

## **REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2007**

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 15, 2006. 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, Etlar, Tedeschi, Trawinski and Weinstein.

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

### **Invocation by Rabbi S. Saltzman**

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski asked for a moment of silence for President Gerald Ford who had recently passed away.

### **National Anthem sung by Rachel Gomberg**

The National Anthem was sung by Councilmember Steven Weinstein's niece.

### **Nominations for Mayor**

Councilmember Etlar nominated Councilmember Steven Weinstein for Mayor. He said that Councilmember Weinstein has served this community in so many ways and felt that Fair Lawn would be well served. Councilmember Tedeschi seconded the nomination.

### **Election of Mayor**

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

Mayor Weinstein assumed the chair.

### **Nomination for Deputy Mayor**

Councilmember Tedeschi nominated Councilmember Etlar as Deputy Mayor.

### **Election of Deputy Mayor**

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

**Nomination for Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs**

Deputy Mayor Etlar nominated Councilmember Tedeschi as Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs.

**Election of Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs**

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

**Swearing in of Mayor and Deputy Mayors**

Assemblyman Gordon swore in Deputy Mayor Weinstein as Mayor of Fair Lawn. He said that he has had the opportunity over the last thirty years to serve on every level of government, Federal, State and local, including ten years on the Mayor and Council of Fair Lawn. Looking back, the most satisfying part of his public life has been serving the Borough of Fair Lawn. When one has powers of persuasion, one can truly shape public policy and affect the quality of life of the neighbors. The Mayor, more than anyone on the Council, can shape the agenda and have impact on the community. He has known Steve Weinstein for fifteen years or more. He has great financial skills. He is a Mensch. He will be a splendid Mayor. He extended the wish that he enjoys the time and gets the satisfaction as Mayor as he did. This Council has some very challenging decisions to make in the coming months such as land use decisions and property tax relief and preserving open space. He was confident that this Council will do a terrific job. He extended his best wishes and thanks to his friend, Marty Etlar, for doing a great job as Mayor. It has been a difficult time. It seems that civility in public life is only a distant memory but he handled himself with great skill and forbearance.

Assemblyman Gordon wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. He extended his regrets from Assemblywoman Joan Voss who could not be present because she was in Edgewater. The District 38 team, Senator Coniglio, Assemblywoman Joan Voss and himself, stand ready to provide as much support, financial or otherwise, to support their work here.

Assemblyman Gordon swore in Councilmember Etlar as Deputy Mayor.

Assemblyman Gordon swore in Councilmember Tedeschi as Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs.

**Remarks of the Mayor**

Mayor Weinstein acknowledged the dignitaries in the audience, Assemblyman Gordon, Saddle Brook Mayor Louis D'Arminio and Freeholder and former Mayor David Ganz.

Mayor Weinstein read the following, Good evening to all and welcome. The last several months have been quite an experience for the Weinstein family. A few months ago, I was selected as the co-citizen of the year by the Fair Lawn Knights of Pythias.

That was quite an honor from them, and I am extremely grateful to each and every member of that organization for that selection. A month ago, my son Zach successfully completed his studies and performed his Bar Mitzvah, a step along the way in his progression to adulthood.

And now this. Being selected as Fair Lawn's Mayor for this year is indeed a humbling experience. While your Mayor in our form of government, is only one vote among five, there is a tremendous responsibility that goes along with the position. The Mayor helps set the agenda for council meetings, and sets the tone as to how your Mayor and Council are perceived by our fellow residents.

I promise that the tone will be positive, constructive and in the best interest of the community. Nothing less is acceptable.

In anticipating the responsibilities that I will have for this coming year, I took some time out to reflect on several things. First and foremost is my family. Without the undivided and unequalled support of my wife, Linda and the encouragement and love from my three children, Sari, Zack and Ashley, none of this would be possible. The devotion of my parents and the ethical guidance that they gave me while growing up, provides the moral compass and foundation to undertake the responsibilities of running our local government. These reflections lead me to the inescapable conclusion that the love and support of family is vital in any undertaking.

