

## REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2000

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.  
Invocation by Cantor Meir S. D'Vir

Cantor D'Vir led the invocation.

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski 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 "News Beacon" issue of December 17, 1999. 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 Record. The Annual Notice identified the meeting location and the time of the Council Meetings and Work Sessions.

PRESENT: Councilmember Ganz, Councilmember-elect Adler, Amato and Etlar. Councilmember Dobrow absent.

Also present: Manager Sacks, Attorney Lustgarten, Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski and Assistant Municipal Clerk Dugan.

Swearing In of New Councilmembers

Congressman Rothman stated he was pleased to be there on this wonderful occasion. He said we had survived Y2K and one of the reasons we did was the hard work of all the men and women who were there to see that all went well. He has been reading and looking back on the last one hundred years and the best he came up with is that we can be proudest of the fact that today more than half of the countries are democracies unlike at the start of the 1900's.

He said part of the pleasure of being in the world's greatest democracy is the responsibility to choose its leaders. He stated he was Mayor of Englewood, then Surrogate Court Judge and now a Congressman.

Congressman Rothman said the people have spoken and have given their signal of confidence. They have made a choice of who they expect to serve them and work for them. He said he feels lucky to be a resident of Fair Lawn. He congratulated the Mayor and Council for all they have done. He appreciates the privilege to serve and stated that if anyone needed his help he was available to them.

Congressman Rothman swore in Councilmember Adler, Amato and Etlar congratulating all of them.

Nominations for Mayor

Upon motion by Councilmember Etlar and a second by Councilmember Amato, Councilmember Ganz was nominated as Mayor. There were no other nominations made. Councilmember Ganz was unanimously elected Mayor.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor

Upon motion by Mayor-elect Ganz and a second by Councilmember Amato, Councilmember Adler was nominated as Deputy Mayor. No other nominations were made. Councilmember Adler was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor.

Swearing in of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Attorney Lustgarten swore in Mayor Ganz and Deputy Mayor Adler congratulating both of them.

Remarks of the Mayor

Mayor Ganz assumed the chair.

Mayor Ganz stated Congressman Rothman, Assemblyman Felice, distinguished guests, distinguished constituents, family and friends all. I came before you a year ago and said that during my first term as Mayor, we would not only celebrate three quarters of a century of Fair Lawn, but also bridge the gap to the 21st Century and the start of the new millennium. In the 364 days that followed, we have done this, and more.

Last year, I pledged to do my best to bring the Borough a "zero" tax increase. That is a pledge that I proudly voted for with Deputy

Mayor Ahearn and Councilwoman Dobrow. There was no tax increase in 1999 and no services were cut. This year, our goal is to continue financial stability and maintain our high level of services.

This past year, our Police Department was reorganized and the Borough Council chose to return to appointment of a Police Chief. Restoring that position gave hope to each and every Police Officer that they could aspire to one day become Chief. The turmoil which so plagued the Police Department in earlier years ended on my watch. After years of grievance after grievance, contracts were signed, and our police force revitalized. It is no coincidence that this came from our settling the police contracts, and in fact, obtaining labor peace.

When I joined the Council as a minority party member in 1998, there was turmoil in the Police Department, and indeed, with all of the unions that the Borough has recognized. In 1999, all of our labor contracts were all settled and signed without any arbitration or outside mediation necessary, a first for Fair Lawn.

We intend to continue to let our employees know, throughout 2000 and beyond, how valuable they are and how much we all appreciate their work. The hallmark of this administration has been that we have communicated openly with our Borough's residents. For the first time, we created our own website on the Internet in 1999, allowing residents to gain access to many valuable items of information. It works twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. We can, and do, respond promptly to residents needs. Our web site was recently noted by the League of Municipalities as among the best in the State. We can save them trips to Borough Hall by having forms and information they can download and I look to expand the web site this coming year to do just that.

Last year, Fair Lawn became the first municipality in Bergen County to operate its own cable television station. It is available free to anyone in Fair Lawn who has cable television. During Tropical Storm Floyd, Fair Lawn Community Television was the only way that many residents were able to keep informed about what was happening when their telephones went dead. Operated by the volunteers at Fair Lawn Creative Cable, the station has been constantly adding more programming, keeping residents informed about events and happenings in town.

