

## REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 1, 2002

Acting Municipal Clerk Hochkeppel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Invocation by Rev. Staci Turk-Cacciottolo

Pastor Turk-Cacciottolo gave the invocation.

Acting Municipal Clerk Hochkeppel 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 Bergen Record issues of December 17th and 31st, 2001. 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 North Jersey Herald and News and the Shopper. The annual notice identified the times and locations of the Council meetings and work sessions.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Amato, Etlar, Weinstein, and Councilmembers-elect Caan and Ganz.

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Sacks, Attorney Lustgarten, Acting Municipal Clerk Hochkeppel

Swearing in of newly elected Council Members

Senator-elect Joe Coniglio swore in Councilmember Allan Caan. Assemblyman-elect Matt Ahearn swore in Councilmember David Ganz.

Nominations for Mayor

Upon motion by Councilmember Etlar and a second by Councilmember Weinstein, Councilmember Ganz was nominated as Mayor. There being no other nominations, the time for nominations was closed. Councilmember Ganz was unanimously elected Mayor and took his Oath of Office. AYES: Amato, Caan, Etlar, Ganz, Weinstein.

Mayor Ganz assumed the chair.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor

Upon motion by Allan Caan and a second by Councilmember Amato, Councilmember Etlar was nominated as Deputy Mayor. There being no other nominations, the time for nominations was closed. Councilmember Etlar was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor. AYES: Amato, Caan, Etlar, Weinstein, Ganz.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs

Upon motion by Councilmember Etlar and a second by Councilmember Caan, Steve Weinstein was nominated as Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs. There being no other nominations, the time for nominations was closed. Steve Weinstein was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs. AYES: Amato, Caan, Etlar, Weinstein, Ganz.

Swearing in of Deputy Mayors

Assemblyman-elect Matt Ahearn swore in Deputy Mayor Etlar and Senator-elect Joe Coniglio swore in Deputy Mayor Weinstein.

Remarks of Senator-elect Coniglio and Assemblyman-elect Ahearn

Senator-elect Coniglio thanked all the residents of Fair Lawn for their support in the past election, looks forward to serving as their Senator and wishes all a happy and healthy New Year.

Assemblyman-elect Matt Ahearn expressed his gratitude to the people who are willing to serve the community and stated he is grateful to live in a country where reorganizations of government occur peacefully. He congratulated Mayor Ganz and Councilmember Caan on their elections and is confident they, together with the entire Council, will continue to serve the people of Fair Lawn in a prosperous manner. Assemblyman-elect Ahearn wished all the residents a Happy New Year.

Remarks of the Mayor

Mayor Ganz stated he was delighted that everyone could attend the reorganization and witness the installation of his friend, Allan Caan, as Councilmember and the installations of Deputy Mayor Marty Etlar and Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs Steve Weinstein. Together with Councilmember Vic Amato, they will continue to be a full and active council. He also thanked Senator-elect Coniglio and Assemblyman-elect Matt Ahearn. Mayor Ganz noted the retirement of Flossie Dobrow after serving for so many years and the several honors she has received including the keys to the city. Mayor Ganz thanked those who helped him particularly his wife, Kathy, and his campaign chairman, Barry Winston. Mayor Ganz indicated that he took the oath as Mayor with humility as well as a great deal of pride since it has been more than 25 years a Mayor has served as long. Mayor Ganz reflected on some of the accomplishments during the last three years he served as Mayor including maintaining stable taxation, more police cars on the roads, less crime, a revitalized Memorial Pool recreational facility, a Senior Center now open seven days a week, improved plowing, leaf collection and garbage collection. Throughout the summer until September Caan and he visited several homes throughout Fair Lawn and had the opportunity to speak with many residents. Mayor Ganz stated that the events of September 11th have forever changed the way homeland security is viewed. This year Councilmember Caan and Deputy Mayor Weinstein will serve as liaisons to a newly constituted Emergency Preparedness Group that pulls together police, fire, ambulance, heavy rescue and others.

Deputy Mayor Etlar will serve as liaison to the Fire Board. As a Council, they will continue to strive to provide essential services at a reasonable cost. Mayor Ganz also noted the improved bond rating which saves the taxpayers over \$600,000 during the life of the bonds that is the result of the fact that this Council is not afraid to provide for the infrastructure including a new fire truck, ambulance, new DPW facility, and a new pool facility (provided at no net cost to the taxpayers) as well as a cooperative parking agreement on River Road. Mayor Ganz added that there are visible achievements and this Council intends on continuing to strive for the twin goals of providing good services and a high quality of life. Mayor Ganz stated he looked forward to working with the newly reconstituted Council in achieving these goals and solving problems.