In thinking about these things over the last several weeks, I also reflected upon our community at large. It may be cliched, but a community like Fair Lawn is, in fact, one large family. We, as residents, have common goals. We want security, efficient services such as garbage collection and street cleaning, a good education for our children, preservation of our property values and a sense of belonging.

As a community family, we must also recognize the various needs of our fellow neighbors, whether they are our seniors, our children and everyone in between. Like any other family, there are many differences of opinions on issues of public importance. Just as in our own families, discussions sometimes become arguments.

Over the last several years, I have noticed an unfortunate trend in public discourse and debate over local issues. Differences of opinions over open space, the Community Center, the governance in Radburn and other similar matters have caused divisions pitting neighbor against neighbor. The level of debate has reduced itself to personal attacks, against one another. We need this to stop. There needs to be an understanding that not everyone will agree on every issue all the time.

I am reminded that there is a sign on the conference table in the United States Supreme Court that says "We can disagree, without being disagreeable." One of my goals for this year is to make sure that statement is a reality for the greater family of Fair Lawn.

Upon further reflection, I believe that much has recently been accomplished in Fair Lawn. I would like to name some. We have adopted one of the toughest pay to play ordinances in the State. Anyone who gives any political contribution will not be awarded a "no bid" contract, but will be placed in a competitive position with non-contributors.

Despite some disagreement about the Community Center, I am very pleased to say that it is a major success. On Friday nights, we have some 200-400 young people using the facilities. The Community Center provides a safe haven for them for wholesome enjoyment under the supervision of our recreation department. Our children are not hanging out on the streets, and the center provides a place where they can socialize and have fun. That was the purpose! The Community Center has also been the venue for various artistic events, and its utilization is further expanded. If you have not yet been there, experience it and enjoy it - it was built for you.

Your Mayor and Council have taken steps to curb underage drinking in homes where parents may be absent, and at the same time have preserved the privacy rights of our homeowners. If the enforcement under this ordinance saves even one child from being abused or becoming the victim of drunk driving, that was the purpose.

For the first time in many, many years the Mayor and Council requested input from our community, similar to the old fashioned "town meeting," on the underage drinking ordinance and on holiday displays at Borough Hall. These "open town meetings" were highly successful and the Council established policy based on the input it received at those meetings. That was the purpose of those public hearings and it worked.

In 2006, your Council embarked on a multi-year plan to truly stabilize taxes. While nobody likes to pay taxes, we realistically understand that they pay for our schools, our police, our volunteer emergency responders, our garbage collection, recycling road and sewer repair and hundreds of other items.

We have taken steps to reduce expenses and accordingly have instructed Manager Metzler to explore every avenue available such as shared services. We have entered into a cooperative arrangement with the Central Bergen County municipalities. And, through our involvement and leadership, are exploring many cost effective shared service ideas.

We currently have cost sharing arrangements with Fair Lawn's Board of Education and are focusing even more on this relationship. We see progress in areas such as technology, shared use of our DPW complex and mechanic's shop and purchase of

administrative supplies. The purpose is to maintain high quality services while stabilizing the cost to our residents.

While Fair Lawn is the fourth largest community in Bergen County by population, it is in the middle of the pack of seventy towns in the amount of taxes that the average assessed homeowner pays. While this puts our level of taxation in perspective, it does not solve the problem. It will be my directive, with the consensus of the Council, to have Manager Metzler and all department heads continue to make recommendations for further responsible cost saving measures.

As most of you know, we are anticipating expanding our tax base with proposals for the Kodak site and the old Sandoz site, which is now known as Clariant. Development includes quality of life issues. Responsible growth on these properties can and must be achieved without overtaxing our school system or our essential services. Obviously, traffic considerations are also paramount so that contiguous neighborhoods are not negatively impacted by any of this development. I believe that a reasonable plan will be a positive addition to our tax base. It will continue to make Fair Lawn desirable for new businesses and new residents.