We also installed our own weather station at Borough Hall, which will serve to help the public safety and emergency management personnel predict and deal with weather-related problems. This past year, we helped Radburn reconstruct its pathways with monies received from the State. We applied for more money to continue the work this year. Just a few weeks ago, at my request, and at the suggestion of the Health Department, the Council authorized the first Hepatitis B inoculation program for High School seniors. We will continue this important health care initiative in 2000. The program offers inoculations at a fraction of the regular cost. Our goal is to send every Fair Lawn high school-aged student, whether attending the public high school or a private or parochial school, out into the world safe from this serious, sometimes fatal disease. In 1999, we finally began Sunday openings at the Senior Center when I asked for seven days a week programs. Thanks to Flossie Dobrow, we began a new ballroom dancing program at the Senior Center. In 2000, we hope to further expand the hours.

The River Road improvements of new lighting, landscaping, intersections, traffic signals, and sidewalks were visible improvements during 1999. We hope to continue beautification and upgrade by improving the parking and getting another federal grant for the next section of River Road.

New life was breathed into the northern River Road area with a grand Shop-Rite and Walgreen's newly-constructed. Our goal is to continue along River Road and the Maple Avenue area. The past twelve months were also the subject of some not so visible improvements to the Borough's computers, making them Y2K compliant and helping us to more efficiently serve you. Our Borough Code's revision is near completion. By the end of the first quarter of this year, we hope to have it finalized, approved, and available both in print - - and on line as a free service to our residents.

Just last week, I announced plans for the new Council to visit various segments of our community on a regular basis. We intend to take the Council out on the road. We anticipate going to Warren Point, Columbia Heights, Lyncrest, Radburn, and the Milnes areas in the coming months, so that we can have the government come to the people, and allow residents to conveniently meet with the council, ask questions, and see their government at work. In 1999, we held the first-ever Open House, keeping Borough Hall open at night so that residents could come and meet the department heads, transact some business and generally learn what it is that their Borough government does. Over two hundred fifty residents showed up. The most frequently asked question that night was when will we do this again. We intend to do it annually and are planning to repeat the effort this coming March. The Open House was the kickoff of our 75th Anniversary celebrations, which continued throughout the year thanks to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers under the leadership of John Cosgrove.

In 1999 we made a distasteful task easier by installing the Borough's first drive up, walk up box at Borough Hall to allow you to pay your taxes, water bill and health registrations. You don't even have to get out of your cars to pay your taxes anymore. The box is

available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week so the taxpayers can transact business at their convenience.

In 1999, the Borough's Fire Department used its new Thermal Imaging Camera to locate and detect a hidden fire that was smoldering and ready to break out. They were able to extinguish it before it had a chance to do serious damage.

In 1999, we hired a professional planner to work with the businesses and residents around Broadway to develop a community vision of what Broadway should become. A partnership of government, local residents and businesses together will shape Broadway's future. We made that pledge before, and we will keep it.

We intend to work hard in 2000 to work with New Jersey Transit to keep the Broadway train station open, implement the recommendations of the Broadway Committee, and to continue the partnership we forged with the State Department of Transportation to upgrade and beautify Broadway. The Memorial Pool question, which has been unresolved for a many years, was studied and recommendations were made by a finance committee and the League of Women Voters. Memorial will stay open in 2000. We are hoping to replace the sand with first grade beach quality sand and to plan the construction of a new pool house and eating facility. You said they do not want a glamorous six million dollar water park but rather an affordable pool for everyone. We listened.

In 1999, the Walsh Pool Committee viewed the problems and needs at that facility. In 2000, the Council will take decisive action to upgrade the recreational opportunities at that site.

Traffic in Fair Lawn is another problem that we expect to tackle in 2000. The apartment complex that was built without a light at Chandler Drive and Fair Lawn Avenue is worsening the problem. Commuter parking is at a premium and will get tighter as demand increases with the Secaucus Transfer. In 2000, we expect to come up with recommendations for more parking at the Radburn Station and the Broadway Station.

