

Work Session – Wednesday 9/15/10

Present: Commissioners Lange, Lopez, Riccardi, Rodriguez; and Mayor Vega
Absent: none
Also Present: Town Attorney Daniel Horgan, Town Administrator Joseph McConnell, and
Town Clerk Carmela Riccie

The meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.

At the request of Mayor Vega, Town Clerk Carmela Riccie made the following announcement:

As presiding officer of this regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of West New York, held on **September 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. (6:00 p.m. Work Session) in the Mayor's Conference Room**, I do hereby publicly announce, and I direct that this announcement shall be placed in the minutes of this meeting, and that the Notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given by the Board of Commissioners in the Resolution dated and adopted on November 23, 2009. Said Resolution was transmitted by the Town Clerk to the Jersey Journal and the Bergen Record and publicly posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board, Town Hall, and filed with the Town Clerk.

Copies are available to the public in accordance with the law.

Note: At the request of Mayor Vega, Town Clerk Carmela Riccie read aloud the titles of all items on the agenda.

Item No. 1: Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting: 8/18/10

Item No. 2: Payment of Claims dated 9/15/10:

Item No. 3: Receipt of Financial Reports for month of August, 2010:

Item No. 4: Communications:
4A. Bid results rec'd. 9/10/10 Re: Supplementary Plumbing Services & Repair Contract (2nd occasion)

Item No. 5: Proclamations:
5A. Re: Honoring Memorial High School Class of 1960
5B. Re: National Breast Cancer Awareness 2010

Item No. R-1: Resolution – Re: Establishing restricted parking in front of one (1) residence for use by handicapped resident as follows:
410 – 66th Street (Mario Olivares):
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.

Item No. R-2: Resolution – Re: Establishing restricted parking in front of one (1) residence for use by handicapped resident as follows:
107 – 66th Street (Biagio Cannata):
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.

Item No. R-3: Resolution - Re: Confirming sale of abandoned vehicles held on 9/8/10:
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.

Item No. R-4: Resolution - Re: Budget Transfers FY 2010:
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.

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- Item No. R-5:** **Resolution – Re: Authorizing the Town Clerk to re-advertise to receive bids for “Supplementary Plumbing Services (3rd Occasion)” on 10/14/10 at 10:00 a.m. in Town Clerk’s Office:**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda. Discussion ensued between Town Administrator, Town Attorney, Mayor and Town Clerk as to whether this service could be negotiated inasmuch as we bid on two (2) occasions and received no responses or if it has to be re-bid a third time. Mayor requested Town Administrator and Town Attorney to review law and advise him accordingly prior to start of regular session.
- Item No. R-6:** **Resolution – Re: Approval of Event/Parade Permit for “2010 Latin GRAMMY Street Parties in the Town of West New York Event” by EVENTUS:**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.
- Item No. R-7:** **Resolution – Re: Authorization of Maser Consulting, PA to provide Engineering Services for Veterans Park Design and Bidding (\$145,000):**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.
- Item No. R-8:** **Resolution – Re: Award of Web Design Consultant Services to: Alpha Dog Solutions:**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.
- Item No. R-9:** **Resolution – Re: Refunds of Tax Lien Redemptions (\$207,065.95):**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.
- Item No. R-10:** **Resolution – Re: Refunds of Tax Lien Premiums (\$65,700.00):**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.
- Item No. R-11:** **Resolution – Re: Hudson County Board of Taxation Tax Appeals (\$1,488.62):**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.
- Item No. R-12:** **Resolution – Re: Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes (\$1,869.15):**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.
- Item No. R-13:** **Resolution – Re: State Tax Appeals (\$4,159.90):**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.
- Item No. R-14:** **Resolution – Re: Re-appointment of Maria Alvarez as Registrar of the Town of West New York (Term: March 1, 2010 - February 28, 2013):**
Mayor Vega recommended placement of this Resolution on the consent agenda.

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Note: Mayor Vega advised that there will be a Presentation by Town Administrator prior to opening hearing to the public on the introduced Budget. Then the hearing would take place, amendments to budget, which do not require a hearing, would be voted upon and final vote would be taken to adopt budget which includes the aforesaid mentioned amendments. Commissioner Lange agreed. Mayor Vega requested Town Administrator to give the Commissioners a summary regarding amendments. Town Administrator McConnell explained that the amendments include debt payment of \$100,000 and adjustments for uncollected taxes in the amount of \$200,000, which was required by the State. Mayor Vega advised that the proposed six (6) month budget has been reviewed and approved by the Dept. of Community Affairs and now we have the ability to adopt it. Mayor further advised that as part of Mr. McConnell’s Presentation, an announcement will be made that there will be no tax increase for the next three (3) quarters, and that the six (6) month budget is a bridge to the calendar year budget with “no gimmicks”.

