

REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 2000

Mayor Ganz opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski read the following statement of compliance:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the meeting of the Borough of Fair Lawn was published in the "The Record" 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 North Jersey Herald and News, and The Shopper. The Annual Notice identified the meeting location and the time of the Council Meetings and Work Sessions.

PRESENT: Mayor Ganz, Deputy Mayor Adler and Councilmember Dobrow .

ABSENT: Councilmembers Amato and Etlar.

Also present: Manager Sacks and Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski.

ORDINANCES: FIRST READING

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and seconded by Councilmember Dobrow, it was unanimously agreed to read the following ordinance by title.

Ordinance No. 1826-2000

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY", AS AMENDED

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Dobrow, Resolution No. 317-2000 introducing Ordinance No. 1826-2000 was passed.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and seconded by Councilmember Dobrow, it was unanimously agreed to read the following ordinance by title.

Ordinance No. 1827-2000

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN, 2000 BY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 232 ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", ARTICLE VIII, "TRAFFIC", SUBSECTION 232-50 "BUS STOPS"

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Dobrow, Resolution No. 318-2000 introducing Ordinance No. 1827-2000 was passed.

RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT #18-2000

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Dobrow, Resolutions by Consent #18-2000 which contained the following items was unanimously passed.

a. Resol. #319-2000 Approval of Minutes:

Work Session 8/15/00

Special Meeting 8/15/00

Closed Session 8/15/00

Regular Meeting 8/22/00

Special Meeting 8/31/00

b. Resol. #320-2000 Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

c. Resol. #321-2000 Appointment to Fair Lawn Economic Development Committee

d. Resol. #322-2000 Eliminate Bus Stop by Warren Point School

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Shirley Loeber, 19-06 Berdan Avenue, member of the Local Assistance Board and a 40-year resident stated that for as long as she has been a resident there has always been someone in charge of human services and welfare. It is an important office. Her husband who is a clergyman always had a contact person. The Council eliminated that office and she understands that it was because of welfare of which there are only six or seven residents who need general assistance. A dedicated person has served this Borough for nineteen and half years. She was called in the middle of the night to provide services and she did it.

The Local Assistance Board was assured at the work session that the Health Department was going to take care of the human services but she doubted that fifteen hours a week is going to be sufficient. The residents will not be served as they have in the past. The government has always been concerned about all of the residents. She recognizes the Council's concern for the tax rate but she did not want to have residents lack for services. They have eliminated positions in the past through attrition. She asked the Council to reconsider.

Manager Sacks advised that they will still offer the services on a full time basis. They are cutting only general assistance.

Shirley Giamongo, 5-12 Fifth Street recounted an incident involving a skunk and another wild animal. She objected to having to pay \$5 for the Animal Control Officer to remove the animal. Manager Sacks advised that the policy is being reviewed. Mayor Ganz stated that they will let her know when the Manager concludes her review.

Leon Wender, 7-22 Manor Avenue, questioned several items on the bill list including Mountainside Stables and K-Mart. He reported a bag laying on Manor Avenue and River Road across the grate of the storm sewer. He noted that the flags are still missing from the fire hydrants. Manager Sacks advised that the Fire Department has a better system that identifies all the hydrants.

Don Oliver, 8-32 Mitchell Place thanked the Mayor and the Borough Manager for their e-mails.

Edward Feldman, 7-09 Park Avenue stated that he received a letter from the Manager concerning the transfer of welfare to the County. He then spoke to Ed Testa of the County who told him that the Borough will not receive a grant. The grant is only for regionalization. The salary of the Welfare Director is only \$59,000 so he wondered how they will save \$80,000. She gave nineteen and a half years to the Borough and he did not think that treating her this way was right. He asked the Council to consider this matter further. The people who need assistance will be the ones who suffer. Getting to Rochelle Park is not easy if you cannot drive. Using The Friends of Fair Lawn account she could write a check at anytime to help someone. He wondered why they could not have transferred her to another department instead of just getting rid of her.

Manager Sacks advised that the County is not an expert on the grant. After adding the car allowance and fringe benefits, the Borough pays more than \$81,000 for the Welfare Director. The Friends of Fair Lawn account is not an audited account. No one knows where the money has gone over the years.

Deputy Mayor Adler stressed that no one is taking away general social services. They are not eliminating this position. This person has decided that she did not want to take fewer hours. She felt all the needs will be met. She hoped that the employee would stay to administer everything but general assistance. The Council is not abandoning the citizens.

Mr. Feldman pointed out that no one would like their hours cut to fifteen. Deputy Mayor Adler replied that no one has decided how many hours they need. She did not know where that figure came from.

Mr. Feldman concluded that if they share the Health Department they can save even more money.

John Coleman, owner of 11-15 River Road advised that he has found a tenant for their second floor office but a problem arose when the tenant went to the Construction Department. They were unable to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy because he has not signed onto cooperative parking. He has enough parking for his tenants. He did not understand why he could not get a Certificate of Occupancy. He asked for relief from the ordinance so he does not lose the tenant. He felt cooperative parking did not have anything to do with his building and had never heard of it before. Mayor Ganz advised that the ordinance is in place and it is not the Councils' inclination to change that ordinance. That ordinance was drafted with RRIC. He must agree to execute the cooperative parking agreement when it is in place. Cooperative parking has something to do with every building on River Road. Many business owners have signed onto cooperative parking already. Deputy Mayor Adler expressed surprise that RRIC had never approached him to sign onto cooperative parking. He concluded by saying that Mr. Coleman's attorney had advised that he was going to sue which was his right but the Mayor was not inclined to discuss this further.

Deputy Mayor Adler stated that the cooperative parking agreement has been around for years. It was RRIC's idea to entice people to sign onto cooperative parking. There are a number of ordinances that have been passed to assist the work of RRIC. She suggested that he attend a meeting of RRIC. Cooperative parking is one cornerstone of the SID. Making sure that everyone has a

place to park is important. Some stores have no parking at all.

Barbara Wagner, 17-07 Hunter Place, president of the Fair Lawn Athletic Club's Women's Auxiliary stated that they donate to Friends of Fair Lawn. She asked for assurances that the services will not be lost. They donate to the Friends of Fair Lawn knowing that the money is going to residents of Fair Lawn in need. They only donate to Fair Lawn charities. They would not be comfortable donating if the money were given to the authorities in Hackensack. They rely on Health and Human Services to make sure that the money is spent on residents of Fair Lawn in need of the services. She hoped that the Council had a plan. The families in need know and trust one person and they are now being turned over to a bureaucracy.

Manager Sacks stated that the Friends of Fair Lawn will continue. It will be audited and accountable. Any donations would stay in Fair Lawn. They will not turn them over to the County. She assured them that the same fund and the same activities will continue.

Ms. Wagner asked who will oversee the program. Manager Sacks replied that the Health Officer and the Chief Finance Officer will be able to sign checks. If they are not available, she could sign. The Chief Finance Officer expressed concern that no one knew the balance or where the money has gone over the years. At the first of the year, it will be an account that the Borough maintains. It will remain strictly confidential.

There being no additional comments from the public, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Dobrow, it was unanimously agreed to close the time for public comments.

ADJOURNMENT TO WORK SESSION

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Dobrow, the meeting was unanimously adjourned to work session at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Ganz reconvened the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO.323-2000 Appointment to the Pool of Experts

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Dobrow Resolution No. 323-2000 appointing Peter Longo to the pool of experts to be used by the public advocate was unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Adler and a second by Councilmember Dobrow, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Kwasniewski, RMC/CMC/AE
Municipal Clerk