

REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2008

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 14, 2007. 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: Councilmembers Baratta, Tedeschi and Weinstein.

ABSENT: Councilmember Trawinski

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

Invocation by Rabbi Roth

Invocation by Rabbi Woll

“God Bless America” sung by Rachel Gomberg

God Bless America was sung by Councilmember Steven Weinstein=s niece, Rachel Gomberg.

Swearing in of new Council Members

Congressman Rothman swore in Councilmember Swain.

Nominations for Mayor

Councilmember Tedeschi nominated Councilmember Steven Weinstein for Mayor. Councilmember Swain seconded the nomination.

Election of Mayor

There being no other nominations, the time for nominations was closed. Upon motion by Councilmember Tedeschi and a second by Councilmember Swain, Councilmember Steven Weinstein was unanimously elected Mayor.

Nomination for Deputy Mayor

Councilmember Swain nominated Councilmember Tedeschi as Deputy Mayor. Mayor Weinstein seconded the nomination.

Election of Deputy Mayor

There being no other nominations, the time for nominations were closed. Upon motion by Councilmember Swain and a second by Mayor Weinstein, Councilmember Tedeschi was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor.

Nomination for Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs

Mayor Weinstein nominated Councilmember Swain as Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs. Deputy Mayor Tedeschi seconded the nomination.

Election of Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs

There being no other nominations, the time for nominations were closed. Upon motion by Mayor Weinstein and a second by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi, Councilmember Swain was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs.

Swearing in of Mayor and Deputy Mayors

Congressman Rothman swore in Councilmember Weinstein in as Mayor.

Assemblyman Gordon swore Councilmember Tedeschi in as Deputy Mayor.

Freeholder and Assemblywoman-elect Wagner swore Councilmember Swain in as Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs.

Mayor Weinstein assumed the chair.

Remarks of the Mayor

Mayor Weinstein acknowledged the dignitaries in the audience, Congressman Rothman, Senator-elect Gordon, Freeholder and Assemblywoman-elect Wagner, Freeholder and former Mayor Ganz, Saddle Brook Mayor Louis D=Arminio, former Councilmember Caan and former Councilmember Bienstock.

Mayor Weinstein read the following, good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the 2008 Reorganization Meeting of the Fair Lawn Mayor and Council. Fair Lawn was found in 1924, so this is the 64th Reorganization Meeting of our community.

He wished each and everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and success in all their endeavors.

This year, he will be commencing his 7th year as a member of the Council. This will also be

his second year as Mayor of Fair Lawn. It has certainly been a wonderful and educational experience serving on this Council. He wanted to thank the voters of Fair Lawn who re-elected him and Joe Tedeschi and also who elected Lisa Swain for her first term.

When they ran this past November, they made a pledge in their campaign literature that they were going to represent all of Fair Lawn. These were not just idle words, but rather their commitment to all of the residents that the Council will actively address issues that relate to all areas of the Borough and will reach a consensus to solve these problems.

Two years ago they started a budget process to truly stabilize taxes, and they are in the middle of that five-year program. Our pledge continues to review the annual budget and reasonably fund all of the services that are not only mandated, but are expected and appreciated by Fair Lawn residents.

Public safety is critical in these unsettled times and they fully support all of the Fire Department and the Emergency First Responders and the good work that they do.

Essentials such as garbage pickup, street maintenance and the upgrade of our fields will be given a critical review to maintain and improve them. They have already been awarded \$300,000 by the County for the installation of a turf field at Vanderplatt which is used by thousands of our children. A \$140,000 grant for road repairs from the Department of Transportation has also been awarded.

Their vision is to continue to support the revitalization of the business areas throughout the town to maintain a viable commercial tax base which, among other things, helps our residential taxpayers. They have already seen many positive changes on River Road. They expect the same kind of results for Route 208 and the Broadway Corridor. The Radburn Business District is also progressing in a positive way, and they expect more good things to happen there in the future. These changes have been the result of studies that had been funded by grants which have been obtained for Fair Lawn by our County, State and Federal representatives. They look forward to their continued assistance and guidance in the upgrade of these areas.

