

## Council Reorganization Meeting - January 1, 1999

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

### **Invocation by Father James Nero**

Father Nero 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, 1998. 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: Councilmembers Ahearn, Dobrow, Ganz, Tedeschi and Trawinski.

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

### **Nominations for Mayor**

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Tedeschi, Councilmember Dobrow was nominated as Mayor. Councilmember Dobrow declined the nomination. Upon motion by Councilmember Dobrow, Councilmember Ganz was nominated as Mayor and a second by Councilmember Ahearn. 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 Dobrow, Councilmember Ahearn was nominated as Deputy Mayor. No other nominations were made. Councilmember Ahearn was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor.

### **Swearing in of Mayor and Deputy Mayor**

Congressman Rothman swore in Mayor Ganz and Deputy Mayor Ahearn congratulating both of them.

Congressman Rothman stated that it was great to be a fellow Fair Lawnite and to know that we are in good hands with the people up here. He was Mayor of the City of Englewood and found it to be one of the most satisfying, rewarding and important experiences of his life. He stated that local government is the front line of our democracy, it is the first chance for the elected officials to prove to the people what the people can do when they elect their own leaders and it is an opportunity for your elected officials to show how Democracy can be effective how they can provide for current needs of the people, plan for the future and resist all of those who will seek to challenge and undermine the will of the people. Congressman Rothman wished the Council continued success and remarked that holding public office is a great privilege, it is a noble endeavor, it is a sacred trust and that he is thankful to everyone for his re-election stating that it was an honor and a privilege to be able to serve.

### **Remarks of the Mayor**

Mayor Ganz assumed the chair.

Mayor Ganz announced that he was the 29<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the Borough of Fair Lawn at the start of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. He asserted that during this term as Mayor we will not only help celebrate three quarters of a century of Fair Lawn but also bridge the gap into the twenty first century and the start of a new millennium. This is a time for reflection and an opportunity to set forth a brief agenda for the coming year.

Mayor Ganz acknowledged the Borough employees and esteemed Borough Manager, Barbara Sacks, along with the elected officials that were there, in particular Congressman Steve Rothman. He stated that the voters spoke clearly in November and sent a message that they are seeking tax relief and that we must be responsive to them. The budget of the Council must consider the need to achieve the goal of tax relief but at the same time promoting sustained economic growth and providing needed municipal services. By the end of this year there will be 340 new families in Fair Lawn Commons all requiring municipal services, the Council needs to respond to the changes that accompany a growing and vibrant community. He noted that there will be parking and congestion issues that the Council will need to resolve.

Mayor Ganz declared that 1999 is a time for celebration and that during the next twelve months the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has many events planned for the entire community. He remarked that all of the Council hopes for extensive citizen involvement during this important year long jubilee. He noted the initiation of this will take place March 11<sup>th</sup> with an Open House in Borough Hall and encouraged all Borough residents to attend. This open house is symbolic of his commitment to open government to the people as participants not just observers.

Mayor Ganz reminded everyone that today is the three hundred sixty fourth day of the count down to the start of the millennium. Fair Lawn has come a long way from when it was called Sloopertdam in Colonial times. He hopes that the Borough continues to grow this year with electronic mail becoming available between Borough Hall and the residents as he hopes to see the budget go online in the next several weeks so that individual citizens can download it and offer constructive suggestions to the Council. He would like a user friendly environment for our citizens.

Stated that this year, 1999, will also be the year that the Council must make a determination about the Municipal Pool and its future aiming to leave the facility attractive, useful and available at a modest cost to all residents of the Borough and free to Senior Citizens.

Mayor Ganz stated that Fair Lawn is a community with good government and he is proud to have lived here for seventeen years. He is honored to be elected Mayor in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and looks forward to taking the Borough into the millennium. He acknowledged Councilmembers Florence Dobrow and Matt Ahearn noting that they have all worked closely this past year knowing that they share his vision for Fair Lawn's future. He looks forward to the cooperation from former Mayor Edward Trawinski and Councilmember Joseph Tedeschi during this special year.

Mayor Ganz extended a happy, healthy New Year to his colleagues, to the Borough employees, to the many volunteers who give so much to the Borough and to his family and friends. He remarked that he has known many in the audience for a good many years and that it was time to put away the speeches and get on with the business of government. The people have heard him speak and they have listened to the voters, hearing their voices helping them fashion an agenda to move forward to find solutions to the Borough's needs together. A century ago Lincoln said that we are a government of the people, by the people and for the people and that today as we prepare to move forward into the twenty first century let us do so with vision and with a progressive government that is responsible to the people.

### **Remarks of Deputy Mayor**

Deputy Mayor Ahearn thanked Mayor-elect Ganz. Agreeing with him on the concept that it is time to put aside the speeches and get to work. He wished everyone a happy, healthy New Year. He thanked his fellow Councilmembers for the honor of selecting him to serve as Deputy Mayor. He stated that the Council will work together as a team. He thanked his family and friends for coming today and that it is a special day. He looks forward to a very productive year.

### **Remarks of Council**

Councilmember Dobrow remarked that she would like to thank Councilmember Trawinski for the honor he offered her but thinks it is time for David Ganz and Matt Ahearn congratulating them and wishing them luck.

