

**MINUTES OF
MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23
7:00 P.M.**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER * STATEMENT REGARDING OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW * SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Martin at 7:08 p.m. Adequate notice was provided as is required by the Open Public Meetings Law with publication in the Home News Tribune and posting on the bulletin board. All in attendance Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

CALLING OF THE ROLL:

ASCIOLLA
JANECZEK
KARCZEWSKI – arrived 7:12 pm
PEREZ
SLAVICEK
VIDAL

PUBLIC PORTION

Yvette Bruno, 4 Sutton Place had a few questions. She spoke to a few residents in town and they asked her to present questions on their behalf:

- why do homeowners in Helmetta have to pay for library cards since we send our kids over to Spotswood school system. Is there any way we can get an interlocal agreement with them. She was told the school children can get a card.
- a question about the water bills. It seems like the bills double or went up or if the meters weren't read on time. She was advised that she call the water/ sewer collector.
- why were all the e-mail blasts stopped. The Mayor said one was sent out recently. Yvette said the website is pretty much outdated; there are no minutes. The Clerk responded they have to be approved first. She said perhaps we can get a Spotswood high school student to manage or update the website; it will look good on their website. Clmn. Slavicek said that sounds like a good idea. The Clerk said she has to go through and see what else has to be updated.
- is there going to be any organized activities like exercise programs at the Community Center. The Mayor said she doesn't know yet since it hasn't been built yet. If anyone has any questions they can call Sandy. Clmn. Slavicek said we represent the Borough they can call us.
- can we improve the streets to make it more bike friendly or people walking. She was told to give the suggestions to the Clerk who will give it to the Borough Administrator. Clmn. Karczewski said we had a grant for bike paths but we got the board instead.
- can you explain in lieu of taxes. The Mayor asked the Clerk to pull out the agreement and get it to Yvette.
- is it appropriate for a relative of the Mayor and a Borough employee to engage in political solicitation while reading the meters. She was told a complaint should be made to the Borough Administrator.
- can we reintroduce the Historical Society. The Mayor said that Kathleen Williamson showed an interest and wanted to start it up.
- why was the park still littered and dirty diapers two days after the 125th Anniversary. You will

have to talk to Darren about this.

- two years ago people on Lake Avenue requested a speed bump and signed a petition, was anything ever done. She was told to check with Darren.
- why and how was there a speed bump put on Maple Street which is a truck route; was it approved. Clmn. Ascioffa said it is near the park and it was in the grant.
- is a paid Borough employee allowed to run for Council. Clmn. Ascioffa replied yes; they would have to resign after they were elected.
- does Council have to accept an employee's resignation. Clmn. Ascioffa said yes. She asked if it was done and she was told no. She didn't win yet. Yvette said yes but she is running. The Mayor said she should contact the ethics board with any political questions and Yvette stated it is already in the workings.

Clmn. Ascioffa said he wanted to say one thing. He doesn't understand how and why it is election time and everybody is running why is it getting so ugly and personal. Yvette said she is not getting personal she asked people if there had any questions or concerns and she is bringing them up.

At the August Council meeting it is believed to be true that a relative of the Mayor was recommended for a raise; who recommended him. A heated discussion followed.

Yvette said that was the end of her questions and will tell them she has no answers. She was told to have them call Darren or Sandy.

Sewell Peckham, 4 John Street said that a lot of people are under the impression that the swimming pool that is going up by Kaplan is for the community. They don't understand that the community center isn't going to be open all the time. They think it is going to be opened all day for their children to go in. When John Street was reconstructed there was a drive opening placed. Clmn. Janeczek said he thought that it was placed there for access to the property. Is the slab on Maple going to be pulled out and he was told yes. The Mayor told him he could look at the park plans. He questioned the other slab and was told it was going to be pulled out. He said why couldn't blacktop just be poured over it for the basketball court and was told they couldn't do so because of calculations.

Maria Karczewski, 4 York Drive said you're saying it is not personal. A selected amount of people received a letter about her husband and Joe Perez signed by Borough employees. When that letter came out it became personal and she got a summons for her dog. She asked if the Council knew what was going on with their committees. It is very sad that you have a Council of six people and yet the residents should trust that you all have the interest of the residents. I don't know what happened, you need to take a step back get your thoughts collected and maybe you can make better decisions for the town.

Julie LeDonne, 23 York Drive said her excess water usage was high. She asked if we could get more detailed water bills. The Mayor told her she can go to see Carol Feig to get readings. Borough Attorney David Clark stated that maybe you should check to see if you have a leak. Sandy said she will check with Carol to see if there was any problems.

Joe Opinski, 18 Avenue A said his water bill was over \$1,000.00. He is appealing his taxes because his bill went up high from \$9000.00 to \$12000.00. How does a road department person do two jobs and he makes more money than the police. The township is not clean and there a pile of papers and there is a bag deteriorating. Nothing against the police but the cars go speeding down his street. He was told by a police officer that they are not allowed to do community policing they were hired to write tickets. Sgt. Messler who was in attendance at the meeting responded. If anyone is speeding please make us aware. A four way stop or anything is needed to help slow them down. Clmn. Ascioffa said they speed down his street even with the speed bumps. Clmn. Perez said he knows we had a rate increase but it didn't go up double. The Mayor asked if they went to see Ken Pacera about their taxes.

