

WORK SESSION OF FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mayor Ganz called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Ganz, Deputy Mayors Etlar and Weinstein, Councilmembers Caan and McCarthy.

ALSO PRESENT: Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski, Assistant Municipal Clerk Bojanowski and Attorney Lustgarten.

Review of Tentative Agenda - 2/22/05:

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated she had several items to add to the agenda such as the Tonnage Grant and the Aware of Bid for the Municipal Building renovations. The items will be put on the Consent Agenda.

Blue Ridge Manor Condominium Association Parking Concerns:

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated she had received a letter from the Blue Ridge Manor Condominium Association requesting that the Mayor and Council consider lifting the ban on overnight parking for residents on Virginia Drive and Dobrin Court. They believe their situation is unique.

Ted Lorah, Craig Reynolds and Wayne Halsall were present. Mr. Lorah stated that the complex was constructed in 1965 and at the time there was more than ample parking for all condo unit owners. Since that time, however, the world has changed dramatically with families now having multiple vehicles. They recently lost six parking spaces to the widening of Route 208. Currently they have 145 parking spaces and 92 garages. The Association has considered demolishing the garages but feel they would not pick up enough spaces. There is a problem of double parking, along with parking in restricted areas and fire zones. They attempt to police their parking areas as regularly as possible and issue tickets when and where appropriate. The resident's problem is always the same, no parking spaces available. Mr. Lorah explained that the residents call the Police Department on a regular basis to request overnight parking permission on either Virginia Drive or Dobrin Court. He further explained that they have repeatedly rearranged and/or modified their parking lots, but there is simply no available land for them to develop new parking areas. Attorney Lustgarten wondered how many actual cars were seeking parking spaces.

Mr. Halsall stated that they now allow for two parking stickers per unit. Mayor Ganz questioned how many stickers are given out. Mr. Halsall stated he can go back and count. He felt if the complex was built today they would need 356 spaces.

Mr. Lorah stated that the residents of Blue Ridge Manor were requesting that the overnight parking ordinance be rescinded for Virginia Drive and Dobrin Court. Deputy Mayor Etlar wondered about emergency vehicles having enough room to respond. Attorney Lustgarten

stated that the Council gets approached often with parking hardships and they all are important. Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated there has been a number of people asking for overnight parking restrictions to be lifted. He suggested that when an apartment gets sold they should change the rules. Councilmember Caan wondered about the parking on the street. He stated that where he lives the people have to call in every night. Mayor Ganz asked that Chief Rose supply the number of overnight parking requests in the last sixty days. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated a service does it and it may take longer to get the information. Mayor Ganz also asked for an opinion from Traffic Safety Officer Franco. He also asked that Mr. Lorah come back with the number of cars in the units. He asked that this be tabled until March 1. Mayor Ganz also wanted the DPW opinion about plowing. Mr. Halsall stated that they have a landscaper that does the plowing. Mayor Ganz asked that Engineering set up the number of spaces on Virginia Drive and Dobrin Court. Councilmember McCarthy asked that they get the information to the Manager by February 25.

Use of Senior Center:

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that Attorney Lustgarten had recommended that this policy be done in resolution form rather than ordinance because experience shows that the policy is either not working or does not cover situations if unanticipated, it is much easier and less costly to amend the resolution than to amend an ordinance. Mayor Ganz thought it was a good approach. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated she will add this item to the Consent Agenda.

Junior Firefighters Ordinance:

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that CFO Eccleston advised her that the proposed LOSAP benefits for the Junior Firefighters, \$750 per year per person would cost \$30,000. This figure assumes all four Fire Companies have the maximum of ten Junior Firefighters and all of them complete the program, become regular firefighters and are eligible for LOSAP. She felt it probably would not happen every year. Based on one half of the regular Firefighter's Clothing Allowance, \$322 per year per person would cost \$12,800. This figure is also based on each Fire Company having the maximum of ten Junior Firefighters. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the length of time required and leaves of absence. Councilmember Caan suggested after talking to the Firefighters in town, they would prefer giving them half credit as a Junior Firefighter.