Responsible and reasonable growth is a balancing of development with the preservation of Fair Lawn's cherished resource - open space. In 2006 through the efforts of the Open Space Committee and supported by the Mayor and Council, Fair Lawn was awarded a \$450,000 grant by the State of New Jersey for the purpose of purchasing and preserving open space in our town. Your Mayor and Council have put money aside to match the \$450,000 Green Acres grant.

We have reached out to the County to acquire the Naugle House and its surrounding property. We will continue to fund and maintain environmental projects such as the River walk along the Passaic River and new bike routes on Berdan Avenue. We have made tremendous strides in 2006 and will remain proactive in 2007. Together the balancing of reasonable growth with the preservation of Open Space will maintain the quality of life of our community.

Fair Lawn remains a desirable place to live! At the present time, there is a turnover of between 300 to 400 house per year. These residential sales represent between three and four percent of the total residential homes in Fair Lawn. What all this means is that for every sale, obviously, there is a purchaser who has decided to move into Fair Lawn. This is evidence to me that Fair Lawn is still an attractive place to live. It means that our school system, our parks, our swim areas, and yes, the running of our local government and the services that are provided, all contribute to the decision that families make to move into our community.

I am most proud to report that programs that were started years ago, and with which I have been actively participating over the last several years, are producing results. For

example, River Road, a district which needed help some twelve years ago has become a model for other communities to follow. The River Road Special Improvement District, in partnership with the Borough, has demonstrated the success of a public/private partnership. This can be seen as new buildings and businesses flourish throughout the corridor. Building on that success, we have undertaken a Special Improvement District for Broadway, and anticipate seeing the same kind of results there as we have seen on River Road.

I am also proud to have been most active in our local Economic Development Corporation, which acts as a private oversight agency for the economic growth of Fair Lawn as a whole. This year, I intend to propose to the Council that we take the Economic Development Corporation to the next level and extend its oversight of the business community in a cost-effective manner. The entity needs to be self funded with a centralized leadership which will help coordinate the activities of the SIDS, oversee the revitalization of other areas in need and generally serve to bring new businesses (and the right businesses) into Fair Lawn.

With the continued and significant input from those who have graciously volunteered their time through the Business Leadership Committee, Economic Development Corp., River Road Improvement Corp., and the Broadway Improvement Corp., we will succeed.

As one example, the addition of Panera Bread in Radburn is an indication that Fair Lawn can, should and will attract “brand name” enterprises.

It is getting late, and I just want to recite to you my vision for Fair Lawn in the coming years. I want your Mayor and Council to be proactive in representing the needs and expectations of all of our citizens. Your Mayor and Council must continue the plan which was started last year in stabilizing our taxes. Your Mayor and Council must treat everyone, including each other, with dignity and respect, no matter the issue, the difference of opinion or the volatility of the subject matter.

In the end, I pledge responsible and responsive government in Fair Lawn. I believe that all of us want a government that takes care of our essential needs, and then basically leaves us alone.

Abraham Lincoln, in the Gettysburg Address stated that government “of the people, by the people, for the people” is an institution worth preserving. The phrase “by the people” does not mean one group of citizens or one section of the town has greater rights or more say than any other. All of our residents have a say, all have an opinion and we as the Council must listen to everyone and then make the best informed judgments that we can.

We know at times this will be a rocky road. In our personal families around the dinner table or at family functions there may be arguments which are never resolved. Nevertheless, after all the arguing, families come together and understand that what they have more in common far outweighs their differences.

The same is true for our greater Fair Lawn family. Our spirit, vitality, volunteerism, common interests and goals in providing a safe, secure and pleasant environment for ourselves and our children far outweigh any differences that we may have at any particular moment.