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Our feeling that the public needs its interests specially represented before the Planning Board and Zoning Board has led us to create a new position of Public Advocate. The Public Advocate will work for the public, not the Board and not the applicant. I have drafted an ordinance that I intend to introduce at the first business meeting of the Council, and for Fair Lawn to lead the way in Northern New Jersey with this important consumer-friendly action.

November was a referendum on our past successes. The voters spoke and gave a mandate to proceed with our policy of responsiveness. We intend to practice the politics of inclusion, reaching out to everyone, regardless of party or affiliation. You will see in the appointments that we have made and will make that we have stretched across party lines on the Library Board, the Rent Leveling Board, and elsewhere. There is much work that has to be done and we can do it if we work together.

The Council is the governing body, setting policy, and making tough judgment calls, but the glue that holds the Borough together, the people who make Fair Lawn such a pleasant place to live, begins with our Borough employees headed up by Borough Manager Barbara Sacks, our C.E.O. who runs this \$25-million a year government enterprise. To the Borough employees who have joined us here today, I, and the Council, look forward to working with you the way it was intended - through the Manager. Lets give them the round of applause they deserve for their hard work.

To the voters that gave us the majority, I say thank you. To our friends who are in the audience today, I also say thank you for your continued support. To others who are here today, I ask you to join in our government of inclusion for the betterment of Fair Lawn. I applaud each of you as Fair Lawn now moves on into the 21st century. Thank you.

Remarks of Deputy Mayor

Deputy Mayor Adler stated Happy New Year and thank you all for coming this afternoon. First I want to thank everyone who worked so hard on our campaign especially my family, my husband Steve and my sons, Ben and Alex and the many people who voted for us and gave me both this great gift and awesome responsibility to be able to be a leader in Fair Lawn government. I like the idea that this day is called reorganization day because it shows us what we all get to work with the same tools of government, it acknowledges the people and the good things that came before yet it gives the opportunity to create something new and different that can make the future something even better. I want everyone to know that I have great hopes for the things that can happen and to know whatever plans are formulated, whatever projects are undertaken, she sincerely hoped that everyone knows that they have a place here. We want their voices and their help. As Mayor Ganz said, this is to be a government of inclusion and this is a place for everyone to work together.

## Remarks of Council

Councilmember Amato stated good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Today he is before you still a bit in a state of shock and also a bit humbled by his Council position. He sought this position to contribute to the leadership of this community and now he is given, by far, the most fiscal and social responsibility in his entire life. He will never take this duty with anything less than a solemn dedication to the task. The campaign by candidates for these seats was very spirited and the supporters on each side at times and unfortunately, became more emotional than he believed was necessary. But this can happen in a political process and he hoped that the debate continues but at a lower tone with a clear discourse of the issues. We all know that the people want only the facts that affect their lives and nothing else. For himself he simply says the principles he stood by during his campaign are the principles he stands by in making every decision as your Councilman. So with the values instilled by his mother as he grew up in another borough called Brooklyn, with his heroes around him guiding his thoughts, his heroes above him in heaven providing inspiration and most of all with the faith and undying support of his wife, Mary, who has been with him through all of these years, any anxiety he has in serving the people will disappear. Thank you all.

Councilmember Etlar stated that before he went into his one minute speech there were two women he wanted to honor there today. One is Mrs. Bea Leiderman who has been the stalwart of the Democratic party for the last forty years and the first lady of the Democratic party and his wife, Violet, for forty five years, he just wanted to thank her.

He continued and said to the many dear friends who are here today, let me say how sweet it is and welcome to the great Borough of Fair Lawn. There is no greater gift given in life when one is chosen by his and her peers to lead. So on this day, he and his colleague start a new century to guide Fair Lawn into the future with a promise to keep this Borough's interest a top priority. Problems they have, but they are blessed with many fine people who can and will overcome any adversity. Today they start a clean slate in a continuous effort to unlock their potential. Adlai Stevenson said that the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. He said, my friends, I ask for all your best wishes as we start on this endeavor and to all a Happy and Healthy New Year. Thank you.

Mayor Ganz stated he was asked by Councilmember Dobrow to extend her best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year to all residents of Fair Lawn. She has embarked on a journey for the next seventeen days on a warm cruise.

## Mayor's Appointments

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski read the Mayor's Appointments.