Attorney Lustgarten recommended asking the Fire Board for input on Councilmember Caan's 50% proposal and whether they feel that if the person goes on a leave of absence there should be a total loss of the LOSAP credit previously earned or should it be tacked on if they come back within a certain period of time to become a full fire fighter once they become of age. Mayor Ganz felt it was a good suggestion because ultimately the fire board has to come back with a recommendation. The Council was in agreement.

Cell Tower Request by AT & T:

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that Engineering had given her a map of the Water Tower. They are still working on the worse case scenario. Engineer Garrison is concerned about the equipment located on the ground. Attorney Lustgarten felt it may be a problem for the houses to be looking at the equipment. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated she would get the information on the spill area. Mayor Ganz asked how the Borough Engineer calculates the radius. Councilmember McCarthy wanted to be sure that it included Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Mayor Ganz stated that the tank is 750 feet from the school. He felt they need answers.

Health Officer for Ridgewood:

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that as they know, the Borough provides the services of a Health Officer to the Village of Ridgewood through an interlocal agreement. It is now time to renew that agreement. She recommended that they renew the agreement for 2005 at a slight increase. Ridgewood paid the Borough \$6,600 last year. She suggested that amount be raised to \$6,800. Councilmember Caan felt that our costs are going up over 3%. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski reminded the Council that the Borough is only supplying a title to Ridgewood since the Health Officer only responds to them in an emergency. Mayor Ganz stated that her salary is increasing 4%. He felt it should be 1% more. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski felt the \$200 increase was fair. Councilmember McCarthy thought they should find out how much time she actually spends as their Health Officer. Attorney Lustgarten suggested asking Ridgewood for a \$500 increase and if not, go with what the Manager recommended.

Knights of Pythias - "Hands of Friendship Day":

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated she had received a letter from the Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias requesting permission from the Borough for the use of all of the grounds at Memorial Pool parking area and the picnic area for the purpose of holding an Outdoor Fair for the handicapped. The fair will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They have done this every year without any problems. A resolution approving the Hands of Friendship Day is needed.

There was a unanimous consensus to authorize the Manager to put the resolution on the Consent Agenda.

Fast Track Bond Ordinance:

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that she knows it is still very early in the budget process, but two projects that the Mayor and Council have indicated their approval are time sensitive. A \$50,000 grant for clay was received which requires a matching \$50,000 from the Borough. This grant

agreement was only
received in
December 2004.
Page Four

Work Session

February 15, 2005

Currently the specifications are being drafted and bidding by the end of February. All Sport is anxious for the Borough to have the clay installed.

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski reminded the Mayor and Council that they had committed to spending \$40,000 for the Memorial for Mary Ann Collura. Officer Boone would like to have it ready for April 17, 2005. Mayor Ganz suggested using the BCIA for the funding and if not do a fast track bond ordinance.

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated she had received a letter from the Prosecutor for signing off the forfeiture funds. Mayor Ganz asked that the letter be faxed to the Freeholder's office.

There was a consensus to fund the projects either through the BCIA or a fast track bond ordinance.

Pool and Camp Fees:

Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated at the budget meeting the Council asked when the fees for the pools and camps were last raised and the number of members. The last time pool fees were raised was in January 1998. Camp fees were changed in 2002. She felt they would need to make the changes soon since the programs and flyers were not done yet. Mayor Ganz suggested discussing this again in October or November after the pool season. Deputy Mayor Etlar stated that the Borough spends a lot in running the pools and charging \$125 is not a lot. Mayor Ganz stated he is not voting on raising fees. Manager/Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski felt that when fees are raised there is a small drop in membership. Deputy Mayor Weinstein suggested that unless a true cost analysis is done they should not think about changing the fees until later on. He felt it might be a hardship on some families if the camp fees were raised. Councilmember McCarthy suggested they need more time with Superintendent Frey to see how he feels. He would like to increase the fees but nothing substantial. He would like Superintendent Frey to explain the situation. Councilmember McCarthy thought they should consider increasing the swimming lesson fees and possibly the guest fees.

Attorney Lustgarten stated that the pool membership had dropped off because of the conditions there. The Borough had put a lot of money into improving the area. He felt they should try to bring people back to using the pool. He also felt that the changes should be done in phases. Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated he was not in a rush to do anything.

Councilmember Allan Caan

Deputy Mayor Martin Etlar

Councilmember Owen McCarthy

Deputy Mayor Steven Weinstein