

MINUTES
Council Meeting
Monday, October 27, 2008

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council Vice President Bromberg called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 406 Rivervale Road, River Vale, New Jersey 07675.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Council Vice President Bromberg asked all in attendance to rise and join him in a Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

Council Vice President Bromberg read the Sunshine Statement into the record, as follows:

“In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the Municipal Office.”

ROLL CALL

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Matos, Councilwoman Sieg, Councilman Bromberg and Council President Jasionowski were present.

Also present: Mayor Joseph Blundo, Holly Schepisi, Township Attorney, Robert Gallione, Business Administrator, Dennis Harrington, Township Engineer, Gennaro Rotella, CFO and Karen Padva, Acting Clerk.

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to adjourn the meeting to closed session.

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to reconvene out of closed session.

ROLL CALL

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Matos, Councilwoman Sieg, Councilman Bromberg, and Council President Jasionowski were present.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Blundo reported that Chris O’Shea was nominated as *River Vale’s Volunteer of the Year*. The County will be hosting a ceremony honoring these volunteers on Thursday, October 30th. The Mayor also reported that the Ragamuffin Parade was a success and very well attended. The Mayor concluded his report by announcing that Hackensack Hospital North has donated a senior van to be shared by both River Vale and Westwood. The Mayor stressed that community support is still very much needed with regard to the re-opening of the hospital.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan reported how pleased he is that Ranges soccer field remained dry during heavy rains. He credited both the DPW and administration for the success of this project.

Councilman Matos commented on the proposed field improvements at Mark Lane Complex.

Councilwoman Sieg had no comment this evening.

Councilman Bromberg echoed Councilman de Stefan’s compliments regarding the fields. Councilman Bromberg also commended the DPW on doing a great job during the leaf pick-up season.

Council President Jasionowski had no comment this evening.

Mayor Blundo along with Chief Aaron Back presented a *Certificate of Recognition* to Joyce Beiner of *Residents for a Better River Vale* for their donation of a Traffic Counter to the River Vale Police Department. The Mayor thanked Ms. Beiner and *Residents for a Better River Vale* for another generous donation to the Township.

Mayor Blundo read the certificate into the record:

Certificate of Recognition

presented to

The Residents for a Better River Vale

Over the Years the Residents for a Better River Vale have made several significant donations to the Township of River Vale.

This year they have worked tirelessly once again to donate a Traffic Counter for use by the Police Department. The River Vale Mayor and Council commend the Residents for a Better River Vale for their civic mindedness and generosity to their town.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Gallione reported that a group of Eagle Scouts are planning on cleaning up portions of the Popular Road Sanctuary. Mr. Gallione also reported that he attended a meeting that would enable the Township to gain more funding for the Shade Tree Committee by pursuing a “Green Communities Challenge.” Mr. Gallione concluded by reporting that on November 9th – 20,000 daffodil bulbs will be planted at Sapienza Gardens.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Harrington gave an update on the on the paving project at the DPW building. There are some drainage problems near the Police Department that need to be addressed by the contractor. The line stripping of the lot will be done after both the Fire Chief and Chief Back designate their parking areas. The elevator at the Police Department is scheduled to be inspected on Wednesday, the 29th and should be operable thereafter. The Engineer concluded his report that there are still some outstanding items with regard to the DPW Building; particularly the painting of the external staircase. The Township did save \$10,000 on the job by reusing the old lockers.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION- *International Property Maintenance Code*

Councilman de Stefan commented on the draft of the ordinance he prepared and that he felt the Township did not need to adopt vast sections of the *International Property Maintenance Code*. Council President Jasionowski added that he has received feedback from residents that was very favorable with regard to improving the property maintenance code. He would like time to review Councilman de Stefan’s draft and possibly introduce at the next meeting.

Holly Schepisi stated that there copy right issues with regard to the *International Property Maintenance Code*. Ms. Schepisi reported that it is possible to omit sections of the document. However, any change in verbiage would require their permission. Council President suggested that the Council hold a work session to discuss this document.

Construction Code Official Mike Sartori explained the current appeal process which currently goes before the Municipal Court Judge. Councilman Matos questioned how “hardship cases” could be handled and are their any special provisions.