Currently, it is the Council's intention to hire a grants firm which will help Fair Lawn find other sources of funding for our future needs.

He has learned from experience that each year brings new challenges. He believed that one of the important areas that needs to be addressed in this coming year is the sanitary and storm water sewer systems. Most of this infrastructure was built over 60 years ago, and we need to take a long hard look as to where the systems need replacement, repair or simple refinement. As they know too well, weather in this area has become unpredictable, and major storms can overwhelm an older system. He would like to say that if they had

unlimited funds, they could waive the proverbial "magic wand" and resolve this issue in one fell swoop. Obviously, the choices for local government are never that simple, and they need to establish a program where, over time, the systems would be analyzed and restructured.

He and Deputy Mayor Tedeschi will be recommending to the Council that Fair Lawn retain an environmental expert to review and report on the current infrastructure and to recommend solutions that are needed. They are looking for long-term repair and revisions and not simply band-aid solutions.

This environmental expert would be instructed to look at the brown fields and contaminated properties. The environmental expert would assist the Environmental Commission chaired by Wendy Dabney with respect to direction, programs and steps to clean up these sites.

The Environmental Commission, in conjunction with the environmental expert, would be empowered to oversee and monitor the remediation and redevelopment of environmentally impacted properties. New development will not be allowed to overtax the current infrastructure or to ignore environmental concerns.

From the campaign and from discussions that occurred much earlier, redevelopment and preserving the limited open space are issues that need to be addressed. They cannot sit back and let things take their own course or they may be overwhelmed by events beyond their control. A reasonable balance between allowing some development, which does not negatively impact on neighborhoods, and preserving as much open space as they can, is not only a vision by a necessity.

With the current membership on the Council, he is sure that all issues will be thoroughly discussed, and he invited input from every resident on issues of interest to them. He did not know whether the Council would reach unanimity in every discussion, but his goal was to try and reach a full consensus as much as possible.

This Council has been given the responsibility to represent their interests in Borough affairs. Over the last few years, they started on the right track by passing the anti pay to play ordinance, the anti McMansion ordinance and other such legislation and actions that not only impact on the quality of life in Fair Lawn, but also on the transparency of their government and their elected officials.

In a Democracy, all voices should be heard and, as Mayor, he certainly intends to listen to anyone who has constructive input to give to the Council. He pledged that all residents who come before the Council will be treated with dignity and respect. He hoped that no matter how important the issue was, residents will likewise reciprocate to each and every member of the Council. As someone once said, we may not always agree, but we do not have to be

disagreeable.

In conclusion, he would be remiss if he did not thank his lovely wife, Linda, his children Sari, Zach and Ashley, his parents, Linda's mom, and all other members of his family because without their love, affection and support, it would be impossible to serve on this body.

Once again, Happy New Year to all, and he looked forward to hearing from them in this coming year.

Freeholder Ganz, on behalf of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Chairman Tom Padilla and his colleagues, congratulated them on their new terms of office and to Lisa Swain on her election. He assured them that their request for additional grants and funding will be given due consideration. He presented Certificates of Commendation to Mayor Weinstein, Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and Deputy Mayor Swain.

Remarks of Councilmember Baratta:

Councilmember Baratta stated it was nice to see so many residents come out tonight on this very cold night. Councilmember Trawinski sends his regards since he could not be here this evening since their meetings are usually on Tuesday night and he had a previous business commitment on Wednesday nights.