Dorothy Fisko, 3 Park Avenue complimented Mayor Martin and told her she supports her.

Sewell Peckham said since John Street was reconstructed it became narrow and asked that no off street parking be allowed from North Shore to Brookside Avenue.

Joe Opinski asked about the Public works doing two jobs. Clmn. Ascioffa said they get paid for forty hours of week. Clmn. Perez said that hourly rates are now all rolled into one. Joe stated the dog catcher makes more money for him. There are grievances pending and the Borough Attorney said that we should not get into further discussion.

Albert LeDonne asked what he should do about his water bill. He was told it will be looked into it. Clmn. Perez said he went to his meter and checked the readings and they did match up. He asked if the Snuff Mill is considered a construction site and there is no fence around it. He is concerned about the safety of the residents. Every job site is locked up and it should be for safety reasons. The Borough Attorney will contact Kaplan about this. He asked if there is a noise issue. The Clerk said she had to check into it this today and it is from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on weekends 9:00 a.m. Another safety issue that cars coming down Old Forge speed and the police are doing sixty miles to catch them. He hopes that this issue was addressed. Sgt. Messler explained the procedures of stopping speeders.

CONSENT AGENDA - 186

Report of Municipal Clerk, Tax Collector

RESOLUTIONS:

178 – Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund tax overpayment for fourth quarter 2013 taxes for Block 21 Lot 7.1 C2906

179 – Resolution authorizing final payment in the amount of \$22, 414.20 to Terra-Tech Construction, Inc.

180 – Payment of Bills

181 – Hiring of Class II Officer Richard Recine

182 – Hiring of Class II Officer Devon Gannon

~~183 – Hiring of Class II Officer Anthony Chiarello III - pulled~~

~~184 – Hiring of Heather Dougherty for the Helmetta Regional Animal Shelter - pulled~~

~~185 – Compensation for working at the 125th Anniversary Celebration - pulled~~

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski
ROLL CALL: 6 - 0

183 – Hiring of Class II Officer Anthony Chiarello III - This resolution was withdrawn until we further documentation about him.

184 – Hiring of Heather Dougherty for the Helmetta Regional Animal Shelter
The Director Michal Cielez recommended her hiring. The resolution will be amended to read \$8.50 per hour and not to exceed 20 hours per week.
MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clwmn. Vidal
ROLL CALL: 5 – 1

185 – Compensation for working at the 125th Anniversary Celebration
Clwmn. Vidal asked if they are shelter workers and if money was coming out of recreation. All work at the shelter with the exception of Briana Markus who helps at the different activities.
MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clwmn. Vidal
ROLL CALL: 6 -0

MINUTES

July 17 - MOTION - Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clwmn. Vidal ROLL CALL: 6-0
August 28 – MOTION - Clwmn. Vidal SECOND – Clmn. Slavicek ROLL CALL: 5-0-1
September 25 - MOTION = Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clwmn. Vidal ROLL CALL: 5-0-1

COMMITTEE REPORTS: MAYOR, BOROUGH ATTORNEY, BOROUGH ENGINEER, DEPARTMENT REPORTS, PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Safety Committee interviewed and recommended the hiring of the two Police Officers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

125th Anniversary Mugs are available at \$2.00 a mug. The Clerk thanked everyone who helped and attended. Compliments were received about the fireworks display. Over six hundred people were in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

Halloween Parade – Cookies and juice will be served. It will start at 6:30 pm and we will have lights in the back. We have gift cards to give. Sgt. Messler will have extra Officers on both Mischief and Halloween Night.

CLOSED SESSION – RESOLUTION # 187

Personnel and pending litigation

MOTION Clmn. Slavicek SECOND – Clwmn. Vidal
ROLL CALL: 6 – 0

A MOTION to go into Open Session was made by Clmn. Ascioffa and SECONDED by Clmn. Janeczek. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a MOTION was made by Clmn. Ascioffa and SECONDED by Clmn. Slavicek to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. All were in favor.