#### Remarks of the Deputy Mayor

Deputy Mayor Etlar indicated he has been on the Council for two years which have been very productive. The Council has upgraded Memorial and Walsh pools, finished the Bill Davidson Pavilion at the DPW, replaced an 18-year-old fire truck, added 52 spaces to the parking lot, and will soon strike ground for a much needed municipal addition. Under the leadership of Mayor Ganz and Borough Manager Barbara Sacks, these accomplishments and others were completed with a great deal of skill. Deputy Mayor Etlar looks forward to another successful year, and he is proud to be a part of it. He welcomed Allan Caan to the Council and is grateful for Mayor Ganz's leadership. Deputy Mayor Etlar wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated he has great expectations for the future.

#### Remarks of the Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs

Deputy Mayor Weinstein thanked the Mayor and Council, friends, family and constituents. He stated that he has just completed his first three months as a council member, balancing family life and a career while making his vision of Fair Lawn a reality. He has concentrated on economic development, recreational facilities, working with the FL Alliance for Substance Abuse and Fair Lawn's nationally recognized Emergency Management team. He is working with county and state officials to bring additional resources to Fair Lawn in order to rejuvenate business districts. He noted the excellent recreational facilities in Fair Lawn and the large participation. Because of the tremendous use, he stated that the recreational facilities and municipal parks are in need of greater upkeep. He is establishing a committee to review these facilities and make recommendations to improve them throughout the Borough. As liaison to the Alliance for Substance Abuse Committee, Deputy Mayor Weinstein hopes to bring attention to this committee and foster cooperation with other organizations to insure an efficient delivery of services to the public. Deputy Mayor Weinstein added that he will also serve as a co-liaison to Fair Lawn's Emergency Management team and will help make sure the town is fully protected. Using his expertise as a CPA, Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated he will work hard on the budget balancing the ability to deliver high quality services while maintaining a stable tax policy. Deputy Mayor Weinstein explained that he has lived in the Borough since 1988, and his wife and family have participated in programs throughout the Borough. He stated he is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in Fair Lawn and considers himself fortunate to be in a position to give back to the community that has been supportive of his family. He welcomes and values the input and advice of the residents and hopes that they will continue to voice their opinions.

#### Remarks of Councilmembers

Councilmember Caan wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked many family members, friends and supporters. He also thanked the young people who stood with him during his swearing in ceremony and who represented the community and the future. He stated he was proud to have received support not only from Democrats, but also from Independents and Republicans. He said he learned a lot knocking on doors and talking with the public. He valued the one-on-one discussions. Periodically, Councilmember Caan stated he plans to go door-to-door to see how people feel on the important issues that concern them.

Councilmember Caan said that he made campaign promises and intends on following through with them. He started the Fair Lawn veterans' volunteer coalition to provide services to veterans, fire, ambulance, heavy rescue and police auxiliary volunteers. He has already met with a number of groups. Councilmember Caan also plans on introducing pedestrian yield markers at difficult intersections throughout the borough. During the campaign, Councilmember Caan had promised to implement the Amber Alert System not only in Fair Lawn but also throughout New Jersey. This program alerts all necessary authorities and media immediately after a child is abducted. With Assemblyman Matt Ahearn's help, they were able to get this program before the current assembly and senate where the bills were introduced. He is confident that it will become law. Councilmember Caan stated that this is an example of how fortunate the residents of Fair Lawn are to have Assemblyman Ahearn working for the benefit of Fair Lawn and the residents of New Jersey. Councilmember Caan acknowledged Flossie Dobrow's long service to the community. He also stated that without the help of Barry Winston, Vi Etlar, Marty Etlar and volunteers throughout the campaign as well as Assemblyman-elect Matt Ahearn and Senator-elect Joe Coniglio, he would not be in this position. He particularly thanked Mayor Ganz and credited his generosity in allowing them to work as a team throughout the campaign. Councilmember Caan explained that Mayor Ganz shared his ideas, experience and friendship. Lastly, he thanked the voters of Fair Lawn for giving him the opportunity to serve.

Councilmember Amato stated he has been a councilman for two years and looks at many of the accomplishments with pride. He also stated that he was frustrated in trying to accomplish some of things he had promised to do. He added that he has a positive outlook for the next two years. Councilmember Amato explained that he will continue to press his case scrutinizing the budget although he stands out on the council and the last two years have been very, very difficult. He thanked Barry Winston for allowing him to be a sounding board and his wife who always stands by him. He thanked everyone for coming and added, "May God bless our great nation".

#### Public Comments

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Etlar and a second by Councilmember Caan, the time for public comments was opened. As no one came forward, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Weinstein and a second by Councilmember Caan, the time for public comments was closed.

#### Remarks of the Manager

Manager Barbara Sacks congratulated everyone particularly Councilmember Caan on his election and Mayor Ganz on his reelection. Manager Sacks stated that it is good to see Flossie Dobrow's tradition of good government continue in Fair Lawn. She wished the Council the best and stated that together they will help to improve Fair Lawn and make it shine.

#### Benediction by Cantor Meir S. D'Vir

Cantor D'Vir gave the benediction and then blessed all the Council members in their leadership endeavors.

#### Adjournment

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Weinstein and a second by Deputy Mayor Etlar, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cathryn Hochkeppel