Budget Item No. 1: Hearing – Re: SFY 2010 Transition Year Budget

Budget Item No. 2: Resolution – Re: Amendments to SFY 2010 Transition Year Budget

Budget Item No. 3: Resolution – Re: Adoption of SFY 2010 Transition Year Budget including all amendments

Item No. O-1: **Final Adoption of Ordinance #17/10 An Ordinance providing for various Capital Improvements for the Town of West New York and appropriating \$2,350,000 therefore, and providing for the issuance of \$1,900,000 in General Improvement Bonds or Notes of the Town of West New York to finance the same:**
Town Clerk Riccio reminded the Commissioners that hearing regarding this Ordinance occurred on August 18, 2010 and only action required tonight is vote to adopt.

Item No. O-2: **Introduction of Ordinance #20/10 AN Ordinance amending Chapter 80 of the Code of the Town of West New York (Police Department):**
Town Administrator McConnell advised that this Ordinance establishes the positions of Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers, who will man the municipal court and perform mundane duties. Mayor Vega explained that there is a State mandate that all municipal courts must have proper security, and that the Police Director feels that this is the best way to accomplish said mandate. Town Administrator McConnell further explained that Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers pay the cost of attending the Police Academy and that the Town most likely will receive numerous applications.

Item No. O-3: **Introduction of Ordinance #21/10 An Ordinance amending Ordinance #8/10 and #19/10 entitled: “An Ordinance entitled 2010/2012 Salary Ordinance”:**
Town Administrator McConnell advised that the purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a salary range for the four (4) new officers, who are currently attending the Police Academy.

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Item No. O-4:

Introduction of Ordinance #22/10 An Ordinance establishing fees for the performance of Marriage and Civil Union Ceremonies:

Mayor Vega explained that the law provides that if a person performs a marriage ceremony, he or she must also perform civil union ceremonies if requested. Mayor further explained that the fee is paid to the municipality, who in turn compensates the official performing the ceremony, and that an Ordinance is required to effectuate same.

Item No. O-5:

Introduction of Ordinance #23/10 An Ordinance amending Chapter 312 of the Code of the Town of West New York (Rent Control):

Mayor Vega explained that this Ordinance pertains to vacant buildings and bringing those apartments back into the housing stock and that currently there is no incentive for landlords to renovate vacant buildings.

Item No. O-6:

Introduction of Ordinance #24/10 An Ordinance adopting a Mandatory Attendance Policy for all Boards, Agencies, Authorities and Commissions of the Town of West New York pursuant to NJSA 40A:9-12:

Mayor Vega explained that the law requires a municipality to have an Ordinance dealing with perpetual non-attendance of meetings by board members.

Item No. O-7:

Introduction of Ordinance #25/10 An Ordinance concerning the use of Town Automobiles:

Mayor Vega explained that currently the Town does not have a clear policy in place regarding the use of town automobiles and that the State requires it. Mayor further advised that in addition to the five (5) Commissioners, the only other persons using town automobiles are the Health Official, D.P.W. Supervisor, and the Parks Supervisor who is on call 24 hours. Mayor further advised that the Police Director does not use a town owned vehicle.

Item No. O-8:

Introduction of Ordinance #26/10 An Ordinance concerning compliance with Standards for Ethical conduct by all Employees of the Town of West New York:

Mayor Vega explained that the State requires a policy requiring elected officials and board members to attend ethical training courses and that the Board of Education already has a policy in place. Town Administrator McConnell explained that course requirements can be completed through website watch program, which can be done from home as long as person certifies that he or she has done so, and that within the next two (2) weeks he will be providing pertinent information to all persons involved.

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Public Portion:

No one wished to be heard.

Meeting ended at 6:17 p.m.

Commissioner Gerald A. Lange, Jr.

Commissioner Michelle Fernandez Lopez

Commissioner Lawrence Riccardi

Commissioner Alberto Rodriguez

Mayor Silverio A. Vega
Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
Carmela Riccie, RMC
Town Clerk