As Mayor in the coming year, I will never forget that serving in this office is an honor and a privilege. I pledge to you, the people of Fair Lawn - my extended family, to do the very best job that I can.

Thank you and have a health, happy and prosperous 2007.

#### **Remarks of Councilmember Baratta:**

Councilmember Baratta read the following statement: Thank you Mr. Mayor, and good evening to everyone. First I would like to wish the people of Fair Lawn a happy and healthy new year.

I would also like to thank the residents and business owners of Fair Lawn for making me feel most welcome in my first year as your elected official.

I was born and raised here in Fair Lawn, and when I entered office, I thought that I knew a lot of people. Well I feel truly blessed now.

On a daily basis, I receive regular mail, e-mails, phone calls from you, the residents. Sometime to ask for assistance, other times to inquire about a policy or procedure, some call me to thank me, and many just write some words of encouragement. Whatever the contact is, even if you call to complain about a position I have taken, I want you to know how much it means to me. I am honored when anyone reaches out to me, because that's why I wanted to be here. I wanted to be a Council person for the people of Fair Lawn and I am grateful that you have received me in that position.

I have learned a lot in this short year, mostly from you. One of the most enlightening meetings for me this year, was when we had the open hearing regarding religious displays. You had many differing opinions and I respected them all, I believe we all did. What I really came away with that day, is what a wonderfully diverse community we are. I looked at our census data after that meeting, and religiously, ethnically and culturally we are a rich community of people. I think we need to celebrate that. At the next available work session, I will be proposing to this Council the concept of a Fair Lawn

Cultural Diversity Day. A day where we can celebrate, educate and embrace that which makes Fair Lawn a special place. I have briefly discussed this concept with some groups in town and it was met with positive enthusiasm - I hope to see this idea come to fruition in the near future.

In closing, I would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers we have in Fair Lawn. I have had the privilege to work with only a fraction of the many people who give their precious free time to this town. Specifically two groups that I worked closely with, the members of the 501(c)3 and the Alliance for Substance Abuse who were so instrumental in seeing the proposed underage drinking ordinance come to light, I thank them for never losing faith.

To my family, my husband and children, it has been a unique year for them. I confess, there have been a few nights of pizza deliveries, but they have survived and I thank them for their patience, sometimes brutal honesty, their distinctive sense of humor and unyielding love.

Thank you all for your time and may God bless us all.

**Remarks of the Deputy Mayor Etler:**

Deputy Mayor Etler read the following statement: It is hard to believe that I am completing my seventh year on this Council. During these past seven years, we have had some momentous events take place. Hurricane Floyd, September 11, 2001, the blackouts, the completion of the new Community Center and the tragic and untimely death of Officer Mary Ann Collura. Through it all our Borough employees and volunteers have "stayed the course" and kept us on an even keel, and we have survived.

I know that property taxes are on everyone's minds. Let me be straightforward and assure you that the Council is doing everything possible to rein them in. This includes a careful watch over expenditures, as well as sharing services with our sister towns and the Fair Lawn Board of Education. This is not just talk, it is a reality, and there are thousands of dollars to be saved. Although our "ship of state" will be sailing into new horizons, we are on a well-defined course toward continued stability and high quality services.

During the past year, it has been my pleasure to have served as Mayor of the Borough of Fair Lawn, and I would like to thank my colleagues for this honor. Most important, I would like to thank my colleagues for this honor. Most important, I would like to thank the good citizens of Fair Lawn who have given me the privilege of servicing this town for the past seven years. And yes, I do plan to continue.

In closing, I would like to wish each and every one of you a happy and healthy New Year.

