

**BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES – APRIL 3, 2006**

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall on Monday, April 3, 2006. The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor O'Brien, followed by the Invocation given by Council President Weber and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor advised that adequate notice of this meeting was provided by an annual notice sent to the Home News and Tribune and the Star Ledger and filing a copy with the Borough Clerk within seven days following the annual organization meeting of the body.

Present were Councilmembers Dacey, Dyas, Grossman, Totin, Vahalla and Weber.

Also present were Mayor O'Brien, Borough Administrator Boerth, Borough Attorney Frizell, Borough Engineer David Hoder and Borough Clerk Lacina.

On a motion made by Council President Weber, seconded by Councilmember Vahalla, the Council retired to Closed Session.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen, New Jersey, that the public shall be excluded from the portion of the meeting to be held on March 20, 2006 at the Borough Hall at which the following subject matter will be discussed:

LITIGATION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion to be held by the Mayor and Council on such subject matter shall be disclosed to the public at the resolution of the respective matters.

Dated: April 3, 2006

The Council returned to Open Session at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion made by Council President Weber, seconded by Councilmember Totin, the Regular Minutes of March 20, 2006 were approved.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE AND RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT FOR SERGEANT STEVEN MENAFRO

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-70

WHEREAS, Officer Steven Menafro has successfully fulfilled the police promotion requirements for the position of Sergeant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen that the said Officer Steven Menafro is hereby promoted to the position of Sergeant effective as of April 3, 2006 .

Dated: April 3, 2006

On a motion made by Council President Weber, seconded by Councilmember Vahalla, with all in favor, the above Resolutions No. 2006-70 was adopted.

Mayor O'Brien then invited forward Sergeant Steven Menafro, along with his family. Borough Attorney Frizell administered the Oath of Office. Councilmember Totin presented Sergeant Menafro his badge.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2006-6

The Borough Attorney noted the Ordinance would be re-introduced as minor amendments would be made to two articles.

**Ordinance No. 2006-6 An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the
Borough of Metuchen by Adding a New Chapter
116, to be Entitled “Limits on Campaign Contributions”,
Which Provides for the Policy and Procedure for Political
Contributions and Public Contracts in the Borough of
Metuchen.**

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Hoder provided a status report on the following projects:

- Vidas Park Restrooms are completed and will be ready for the spring athletic season.
- Myrtle Park Synthetic Field is currently undergoing the grading portion of the project. The entire project is scheduled for completion in four weeks.
- Lights at Oakland Tennis Courts project is in the design phase and will go to Borough Administrator for review in the next few weeks.
- 2006 Road Program is underway. A grant was received for the New York Avenue portion and the County will take care of a part of the paving project. The roads scheduled for improvements are Sylvan Avenue, Robins Place, Huxley Road, Van Buren Avenue, Kentnor Street, New York Avenue, Howell Street, Goodwill Place, Crest Drive, Center Street, Thomas Street, Sheffield Place and the Fire House parking lot and apron.

Councilmember Totin asked how the lights at the Oakland Tennis Courts would be controlled.

Mayor O'Brien noted that the previous lights were on a timer system which meant that they were on more often than necessary.

Councilmember Vahalla questioned if the Myrtle Park field would be playable for the spring season.

Mr. Hoder noted that the field would be playable the day after completion.

Councilmember Totin asked if the bathrooms at Vidas Field would be open only during events.

Mayor O'Brien noted that keys are distributed to the coaches at the start of the various seasons. However, the Borough is concerned with vandalism, especially at the new facilities and will keep a close tab on the matter.

Councilmember Dacey questioned the time frame for the lights at the Oakland Tennis Courts.

Mr. Hoder noted that once the plans are reviewed and approved by Borough officials the project can be bid within three weeks and the entire job completed in two months.

Mayor O'Brien also noted that during the left hand turn arrow project on Main & Amboy, the contractor struck a natural gas high pressure pipeline in the morning. The Borough was very fortunate that any major catastrophe was averted.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

WHEREAS, the residents were willing to provide for universal free access to library materials, by the passage of “The Library Question” in the fall election of 1928, which resulted in the establishment of a Free Public Library within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Metuchen Public Library offered free unfiltered Internet access to 11,615 residents of 112 NJ communities, 32 states, and 11 countries, and free computer access to an additional 510 individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Library staff answered 13,000 reference questions, provided 304 programs and space for 174 meetings for 30 community organizations, and proctored 29 exams taken by local adult learners; and

WHEREAS, the Library migrated to a new automation system, a shared-service, offering residents the opportunity to access the catalog and numerous databases from home using their library card and a PIN, to reserve materials from home, to renew items, and to download electronic books to a personal computer, or MP3 player; and

WHEREAS, the Metuchen Public Library will celebrate National Library Week from April 2nd through April 8th with a variety of programs, and provides an excellent value for every dollar invested as part of the annual budget,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND O’BRIEN, MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM April 2nd through April 8th as

National Library Week

In the Borough of Metuchen.

Dated: April 3, 2006

COMMUNICATIONS
CONSENT AGENDA

6. Receive the minutes of the following meetings:
 - Parking Authority – December 20, 2005; January 17, 2006; and February 21, 2006

On a motion made by Council President Weber, seconded by Councilmember Vahalla, with all in favor, Item No. 6 was approved.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REPORTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBERS

Council President Weber noted the Development Commission will host another Public Forum on Downtown Development. The next forum will be held on May 3rd at Metuchen High School cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. At this forum, a developer will make a presentation of proposed development at the old “Stop & Shop” lot.

