full for the near future but he recommended starting a dialogue with the residents to encourage them to write to Congressman Pascarella and Rothman to ask for assistance. Mr. Safer said that it is unfortunate that his neighbors don't have confidence in the Council. Councilmember Trawinski said he would make a mental note to revisit this situation and place it on the agenda after the Council gets through with the budget and the hiring of a new Manager.

Mayor Tedeschi said that this has to start with these residents coming forward to say that they want to talk about trying to solve this problem. Mr. Safer was advised to

contact the Acting Manager about a time and date for a meeting. Mr. Safer thanked the Council for their time tonight.

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

ADJOURNMENT TO WORK SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilmember Baratta and a second by Deputy Mayor Swain, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn B. Bojanowski, RMC
Assistant Municipal Clerk

The undersigned have read and approved the foregoing minutes.

Mayor Joseph Tedeschi

Councilmember Jeanne Baratta

Deputy Mayor Lisa Swain

Deputy Mayor Steven Weinstein

Councilmember Ed Trawinski