**Remarks of Councilmember Trawinski:**

Councilmember Trawinski stated he would like to thank first and foremost, his wife and children, for allowing him to do this. The sacrifices that they make to give him the privilege of serving you, is very much appreciated in his life. He thanked the Fair Lawn residents, those who have come out meeting after meeting, those who come occasionally, those who pick up the phone, those who send e-mails, and those who simply do what good residents do, pay their taxes and watch what we do to make sure

that you keep us in line because after all, this is a government that is by the people. They are just merely there for a time being as the resident's trustees. He echoed Councilmember Baratta's comments and Mayor Weinstein's comments to wish everyone a happy, health and prosperous New Year. To his fellow Councilmembers, he was looking forward to this year working with them as long as they can recognizing that they are getting into the election season this November, in a bipartisan fashion to continue the good work that they started last year. Thank you and God Bless you!

### **Remarks of the Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs Tedeschi:**

Deputy Mayor Tedeschi stated the following: He said he could be briefer than that. Rabbi Saltzman, if you would allow me to share a little story. When we were up here talking he found out that Rabbi Saltzman served in the Marine Corps. in Vietnam, and he acknowledged Saddle Brook Mayor D'Arminio as a former Marine. He explained what the difference is between the Council and the Marine Corps. He felt it was more civil in the Marine Corps. He did not think that is true. He felt if they all take a step back and say that government at any level exists only to serve the people who put them into those places. They can all do a better job. They do not have to agree. They all don't have to get in line to march in locked steps, and they don't have to report to anyone but their own consciences. If they don't do a good job, hopefully, the residents will hold them accountable for that job. Fair Lawn is a wonderful town. His father-in-law moved here in 1927 and still lives here. His wife and children went to school here, and they are not going anywhere. Their only goal should be to make Fair Lawn what Mary Burdick used to say.....a little better than when she found it. That should be the goal of the Council. That should be done with transparent government, open and honest government, and government that can take place in the light of day where people can see what is going on and ask questions, civilly that they deserve and are entitled to have the answers. On behalf of his family and himself, he wished them all a happy New Year and thought this was going to be a wonderful year for the Council and the community because he thought a lot of things will come into focus and there is a tremendous amount of ability up there. Thank you very much!

Page Ten

Reorganization Meeting

January 2, 2007

### **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Weinstein announced his appointments.

- a. Library Trustees - Lisa Swain
- b. Environmental Commission Chairperson - Wendy Dabney
- c. Board of Education Liaisons - Mayor Weinstein, Deputy Mayor Etler
- d. Planning Board designee - Michael Cohen
- e. Class II Planning Board Member - Alan Neggia
- f. Historic Preservation Committee - Diane Albarella

**RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT #1-2007 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:**

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Deputy Mayor Etler, Consent Agenda 1-2007 containing the following items was unanimously adopted.

- a. Resol. No. 1-2007 - Tax Appraisers
- b. Resol. No. 2-2007 - Planning Board
- c. Resol. No. 3-2007 - Zoning Board
- d. Resol. No. 4-2007 - Fire Officers
- e. Resol. No. 5-2007 - Liaison to Fire Board
- f. Resol. No. 6-2007 - Environmental Commission
- g. Resol. No. 7-2007 - Senior Citizen Advisory Board
- h. Resol. No. 8-2007 - Rent Leveling Board
- i. Resol. No. 9-2007 - Holiday Celebrations
- j. Resol. No. 10-2007 - Youth Advisory Board
- k. Resol. No. 11-2007 - Property Maintenance/Facelift Committee
- l. Resol. No. 12-2007 - Insurance Commissioners Self Insurance
- m. Resol. No. 13-2007 - Fair Lawn Historical Committee
- n. Resol. No. 14-2007 - Advisory Committee on the Americans with Disabilities Act
- o. Resol. No. 15-2007 - Fair Lawn Borough Garden Committee
- p. Resol. No. 16-2007 - Liaison to Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention
- q. Resol. No. 17-2007 - Advisors to the Senior Citizen Center
- r. Resol. No. 18-2007 - Labor Attorney
- s. Resol. No. 19-2007 - Claims Management Service - Qual Care
- t. Resol. No. 20-2007 - Liaisons to RRIC, BID, EDC
- u. Resol. No. 21-2007 - Health Care Provider - Edward A. Sciano, Jr. MD
- v. Resol. No. 22-2007 - Open Space Committee
- w. Resol. No. 23-2007 - Health Care Provider - Occupational Medical Assoc.
- x. Resol. No. 24-2007 - Public Action Compliance Officer
- y. Resol. No. 25-2007 - Planner of Record
- z. Resol. No. 26-2007 - Professional Legal Services
- aa. Resol. No. 27-2007 - Municipal Bond Counsel