She stated that some things happened over the holiday season that she wanted to comment on. She is a lifelong resident of Fair Lawn and may be a little biased by feeling that Fair Lawn is the best place to live. A lot of small things happened that you would not hear about in the news but none the less, real important things that made her stop and think how wonderful this town is. People that went out of their way, not just during the holidays but all the time for other people. Just doing little things for their neighbors, coming out to support them, someone needs a helping hand. She has seen a lot of that in the last few weeks and it made her stop and think how lucky they are to live here. She knows that a lot of towns have wonderful volunteers and excellent people, but she felt it was really strong in Fair Lawn. It is one of the things that make us such a great town. She has seen so much of it, and we always seem to dwell on the negative that she just wanted to take a moment and think about the positive and think about your neighbor or someone that is down on their luck. Recently she witnessed a lot of that and for those unsung heroes, she thanked them. She wished everyone a happy new year with hopes that God continued to bless us in this wonderful town in 2008.

Remarks of the Deputy Mayor Tedeschi:

Deputy Mayor Tedeschi stated he did not write a speech because usually when he starts writing a speech he writes words on a piece of paper and then tries to string the words

together to see what comes out. The first word he wrote was opportunity. Then he found that he wrote it again and again. He said that Fair Lawn is opportunity. They have a strong community, strong in the people who live here. They are financially strong. They have representation on every level of government in this Country living in Fair Lawn. They have opportunity. They can't make commitments but they can't let opportunity pass them by. There is no doubt in his mind that the collective wisdom of this Council, all five members, will create greater opportunities if they so choose and the residents hold them accountable to do that. They won't achieve the opportunity if they bicker, they won't achieve the opportunity if they look to politically control, if they look to someone else running Fair Lawn. They will not maximize their opportunity. Fair Lawn is a gift. His father-in-law moved here in 1927 and still lives here and there must be a reason, maybe it is in the water. Fair Lawn is a good town and they have a chance for the rest of Bergen County to look at Fair Lawn and say how do that do that in Fair Lawn, how do they keep the taxes down, how are they going to green the community, how are they keeping open space safe, how are they looking at reasonable development with reasonable outcomes. That is what their goal should be that their opportunity should make the Borough the envy of all of Bergen County. He believed that was Fair Lawn and they have the opportunity to do this. If the residents accept mediocrity, if they accept political babbling, they will not maximize themselves. All together, he is convinced they can. He felt this should be their motto: Fair Lawn is a town of opportunity for everyone.

Remarks of Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs Swain:

Deputy Mayor Swain stated she wanted to thank her family for helping her get there tonight, it has not always been easy but she always appreciated them. This is an extraordinary moment for her and a very important time for Fair Lawn. She felt honored to share this moment with them. Earlier today she was reading the paper and thinking about what is going on in Kenya and she was reminded about how lucky they are in this Country to have the opportunity to make our voices heard and there are not a lot of places in the world where any citizen like here in Fair Lawn where they can come in any Tuesday night and speak their mind. They should never take that for granted and they should always remember that they have that right.

Fair Lawn is a very special place for many of them. It is a place they have come to raise their families, become members of the community and establish long term friendships. She is privileged to have their respect and trust as a member of the team that will lead this community into the future. Fair Lawn is on the cusp of exciting events to come and she looked forward to having the opportunity to shape our future together. As a member of the Council, she hoped to work together as a team to develop ways to keep the citizens of the community happy. They will have to be creative as they look for ways to stabilize the taxes while maintaining the very high level of services they have. They will have to develop an entrepreneurial spirit as they look to expand economic development in the Borough. They

will have to look closely at ways to make our community safe for all of the residents, young and old. She believed they could all work together as long as they treat each other with respect and tolerate our differences. If they do this and realize that they all have an equal right to a prosperous and thriving community – they can make Fair Lawn a Borough they all can be proud of. Thank you and happy new year to everyone.

MAYOR=S APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Weinstein announced his appointments.

- a. Library Trustees – Lisa Coll Nicolaou, Bruce Rein, Phyllis Gold
- b. Environmental Commission Chairperson - Wendy Dabney
- c. Board of Education Liaisons - Mayor Weinstein, Councilmember Trawinski
- d. Planning Board designee - Michael Cohen
- e. Class II Planning Board Member - Alan Neggia
- f. Historic Preservation Committee – Louis DiGeronimo

RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT #1-2008 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

Upon motion by Councilmember Baratta and a second by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi, Consent Agenda 1-2008 containing the following items was unanimously adopted.