Councilmember Trawinski acknowledged Congressman Rothman thanking him for taking time out of his busy schedule to be here today. He also acknowledged former Mayor Gordon, former Councilmember Mondello, Freeholders McNerney and Bern. He stated that he wanted to thank the people of Fair Lawn for the privilege of serving as Mayor for the last two years and also for the privilege to continue to serve on this Council. He shares the awe that Richard Lustgarten has of our democracy that the people speak and we respond to the speech of the people and make the transition in our government year after year in a peaceful orderly fashion. He remarked that as Americans and as people in Fair Lawn it is something that everyone should be in awe of and those who are elected should never forget. Coming with that privilege is an awesome responsibility in serving as Mayor. He thanked former Mayor John Keith, former Mayor Gordon, former Mayor Burdick, former Mayor Tedeschi, current members of this Council - David, Matt, Flossie, all Municipal employees in particular Sylvia Tedona and Marilyn Silverman, the Borough Clerk, Joanne Kwasniewski and the Deputy Clerk, Marilyn Dugan, also former Deputy Clerk Cathy Hochkeppel and Borough Attorney Richard Lustgarten.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that the bottom line in 1999 is that a lot has been achieved over the last three years and over the last seventy five years in this Municipality and that Mayor Ganz is right that we stand on the verge of a new millennium. It is time for us to continue to move forward and to look forward as he looks forward to continuing working with all the members of the Council for the best interest of the people of Fair Lawn. He thanked the people of Fair Lawn for the privilege and the honor.

Councilmember Tedeschi thanked Father Nero. Acknowledging Freeholder Bern, McNerney and Congressmen Rothman. He remarked that former Mayor Gordon set a standard of professionalism, collegiality, building consensus and that he learned how to be a Councilman and a Mayor by sitting next to him and by listening to John Keith. It goes beyond politics. It is the people with ideas that have to be listened to. He said that there should be a new slogan for Fair Lawn stating "Fair Lawn First, Politics Last" because that is the tradition we have here. He stated that whatever is right is what will be done.

### **Resolutions by Consent # 1-99**

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that Councilmember Tedeschi has asked that Resolution No. 6-99 Temporary Budget, be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Tedeschi, Resolutions by Consent #1-99, which contained the following items was unanimously adopted.

- a. Resol. No. 1-99 Depositories for 1999
- b. Resol. No. 2-99 Signing of Checks
- c. Resol. No. 3-99 Official Newspapers
- d. Resol. No. 4-99 Petty Cash Funds

e. Resol. No. 5-99 Tax/Assessment Interest

1. Resol. No. 6-99 Removed

g. Resol. No. 7-99 Temporary Budget - Water

h. Resol. No. 8-99 Annual Meeting Dates and Times

i. Resol. No. 9-99 Defending Tax Appeals

### **Resolution #6-99 Temporary Budget**

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Deputy Mayor Ahearn, Resolution #6-99 was considered.

Councilmember Tedeschi stated that he asked that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda so that he could take a few moments to speak about the budget. He remarked that we should be proud of the budget and proud of the way the community is run. He noted that The Bergen Record recently did an article about shared services and cost per capita in municipalities which said that the average tax per capita in Fair Lawn is \$716.92. He stated that this is fully 25% below the County average of towns with a population over 22,000. He stated that this is a standard that must be maintained, a standard that is reflected in the budget and that it is a standard in our desire to save money and to spend money wisely.

Hearing no further comment Resolution #6-99 was unanimously adopted.

### **Miscellaneous Public Comments**

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Tedeschi, the time for public comments was unanimously opened.

Barry Winston, 19-11 Greenwood Drive, stated that as President of the Fair Lawn Independent Democrats he is very proud of this moment. He presented gifts to Mayor Ganz, Deputy Mayor Ahearn and Councilmember Dobrow. At this time they proceeded to open the gifts. He extended an invitation to go across the street to join them for a celebration following this meeting.

Perry Bolkin, 1-42 36<sup>th</sup> Street, congratulated Mayor Ganz, Councilmember Dobrow and welcomed Deputy Mayor Ahearn. He made comments about each member.

Beatrice Leiderman, 13-05 Orchard Street, congratulated all of the Council on having done a wonderful job. She stated that Fair Lawn and its politics have been her life blood for the past 49 years.

Violet Etler, 15-12 Elmary Place, Bergen County state committee woman, stated that she is a proud Democrat and is so pleased with everything that is going on in Fair Lawn, including the Republicans, including our County elections which gave us a new Sheriff Joe Ciccone and two new Freeholders, Dennis McNerney and Douglas Bern. She wished everyone good luck.

Adrian Zisman, Henrietta Court, she stated that she is a cousin of Mayor Ganz and remarked that on behalf of his family and friends they would like to wish him lots of luck in his new position.

Douglas Bern, Bergen County Freeholder, 285 Booth Avenue, Englewood, New Jersey extended greetings and good luck to the Mayor and Council. He offered a hand of partnership assistance from the Bergen County Freeholders.

Philip Plotch, 17 Bancroft Place, stated that he is one of the founders of the Fair Lawn Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Committee and congratulated the Council. He hoped that they can continue to work cooperatively on many of the grass roots initiatives to making Fair Lawn Avenue safer. He thanked Deputy Mayor Ahearn, his wife and daughter and Councilmember Trawinski who has supported the committee's efforts.

Belle Bernstein, 3-10 31<sup>st</sup> Street, stated that it was important for the Council to know how little people also feel about the community they live in. She remarked that this is a great community to live in, that the Borough is free of scandal and that Fair Lawn is a good healthy community. She congratulated all of them.

Ron Mondello, 16-26 Alden Terrace, thanked Councilmember Trawinski for his work as Mayor. He congratulated Mayor Ganz and Deputy Mayor Ahearn.

There being no additional comments from the public, upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Tedeschi, the time for public comments was unanimously closed.

Benediction by Cantor Meir S. D'Vir.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Ahearn and a second by Councilmember Trawinski, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn B. Dugan, RMC  
Assistant Municipal Clerk