- bb. Resol. No. 28-2007 - Extending Contract with Cheryl Bergailo P.P., of Taylor Design Group, Inc. for COAH Planning Services
- cc. Resol. No. 29-2007 - Extending Contract with Michael Hakim for Green Acres Services
- dd. Resol. No. 30-2007 - Fair Lawn Recreation Facility Review Committee
- ee. Resol. No. 31-2007 - Veteran & Volunteer Coalition
- ff. Resol. No. 32-2007 - Board of Ethics

**RESOLUTION NO. 33-2007 - Borough Attorney**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Etlar and a second by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi, Resolution No. 33-2007 was passed with Councilmember Baratta and Councilmember Trawinski dissenting.

**RESOLUTION NO. 34-2007 - Borough Auditor**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Etlar and a second by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi, Resolution No. 34-2007 was passed with Councilmember Baratta and Councilmember Trawinski dissenting.

**RESOLUTION NO. 35-2007 - Substitute Prosecutor**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Etlar and a second by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi, Resolution No. 35-2007 was passed with Councilmember Baratta and Councilmember Trawinski dissenting.

**RESOLUTION NO. 36-2007 - Liaison to the Community Center**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Etlar and a second by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi, Resolution No. 36-2007 was discussed.

Deputy Mayor Tedeschi stated that as he is the Director of the Community School, he will abstain from any discussions that involve the school. Business with the Community School is very small.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 36-2007 was unanimously passed.

**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 #2-2007**

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Baratta, Consent Agenda 2-2007 containing the following items was unanimously adopted.

- a. Resol. No. 37-2007 - Cash Management Plan
- b. Resol. No. 38-2007 - Official Newspapers
- c. Resol. No. 39-2007 - Temporary Budget - Current Fund
- d. Resol. No. 40-2007 - Temporary Budget - Water Utility Fund
- e. Resol. No. 41-2007 - Tax Assessment Interest
- f. Resol. No. 42-2007 - Annual Meeting Dates and Times
- g. Resol. No. 43-2007 - Defending Tax Appeals
- h. Resol. No. 44-2007 - Annual Sale of Delinquent Taxes

Councilmember Baratta stated now that they have finished with their appointments, she would like to thank those who have served in 2006.

Unfortunately this Council does not have an appointment policy in regards to notifying people that they may or may not have been reappointed to a committee. Her background is in business and not in municipal government but common courtesy dictates when someone has served, especially in a volunteer position that thanking them for their past service is just the right thing to do. Some of these people may be just finding out tonight that they have or have not been reappointed. With that said, she thanked the following people and welcomed the new members. From the Historical Preservation Committee, she welcomed Diane Albarella and thanked Carl Shoemaker for serving in 2006. From the Open Space Committee, she would like to welcome new member's Benny Salerno, Jon Tanner, Joan Goldstein and Crystal Robbins. She thanked Bill Soukas, Scott Osback, Paul Shansky and Felice Koplick for their hard work and service to that committee in 2006. From the Planning Board, Al Palmeri has voluntarily stepped down, but she would like to thank him publically for his years of service on the Borough's Planning Board. Councilmember Baratta said she would like to welcome the Borough's new Attorney, Bruce Rosenberg. She expressed her gratitude to our former Borough Attorney Michael Kates. She wished Michael well and appreciated the year of service he gave to Fair Lawn. She hopes she has not left any one out and if she has to please let her know so that they can be acknowledged.