- a. Resol. No. 1-2008 - Tax Appraisers
- b. Resol. No. 2-2008 - Planning Board
- c. Resol. No. 3-2008 - Zoning Board
- d. Resol. No. 4-2008 - Fire Officers
- e. Resol. No. 5-2008 - Liaison to Fire Board
- f. Resol. No. 6-2008 - Liaison to the Community Center
- g. Resol. No. 7-2008 - Senior Citizen Advisory Board
- h. Resol. No. 8-2008 - Rent Leveling Board
- l. Resol. No. 9-2008 - Holiday Celebrations
- j. Resol. No. 10-2008 - Youth Advisory Board
- k. Resol. No. 11-2008 - Property Maintenance/Facelift Committee
- l. Resol. No. 12-2008 - Insurance Commissioners Self Insurance
- m. Resol. No. 13-2008 - Fair Lawn Historical Committee
- n. Resol. No. 14-2008 - Advisory Committee on the Americans with Disabilities Act
- o. Resol. No. 15-2008 - Fair Lawn Borough Garden Committee
- p. Resol. No. 16-2008 - Defender County Tax Board of Appeals
- q. Resol. No. 17-2008 - Liaison to Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention
- r. Resol. No. 18-2008 - Advisors to the Senior Citizen Center
- s. Resol. No. 19-2008 - Labor Attorney

- t. Resol. No. 20-2008 - Claims Management Service - Qual Care
- u. Resol. No. 21-2008 - Liaisons to RRIC, BID, EDC
- v. Resol. No. 22-2008 - Loss Control Services - Commerce National Risk Control
- w. Resol. No. 23-2008 - Health Educator - HARP
- x. Resol. No. 24-2008 - Professional Nursing Services - Valley Nursing Services
- y. Resol. No. 25-2008 - Health Care Provider - Edward A. Sciano, Jr. MD
- z. Resol. No. 26-2008 - Open Space Committee
- aa. Resol. No. 27-2008 - Liaison to Cable Television Board
- bb. Resol. No. 28-2008 - Health Care Provider - Occupational Medical Assoc.
- cc. Resol. No. 29-2008 - Public Action Compliance Officer
- dd. Resol. No. 30-2008 - Planner of Record
- ee. Resol. No. 31-2008 - Removed
- ff. Resol. No. 32-2008 - Borough Attorney
- gg. Resol. No. 33-2008 - Professional Planning Services for Green Acres Services: Michael Hakim
- hh. Resol. No. 34-2008 - Fair Lawn Recreation Facility Review Committee
- ii. Resol. No. 35-2008 - Veteran & Volunteer Coalition
- jj. Resol. No. 36-2008 - Surveyor
- kk. Resol. No. 37-2008 - Shade Tree Advisory Committee
- ll. Resol. No. 38-2008 - Interlocal Services Agreement with Ridgewood: Health Officer
- mm. Resol. No. 39-2008 - Community Development Representative
- nn. Resol. No. 40-2008 - Substitute Prosecutor
- oo. Resol. No. 41-2008 - Health Advisory Board

RESOLUTION NO. 31-2008 – Professional Legal Services

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and a second by Deputy Mayor Swain, Resolution No. 31-2008 was discussed. Councilmember Baratta stated she had a problem with the language in the resolution – general litigation as approved by the Borough Attorney. She thought when they discussed this that it was going to be if the Borough Attorney came to the Mayor and Council and needed help, the Council would have to decide. She thought it was a little broad. Mayor Weinstein asked Attorney Rosenberg for his definition. Attorney Rosenberg stated it is in the proposal and resolution as they had discussed the matters that will be handled with his consent and his approval. Councilmember Baratta asked if it would go through the Council. Attorney Rosenberg said it would be with Council approval.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 31-2008 was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2008 - Borough Auditor