Sandra Bohinski
Municipal Clerk

REPORT OF MUNICIPAL CLERK SEPTEMBER, 2013

		Copies	Marr Lic	Plng bd	Towing	Licenses	Landlord Reg	Recycling	Marr Cert
Daniels	\$100.00						\$100.00		
Aldi	\$100.00						\$100.00		
copies	\$0.15	\$0.15							
Marriage	\$103.00		<u>\$28.00</u>						<u>\$75.00</u>
Maldonado	\$100.00						\$100.00		
Addanki	\$100.00						<u>\$100.00</u>		
Copies	<u>\$0.15</u>	<u>\$0.15</u>							
TOTAL	\$503.30	\$0.30	\$28.00				\$400.00		\$75.00

Dog and Cat Licenses \$176.00

RECREATION		Raffle	Ads	Donation
Sept. 9	\$270.00	\$125.00	\$145.00	
Sept. 18	\$615.00	\$110.00	\$155.00	<u>\$350.00</u>
Sept 23/27	<u>\$575.00</u>	<u>\$175.00</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$1,460.00	\$410.00	\$700.00	\$350.00

Borough of Helmetta

Denise Jawidzik

Denise Jawidzik

Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

Month of: September, 2013

Dated: September 30, 2013

Taxes - 2013	\$ 522,937.24
Taxes - 2012	\$ 13,915.67
Taxes - 2014	\$ 6,505.37
Interest	\$ 4,641.50
Costs	
Tax search	
Return Check fee	
Search Printouts	
Duplicate Bill Fee	\$ 285.00
Misc.	

ADJUSTMENTS

2012	Transfer O/P	\$	(0.53)
2013	Transfer O/P	\$	5.85
2014	Transfer O/P	\$	(5.32)
2013	Added/Omitted	\$	418.66

Closing Balances

		Debit	Credit	Net
TOTAL	\$ 548,284.78	2013 \$ 1,341,087.61	\$ (610.08)	\$1,340,477.53
		2012 \$ 24,173.01		\$ 24,173.01

Tax Collectors Trust

Prior Balance	\$ 16,000.00
Receipts	\$ 40,376.47
Disbursements	\$ 41,276.47
Balance	\$ 15,100.00
Premium Balance	\$ 15,100.00

Disbursements

153	\$ 11,373.55
154	\$ 600.00
155	\$ 11,129.49
156	\$ 300.00
157	\$ 8,785.75
158	\$ 5,700.86
159	\$ 3,386.82

\$ 41,276.47

**RESOLUTION
2013 - 178
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR
TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR FOURTH QUARTER
2013 TAXES FOR BLOCK 21 LOT 7.1 C2906**

WHEREAS, the Borough Tax Collector has received tax overpayments for the taxes due for the fourth quarter of 2013 on property listed below:

21-7.1 C2906
Brian Gutierrez
31 West Ave
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
2013 4th 1,078.72

WHEREAS, the Borough Tax Collector requests authorization from the Borough Council to refund the Overpayment to the owners of this Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Helmetta that the Borough Tax Collector is hereby authorized to refund the Overpayments to the Property's owner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough's Chief Financial Officer is directed to issue a refund check for the Overpayment to Brian Gutierrez, 31 West Avenue, Old Bridge, NJ 08857 in the amount of \$1,078.72.

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski ROLL CALL: 6 - 0

**RESOLUTION
2013 – 179
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FINAL PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$22,414.20 TO TERRA-TECH CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Borough awarded a contract to Terra-Tech Construction, Inc. for John Street Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Terra-Tech has completed the project and submitted a final billing in the amount of \$22,414.20; and

WHEREAS, Remington, Vernick & Vena has recommended that they be paid in full;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Helmetta that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to pay Terra-Tech Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$22,414.20.

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski ROLL CALL: 6 - 0

**RESOLUTION
#2013 – 180
PAYMENT OF BILLS**

All bills shall be paid as per the list.

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski ROLL CALL: 6 – 0

RESOLUTION - WITHDRAWN
#2013 – 181
HIRING OF CLASS II OFFICER RICHARD RECINE

BE IT RESOLVED, that Richard Recine be and is hereby appointed as a Class II Officer in the Borough of Helmetta. His employment is contingent upon his successful completion of his medical and psychological screening and background investigation

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski ROLL CALL: 6 - 0

RESOLUTION
#2013 – 182
HIRING OF CLASS II OFFICER DEVON GANNON

BE IT RESOLVED, that Devon Gannon be and is hereby appointed as a Class II Officer in the Borough of Helmetta. His employment is contingent upon his successful completion of his medical and psychological screening and background investigation

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clmn. Karczewski ROLL CALL: 6 - 0

RESOLUTION - WITHDRAWN
#2013 – 183
HIRING OF CLASS II OFFICER ANTHONY CHIARELLO III

RESOLUTION
#2013 – 184

HIRING OF HEATHER DOUGHERTY FOR THE HELMETTA REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER

BE IT RESOLVED, that Heather Dougherty be and is hereby appointed as an Office and Kennel Helper at the Helmetta Regional Animal Shelter at the rate of \$8.50 an hour not to exceed 20 hours per week.

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clwmn. Vidal

ROLL CALL: AYES: Ascioffa, Janeczek, Karczewski, Perez, Vidal NAY: Slavicek

RESOLUTION
#2013 – 185
COMPENSATION FOR WORKING AT THE
125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following will be compensated for working at the 125th Anniversary Celebration:

Mary Caldwell	\$75.00
Colleen Holland	\$35.00
Briana Markus	\$75.00
Jacob Roth	\$75.00

MOTION – Clmn. Ascioffa SECOND – Clwmn. Vidal ROLL CALL: 6 -0