The Council had extensive discussion regarding the current code and the need to help the Construction Code Official with enforcement and creating safe situations. Again, Council President Jasionowski suggested the scheduling of a work session regarding this matter.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to open the meeting to the public.

Council President Jasionowski read the following statement into the record.

“Each person wishing to address the Council shall step up to the microphone, shall give his or her name in an audible tone for the record. All member of the public are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner. Any derogatory, abusive or threatening statements will not be permitted. The Chair will immediately rule such conduct out of order and terminate any further comments.”

Joe Massin – 68 Holiday Court- had various comments regarding the *International Property Maintenance Code* and whether a landlord has the responsibility to maintain the rental property up to the code standards.

Ron Tucci – 58 Holiday Court – expressed his concern that there could be abuses of the International Property Maintenance Code.

Donald Oriolo - Mark Lane – echoed Mr. Tucci’s remarks about possible abuses of the Property Maintenance Code.

Howard Lawrence – 607 Montview Place – commented on the possible abuses of the property maintenance code. He also commented on drainage repairs done to his property.

There being no further questions or comments from the public; motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to close the meeting to the public.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to approve Resolution #2008-234, as follows:

Resolution #2008-234

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES–October 14, 2008

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the October 14, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Bromberg, and Councilwoman Sieg voted yes. Council President Jasionowski and Councilman Matos abstained.

Resolution #2008-235

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2008-235, as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE CONTRACT FOR AN EMPLOYEE DISABILITY PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the above mentioned contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg, and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

Resolution #2008-236

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2008-236, as follows:

RESOLUTION AWARDING THE ELECTRONIC VOICE AND WARNING SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Township received bids for the for the Electronic Voice and Warning System; and

WHEREAS, one bid was received the from Kevco Electric, Inc., 42-84 Arlington Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003 and said bid has been reviewed and approved and is hereby accepted as the lowest bidder at the price of

Base Bid

\$ 49,725.00

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in an amount not to exceed \$ 49, 725.00 in the Capital Account;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bid of Kevco Electric, Inc. is accepted as the lowest responsible bidder. The Mayor and Township Clerk are here by authorized and requested to execute a Contract on behalf of the Township of River Vale for the services described in the Specifications for the Electronic Voice and Warning System.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg, and Council President Jasionowski voted yes. Councilman Matos abstained.

Resolution #2008-237

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Matos to approve Resolution #2008-237, as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE CONTRACT OF SALE – SENIOR HOUSING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute the contract of sale for 436 (434) Cedar Lane (Block 1301 Lot 40), 432 Cedar Lane (Block 1301 Lot 39) and 426 Cedar Lane (Block 1301 Lot 38) on behalf on the Township.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg, and Councilman Matos voted yes. Council President Jasionowski abstained.

Resolution #2008-238

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to approve Resolution #2008-238, as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Business Administrator be, and hereby is authorized to pay the following claims:

RESERVE CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 26,950.00
CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 175,397.24
TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 2,651.28
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 350,327.16
PLANNING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
ZONING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 1,562.50
DOG TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 438.40
PRIVATE DUTY ESCROW ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 21,136.99
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 9,233.29
OPEN SPACE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 1,025.00
SPECIAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 276.00
HOUSING TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 10,780.00

TOTAL CLAIMS TO BE PAID \$ 599,777.86

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the following claims have been paid by the Business Administrator prior to the Bill List Resolution in the following amounts:

CURRENT claims in the amount of:	\$ 2,352,406.06
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
STATUTORY ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 399,478.63
UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 720.75
HOUSING TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID	<u>\$ 2,752,605.44</u>

TOTAL BILL LIST RESOLUTION \$ 3,352,383.30

**MANUAL DISBURSEMENTS
BILL LIST FOR OCTOBER 27, 2008**

9/30/2008 – Transfer Payroll	\$ 212,906.27
10/15/2008 – Transfer Payroll	\$ 186,572.36

TOTAL STATUTORY ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS \$ 399,478.63

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg, and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to open the meeting to the public.

Howard Lawrence – 607 Montview Place – commented on the drainage repair work done to his property.

Mayor Blundo suggested that Bob Gallione and the Township Engineer make another inspection of the property.

There being no questions or comments from the public motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to close the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to adjourn meeting at 9:28 pm

Glen Jasionowski
Council President

ATTEST:
Karen Padva
Acting Township Clerk