- a. Library Trustees - Phyllis Weglein, Carol Herron, Betty Schacher, Allan W. Caan, Rebecca Pollinger \*
- b. Environmental Commission Chairperson - Elaine Winshell
- c. Board of Education Liaison - Mayor Ganz, Deputy Mayor Adler
- d. Planning Board designee - Cathe Donham McAuliffe

\* filling an unexpired term

## Council Appointments

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Etlar it was unanimously agreed to read Resolution Nos. 1-2000 through 25-2000 in summary with the full resolutions included in the Minutes and the vote on the Resolutions en masse.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Etlar Resolution Nos. 1-2000 through 25-2000 in summary were unanimously adopted in their entirety.

- a. Resol. No. 1-2000 Borough Attorney
- b. Resol. No. 2-2000 Borough Auditor
- c. Resol. No. 3-2000 Tax Appraisers
- d. Resol. No. 4-2000 Labor Attorney
- e. Resol. No. 5-2000 Bond Counsel
- f. Resol. No. 6-2000 Planning Board
- g. Resol. No. 7-2000 Zoning Board
- h. Resol. No. 8-2000 Fire Officers
- i. Resol. No. 9-2000 Liaison to Fire Board
- j. Resol. No. 10-2000 Environmental Commission
- k. Resol. No. 11-2000 Senior Citizen Advisory Board
- l. Resol. No. 12-2000 Rent Leveling Board

- m. Resol. No. 13-2000 Holiday Celebrations
- n. Resol. No. 14-2000 Youth Advisory Board
- o. Resol. No. 15-2000 Property Maintenance/Facelift Committee
- p. Resol. No. 16-2000 Cable Television Board
- q. Resol. No. 17-2000 Insurance Commissioners Self Insurance
- r. Resol. No. 18-2000 Health Advisory Board
- s. Resol. No. 19-2000 Advisory Committee on the Americans with Disabilities Act
- t. Resol. No. 20-2000 Risk Management Consultant
- u. Resol. No. 21-2000 Defender County Tax Board of Appeals
- v. Resol. No. 22-2000 Liaison to Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention
- w. Resol. No. 23-2000 Broadway Advisory Committee
- x. Resol. No. 24-2000 Grants Firm
- y. Resol. No. 25-2000 Broker of Record Medical & Dental

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Etler Resolution No. 26-2000 appointing Bonnie Mizdol as Judge was passed with Mayor Ganz abstaining.

#### Manager's Appointments

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Amato, Resolution No. 27-2000 confirming the Manager's appointments to the Local Assistance Board was unanimously passed.

Borough Manager Sacks announced she was reappointing Andrew Karas as Prosecutor, Josh Levine as Public Defend and Lois Lipton as Rent Leveling Attorney.

#### Resolutions by Consent # 1-2000

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Amato, Resolutions by Consent #1-2000, which contained the following items was unanimously adopted.

- a. Resol. No. 28-2000 Cash Management Plan
- b. Resol. No. 29-2000 Official Newspapers
- c. Resol. No. 30-2000 Tax/Assessment Interest
- d. Resol. No. 31-2000 Temporary Budget
- e. Resol. No. 32-2000 Temporary Budget - Water
- f. Resol. No. 33-2000 Annual Meeting Dates and Times
- g. Resol. No. 34-2000 Defending Tax Appeals

#### Miscellaneous Public Comments

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Amato, the time for public comments was unanimously opened.

Barry Winston, 19-11 Greenwood Drive, congratulated the entire Council with special recognition to the new Councilmembers who he has had an opportunity to work with the last few months. He then presented presents from the Democratic party to the new members with wishes for a successful new year and new administration.

Freeholder Douglas Bern congratulated the victors and outgoing Councilmembers. He stated that his office is always available as there are many issues that are regional issues and he hoped the Borough will call on the resources of the County. He wished everyone the best. He said that now that they have gotten through the Y2K issues the agenda is clear to work on the more serious issues.

There being no additional comments from the public, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Amato, the time for public comments was unanimously closed.

Benediction by Father Ron Pecci.

Mayor Ganz invited those present to a reception at the Senior Center.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Amato, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:00

p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn B. Dugan, RMC  
Assistant Municipal Clerk