

REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2005

Deputy Mayor Etler called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Assistant Municipal Clerk Bojanowski read the following statement of compliance:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, annual notice of all meetings of the Borough of Fair Lawn was published in "The Record" issue of December 18, 2004. Notices were also posted on the Bulletin Board located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building and at the Maurice Pine Free Public Library, copies mailed to The North Jersey Herald and News. The Annual Notice identified the meeting location and the time of the Council Meetings and Work Sessions.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayors Etler and Weinstein, Councilmembers Caan and McCarthy.

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

ABSENT: Mayor Ganz

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated Economic Development Corp. and Broadway Improvement District are in full throttle. They have recruited some businesses and the meeting should be next week.

Deputy Mayor Etler gave his activity report for December 2004. He attended the following: Holiday lighting at Borough Hall, C.E.R.T. meeting, Brian Cassidy's Eagle Scout Award at Grange Hall, Fire Board meeting, Menorah Lighting at Jewish War Vets, Chamber of Commerce Holiday meeting at the American Legion, Fair Lawn Filipino American Christmas party at St. Ann's, the Football Association dinner at the Cotillion in Garfield, the Planning Board meeting, Fair Lawn Jubilee Band Concert at Thomas Jefferson Middle School and the History meeting.

RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT #3-2005

Upon motion by Councilmember Caan and a second by Deputy Mayor Weinstein, Consent Agenda 3-2005 containing the following items was unanimously adopted with the exception of Resolution 50-2005 which was removed because there was no signed agreement at this time.

- a. Resol. #46-2005 - Approval of Raffles & Bingos:
 - H. B. Milnes School, On-premise 50/50
 - Temple Beth Sholom Men's Club, Bingo
 - St. Anne's Church - Off-premise 50/50
- b. Resol. #47-2005 - Approval of Minutes:
 - Work Session 11/1/04
 - Special Meeting 11/1/04

Closed Session 11/1/04
Regular Meeting 11/9/04
Closed Session 11/9/04

- c. Resol. #48-2005 - Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- d. Resol. #49-2005 - Approval of Grant - Cops in Shops
- e. Resol. #50-2005 - Settlement Agreement with Officer Kristensen - Removed

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Donal Meyers, 8-22 Mayfair Terrace questioned the \$22.00 suspenders they purchased for the Fire Department which is part of the Capital Budget and Bond issue they are financing over twenty years. He felt it was silly to be funding the replacement of items that wear out in the normal course of business in the capital budget. He believes this is a recurring item is that is part of the regular operating expenses and not a capital item. When he looked back to the minutes of March 11, 2003 where they passed Ordinance 1941-2003 which was described by the Mayor as safety turnout gear, stretcher and other equipment for the Fire Department and Ambulance Corp. The requisition here is for safety turnout gear for the Fire Department and it includes items like suspenders. It suggests to him that they are taking ordinary operating expenses and shifting it to the capital budget to hide a short fall. Deputy Mayor Etlar asked Mr. Meyers if he felt they should not spend that money for suspenders. Mr. Meyers explained that was not what he was saying but it should be financed from their operating budget and not turning it into a capital item to be funded by future taxpayers over the next twenty years. They will be presenting a budget to the people in Fair Lawn in the next six to eight weeks and it suggests to him that this Council is not making the hard choices that need to be made to hold the taxes down. They all know the taxes have gone up over the last three years.

Mr. Meyers questioned a \$20,000.00 requisition to reimburse the Fair Lawn Ice Hockey Association, since part of this bill is \$3,500.00 for a dinner. Usually the members of the Ice Hockey Club raise their own money. Deputy Mayor Etlar stated they do raise their money and this is a supplement to help them with their expenses.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated turnout gear is for the safety of the Firefighters. The dinner is for the kids that participate in the Hockey Association and the \$20,000.00 is to supplement their budget because it is expensive situation. They are giving those kids the chance to grow and maybe some will become professional hockey players and maybe some will receive scholarships to go to college.

Mr. Meyers stated resident's property taxes are rising astronomically and forcing some of the older members of the community to move out of their houses because they cannot afford the increases. He suggested that in the next six weeks as the Council is putting together the budget they keep taxpayers in mind as it is being prepared.