Mayor Weinstein stated that letters were already prepared to the people who were not reappointed and he signed them right before the meeting.

### **MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Robert Gulack, 4 Bancroft Place, stated he was born in Fair Lawn more than 50 years ago, he attended Fair Lawn schools and with the advantage of that education, he was able to

earn two graduate degrees at Yale is now a lawyer with the Federal Government and one of the elected representatives freely chosen by the Democrats of Fair Lawn.

As they all know, the history of the last three years is a history of a three-year long battle between the people of Fair Lawn on one side and the developers on the other. The people of Fair Lawn organized and led by Concerned Citizen Reclaiming Fair Lawn or CCRF, have stated again and again in absolutely clear terms that they do not wish to see additional apartment buildings going up in the center of town. They want to see a permanent central park for all of Fair Lawn created out of the Daly, Hayward and Archery properties. A gorgeous recreational space with pedestrian walk ways winding among trees and flowers connecting the Radburn railroad station with southern Fair Lawn. That is what the voters of Fair Lawn want. That is why they have again and again signed open space petitions by the thousands. That is why under the leadership of CCRF they have voluntarily taken it upon themselves by an initiative and referendum to establish an open space acquisition fund for our town.

Tonight should have been a joyous occasion and a renewal of Fair Lawn's democratic institutions. Instead, as Councilmember Baratta noted, it has become an occasion for sudden disclosure of an arrangement to remove two active CCRF members from the Open Space Committee. This particular fact that the two members have been removed from the committee and being replaced by other people is not even mentioned in the agenda. No one in this audience would have known if not for Councilmember Baratta bringing it up. What was the crime of these two individuals? The crime was, they spoke for the overwhelming majority of this community their unwillingness to betray Fair Lawn and agree to the plans that were hoisted upon our community by the developers. They lost their seats in the Open Space Committee without notice or explanation and without even being mentioned in the agenda. This maneuver will not go unnoticed by the voters of Fair Lawn. The voters will in fact, take due note of what has happened here, they will understand what has happened here and they will respond to it in the voting booth.

To his fellow Fair Lawn residents, take what comfort you can that there will be a primary to pick new candidates for the Democratic party. Candidates that will fight for open space for you the people of Fair Lawn that have fought for open space. There will be an election to pick new people for this Council that will fight for open space as you the people of Fair Lawn have fought for open space. To his fellow citizens of Fair Lawn, they live in a democracy, it will be your choice whether a single one of the Democrats that are sitting on this Borough Council, are still sitting here one year from tonight. Perhaps these Democrats will find, like certain members of the Open Space Committee found out, their services are no longer required in the Fair Lawn community.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein thanked Mr. Gulack for his input.

David Ganz, 5 Ryder Road, said he spent eighteen years in this room on the other side of the dias and it is very nice to be there that night. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

He brings greetings from the Board of Chosen Freeholders in Hackensack, on behalf of outgoing Chairperson Bernadette McPherson, himself as Vice Chair and the other members of the Board, our County Executive Dennis McNerney and our County government. They congratulated each of the officials that have been newly installed in their appointed positions as Deputy Mayors and he especially congratulated Steven Weinstein on becoming Mayor of Fair Lawn. He knows they will all do an outstanding job. He had certificates of recognition for all of them.

Allan Caan, 19-62 Chandler Drive, wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. He congratulated Steve Weinstein for being chosen as Mayor this year. He is the most deserving person to be Mayor of the Councilmembers that they have and it is a long time coming. He has not known him as long as Assemblyman Gordon has, but over the time that he has known him and they have worked together on various projects and issues, he has always known Mayor Weinstein to be honest, caring, compassionate listening to others, never seen him lie to anyone or cuss anyone out or back stab anyone to get ahead which is for politicians these days a big deal but for Mayor Weinstein that is the way he carries himself through life. Fair Lawn is lucky to have him. He is sure that through his works, some of which he has already started in the past, things like the Open Space Committee, the Recreational Facilities Committee, things that are important to the community where Mayor Weinstein has listened to the community and brought them together to come up with ideas and solutions to the problems they have. He knows that he will continue to do that and do a much greater job as Mayor. He looks forward to his year in office as Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein thanked him for his comments.