Councilmember Vahalla noted the “Metuchen Pulls Together” campaign has been set for June 10th. The event will be a “Fire Engine Pull”. The benefit will provide a handicapped student from Metuchen High School a handicapped accessible van so that he can attend Middlesex County College in the fall.

Councilmember Totin congratulated the Library Director on her proclamation and provided the

schedule of events for April.

Councilmember Grossman noted the Cultural Arts Commission is co-hosting the *Spoken Word* at the Forum Theatre on April 22nd. Ten authors will be reading from their works; further information is available at the Recreation Department of the Forum Theatre.

Councilmember Dacey noted the Little League Parade is schedule for Saturday, April 8th at 10 a.m. leaving from Metuchen High School.

Councilmember Dacey also noted the Easter Egg Hunt would be held at the Edgar School on Saturday, April 15th.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Mr. Frizell had no report.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Boerth had no report.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor stated that the Police Chief has asked that borough residents examine their house numbers to make sure they are visible and easily read from the street at night. The Police Officers are having difficulty in findings homes at night that are poorly marked. Mayor O'Brien noted that this could lead to a delayed response or worse in an emergency situation.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Mayor opened the meeting to public comment.

Frank Molochnik, 82 Aylin Street, stated that he has received the \$500 refund for his share of the deductible. However, Mr. Molochnik wanted to put the Borough on notice that the sidewalks in front of his property are in bad shape and would like them taken care of.

Mr. O'Brien noted his compliant and stated it would be made part of public record. The mayor noted that County is offering a sidewalk grant program that would be and 80/20 matches that the Borough will explore to do an aggressive sidewalk program.

Hearing no comment, the Mayor closed the public portion.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-71

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council have been notified by Robert Donnan, Chief of the Metuchen Fire Department, that Louis Kovach has been elected to be a permanent member of the Washington Hose Company of the Metuchen Fire Department; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen that in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Code of the Borough of Metuchen, Louis Kovach be and he is hereby elected, approved, and confirmed as a permanent member of the Washington Hose Company for the Fire Department of the Borough of Metuchen.

Dated: April 3, 2006

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-72

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council desires to provide safe crossings for school age children on designated public thoroughfares of the Borough of Metuchen; and

WHEREAS, the individual listed herein has been recommended by the Chief of Police as school crossing guards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the individual listed herein are hereby appointed as school crossing guards for the remainder of the year 2006 effective immediately:

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Robert Koob | 915 Waterford Drive, Edison, NJ |
| Shiv Sood | 6B-2 Redfield Drive, Metuchen, NJ |

Dated: April 3, 2006

On a motion made by Council President Weber, seconded by Councilmember Totin, with all in favor, the above Resolutions No. 2006-71 and No. 2006-72 were adopted.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

BILL RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen that the proper warrants be drawn and all bills paid totaling \$642,964.00.

Dated: April 3, 2006

I, Rebecca Cuthbert, Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Metuchen do hereby certify that funds are available for the payment of bills for the Borough of Metuchen.

/s/ Rebecca Cuthbert, CFO

On a motion made by Council President Weber, seconded by Councilmember Vahalla, with all in favor, this Resolution was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-6

Council President Weber made motion to re-introduce and take up on first reading, as amended, Ordinance No. 2006-6, which was seconded by Councilmember Vahalla, with all in favor.

The Clerk read the following Ordinance by title:

**Ordinance No. 2006-6 An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of The
Borough Of Metuchen By Adding A New Chapter
116, To Be Entitled "Limits On Campaign
Contributions",
Which Provides For The Policy And Procedure For Political
Contributions And Public Contracts In The Borough Of
Metuchen.**

Council President Weber moved this Ordinance be passed on first reading, published according to law, and public hearing set down for April 17, 2006. This motion was seconded by Councilmember .

AYES - Councilmembers Dacey, Grossman, Totin, Vahalla and Council President Weber.

NAYS - None.

ABSENT – Councilmember Dyas.

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-7

Council President Weber made motion to introduce and take up on first reading Ordinance No. 2006-7, which was seconded by Councilmember Totin, with all in favor.

The Clerk read the following Ordinance by title:

Ordinance No. 2006-7 An Ordinance To Release, Vacate And Extinguish Any And All Public Rights In And To A Portion Of An Alley Located In The Rear Of Lots 31-37 In Block 58 In The Borough Of Metuchen.

Council President Weber moved this Ordinance be passed on first reading, published according to law, and public hearing set down for April 17, 2006. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Totin.

AYES - Councilmembers Dacey, Grossman, Totin, Vahalla and Council President Weber.

NAYS - None.

ABSENT - Councilmember Dyas.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NEW BUSINESS MATTERS ONLY

The Mayor opened the public hearing.

Hearing no comment, the Mayor closed the public portion.

Councilmember Vahalla asked that the Girls Cross Country Team and the Girls Soccer Team be honored, along with the Boy's Basketball Team at the May 1st meeting.

Council President Weber asked if MeTV could re-air the program on the passive recreational areas in town.

On a motion made by Council President Weber, seconded by Councilmember Dacey, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

BOZENA LACINA, RMC
Municipal Clerk