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and a second by Deputy Mayor Swain, Resolution No. 42-2008 was passed with Councilmember Baratta dissenting.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2008 – Broker of Record Medical & Dental – Business & Governmental Insurance Agency

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and a second by Deputy Mayor Swain, Resolution No. 43-2008 was passed with Councilmember Baratta dissenting.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2008 – Risk Management Consulting Service – Business & Governmental Insurance Agency

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and a second by Deputy Mayor Swain, Resolution No. 44-2008 was passed with Councilmember Baratta dissenting.

RESOLUTION NO. 45-2008 – Environmental Commission

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and a second by Deputy Mayor Swain, Resolution No. 45-2008 was passed with Councilmember Baratta dissenting.

Manager=s Appointments:

Manager Metzler announced his appointments to the following positions: Prosecutor - Mark Fierro, Rent Leveling Attorney - Steven Cohen and Public Defender - Ronald Mondello.

RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT #2-2008

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and a second by Councilmember Baratta, Consent Agenda 2-2008 containing the following items was unanimously adopted.

- a. Resol. No. 46-2008 - Cash Management Plan
- b. Resol. No. 47-2008 - Official Newspapers
- c. Resol. No. 48-2008 - Temporary Budget - Current Fund
- d. Resol. No. 49-2008 - Temporary Budget - Water Utility Fund
- e. Resol. No. 50-2008 - Tax Assessment Interest
- f. Resol. No. 51-2008 - Annual Meeting Dates and Times
- g. Resol. No. 52-2008 - Defending Tax Appeals
- h. Resol. No. 53-2008 - Annual Sale of Delinquent Taxes
- i. Resol. No. 54-2008 - Authorizing Renewal of Massage Establishment and Massagist License - Massage Spa, LLC
- j. Resol. No. 55-2008 - Cooperative Pricing Agreement - Riverside Cooperative

- k. Resol. No. 56-2008 - Authorizing the Issuance of Requests for Qualifications for Professional Services for Grant Writer

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Senator-elect Robert Gordon stated listening to their remarks about the challenges that face this community, they mentioned cleaning up contaminated sites, revitalizing the commercial districts, preserving open space, these are all issues that require a close working relationship between the State of New Jersey and the Borough of Fair Lawn. One of the reasons he wanted to be here tonight was to reaffirm his commitment to continuing the relationship he has had with this Council, hoping that in his new capacity as a Senator he will have greater opportunities to bring resources to Fair Lawn to address some of these issues. He congratulated Lisa Swain, Mayor Weinstein and Deputy Mayor Tedeschi on their victory. He presented a certificate commemorating this event to them. He wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Saddle Brook Mayor Louis D'Arminio congratulated them on their victory and added that Saddle Brook stands as neighbors to help them in any endeavor. He said they were looking to help alleviate flooding in the area that borders Saddle Brook. He wished a happy New Year to each and every one of them.

Allan Caan, 19-62 Chandler Drive, wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. He was pleased that Steve Weinstein was Mayor again this year. He felt that Deputy Mayor Tedeschi had a lot of knowledge and that Deputy Mayor Swain had a reasonable voice to add to the Council. He advised them to enjoy the time they have serving on the Council because he felt it was an honor to serve. He wished them much success in the coming year.

Perry Bolkin, 1-42 36th Street, offered some suggestions that were not accepted by the Council.

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

Mayor Weinstein presented Deputy Mayor Swain with a gift of books.

BENEDICTION BY Chaplain David Boone

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and a second by Councilmember Baratta, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn B. Bojanowski, RMC
Assistant Municipal Clerk

The undersigned have read and approved the foregoing minutes.

Mayor Steven Weinstein

Councilmember Jeanne Baratta

Deputy Mayor Lisa Swain

Deputy Mayor Joseph Tedeschi

Councilmember Ed Trawinski