Congressman Rothman stated he was delighted to be here. He said he was happy that his hometown is represented by both sides of the aisle. This is bittersweet, with all due respect to Violet Etlar, he loves her husband, Marty, he has been an outstanding Mayor. He has made him so very proud as a very long time friend and as a Borough resident. He sees his photos in The Community News and when he stopped by at Borough Hall, he knew that he was working behind the scenes to improve the operations of the wonderful Borough of Fair Lawn. To his friend Steve Weinstein, he truly deserves this job, he has worked so hard for it, and the residents deserve Steve Weinstein as the Mayor. He said that he started his career in elected office as Mayor of Englewood some twenty-five years ago. It is one of the most thrilling and important jobs that anyone can have at any level of government. To be close to the people and respond to their immediate needs, to protect them, to provide for their long term future, there is nothing more important or satisfying. As partner in a CPA firm, with his beautiful wife and his three children behind him and this Council behind him, and he knows they wish him well because they wish this Borough well. There may be a difference of opinion occasionally but they know they are all in this for the right reasons.

Page Fifteen

Reorganization Meeting

January 2, 2007

Tomorrow he goes to Washington. He has the chance to serve in the majority. He has spent ten years in the minority and looks forward to being a part of the new majority that will bring common sense, bipartisan, good governmental laws to this country. It is a privilege for him to be a part of this community. It is a tough crowd here in Fair Lawn, everyone has

great ideas, everyone holds each and everyone of them to the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and performance and it is not an easy job. You do it well and he wished them continued success. In particular to Mayor Weinstein, his office door is always open to him, he looks forward to helping his Borough along with the other thirty-seven communities that he represents and to get those Federal grants that are available. He wished all of his colleagues and all that have helped put them in elected office a happy, healthy, peaceful, prosperous New Year. They are blessed to live in Fair Lawn. They are very blessed to live in the United States of America.

Barry Winston, 19-11 Greenwood Drive, Democratic Municipal Chair, thanked Congressman Rothman for being here tonight and honoring this fine Council. He hoped this was simply the start of many celebrations just like this. To Mayor Weinstein, many years ago he had this idea that he would be congratulating him and it is that time. He can't think of anyone better to serve Fair Lawn at this time. He thanked Deputy Mayor Etler for a very hard year as Mayor. He is still trying to think of something to give him because he is not going away. He wished the best to Deputy Mayor Tedeschi and he extended his good wishes to the new Borough Attorney, Bruce Rosenberg and to the rest of the Council. He presented Mayor Weinstein with a gavel.

Louis D'Arminio, Mayor of Saddle Brook, stated it was an honor and a privilege to be here tonight to congratulate those who were just sworn in. He acknowledged Congressman Rothman and congratulated him on his marriage. He said that Saddle Brook sends it congratulations to all of them. Saddle Brook has entered into a mutual shared service agreement, hoping to keep the taxes down there and also in Fair Lawn. He looks forward to working with them in the future. He said they all have difficult jobs to do. He said they are there to help with anything Fair Lawn may need. He wished a happy New Year to all.

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

#### **BENEDICTION BY REVEREND CLAUDE HUBER**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Etler and a second by Deputy Mayor Tedeschi, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn B. Bojanowski, RMC  
Assistant Municipal Clerk

The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Steven Weinstein

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Councilmember Jeanne Baratta

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Deputy Mayor Martin Etlar

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Deputy Mayor Joseph Tedeschi

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Councilmember Ed Trawinski