

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

SINE DIE MEETING MINUTES – MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter held a Sine Die Meeting on Monday, January 5, 2015. Mayor Heymann called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. PROVISIONS OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, was included in the Notice of Early Meetings which was sent to The Record and The Star Ledger for publication on December 16, 2014, was posted on the Municipal Clerk's bulletin board and has remained posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Heymann invited all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The following persons were present:

Mayor Sophie Heymann
Councilpersons John C. Glidden, Jr., Alissa Latner, John Kashwick, David Barad,
Arthur Dolson and Victoria Amitai
Borough Attorney, Edward T. Rogan
Borough Clerk, Loretta Castano
Borough Engineer, Nick DeNicola
Chief of Police, Dennis Kaine
Superintendent of Public Works, William Dahle, III
Deputy Borough Clerk, Arlene Corvelli
Office of Emergency Management, Lt. James Winters

4. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS HONORING KNICKERBOCKER HOOK & LADDER COMPANY MEMBERS (Received from Mayor's office 12/23/14):

- 1) THOMAS R. PIERRO, SR.
- 2) THOMAS H. MCNAMARA
- 3) PETER SORENSEN

Mayor Heymann read and so declared. She thanked Thomas Pierro, Thomas McNamara and Peter Sorensen for their years of service to the citizens of the Borough of Closter and Volunteer Fire Department.

B. MAYORAL PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO WILLIAM ANGRESANO (Requested by Mayor 12/31/14)

Mayor Heymann presented the certificate to William Angresano for his donation of two of his paintings, one of the old Brooks Farm and the other of the playground at Memorial Field both of which are hanging in the Council Chambers. The public offered a round of applause.

Mayor Heymann asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of Mary Neusch who passed away on December 31, 2014. She served for many years on the Board of Health.

5. PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE @ 7:00 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS THE MATTER MAY BE HEARD:

The following Ordinance was introduced at the Regular Meeting held 12/10/14 and was published in The Record on 12/16/14 as stated in the Municipal Clerk's affidavit of publication. Reprint of this Ordinance was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board in accordance with statutory requirements and copies have been made available to the general public:

ORDINANCE NO. 2014:1183, “AN ORDINANCE TO DETERMINE THE BASE RATE, AMOUNT, SALARIES, WAGES, COMPENSATION, AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT THEREOF TO PERSONS HOLDING CERTAIN OFFICES AND POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER”

Mayor Heymann declared a public hearing. No one wishing to be heard, Mayor Heymann closed the meeting to the public.

Motion approving adoption of Ordinance No. 2014:1183 was made by Councilman Kashwick, seconded by Councilman Barad and declared carried by Mayor Heymann upon the affirmative vote of Councilpersons Glidden, Latner, Kashwick, Barad, Dolson and Amitai.

6a. VOTE ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion approving the Consent Agenda was made by Councilwoman Amitai, seconded by Councilman Dolson and declared carried by Mayor Heymann upon the affirmative vote of Councilpersons Glidden, Latner, Kashwick, Barad, Dolson and Amitai.

RESOLUTIONS

7. BILL RESOLUTION – DECEMBER 31, 2014 (Received from Deputy Treasurer 12/29/14)
8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEPUTY TREASURER TO ISSUE A REFUND CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,092.10 TO MICHAEL VESPIANO, ESQ FBO REUTEN ASSOCIATES FOR BLOCK 1501 LOT 25 FOR 2012, 2013 AND 2014 REAL ESTATE TAX OVERPAYMENT DUE TO TAX COURT JUDGMENT (TCJ RENDERED 12/12/14) (Received from Tax Collector 12/29/14)

MOTIONS

9. MOTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MINUTES – ABSTENTION: AMITAI (Distributed 12/31/14):
 - a. REGULAR MEETING HELD 12/22/14
 - b. WORK SESSION HELD 12/22/14

10. REPORTS
(None received at time of preparation of this Agenda)

6b. VOTE ON ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

11. OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC FOR ANY MATTER, PER N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (a)
(Subject to 5-minute limit per By-Laws General Rule No.11)

Quentin Wiest wished Councilman Glidden the best as his term of Mayor begins and said he would do a great job for the citizens of Closter. He also recognized Mayor Heymann on her last meeting as Mayor and said it was a privilege to work with her for a few years.

12. ANY OTHER MATTER WHICH MAY COME BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY

- a. PARTING WORDS FROM MAYOR SOPHIE HEYMANN

“To quote Shakespeare: “parting is such sweet sorrow....”

It has been an eventful and rewarding eight years. Eight years as captain of an unsinkable ship, sailing through friendly waters, a community of residents who consistently support one another, crewed by an outstanding staff and supervised by an attentive admiralty – our Borough Council.

So let me begin by giving heartfelt thanks, first to the Council, which supported most of my endeavors, and to the staff which invariably went beyond the call of duty when the occasion called for it, so that the Borough’s business was taken care of efficiently and our residents were unfailingly treated with courtesy. I also owe many thanks to our Borough professionals whose wise and timely advice I depended upon, and who never let me down.

And Closter could not be the wonderful town that it is without our very man dedicated volunteers who provide us with safety, recreational opportunities care for our disadvantaged and help in keeping Closter a Green and thriving community.

Together, over the last eight years, we have accomplished much. We have improved our open spaces: bridges over several streams, trails across Closter, draining and renewing Ruckman Pond, enhancing MacBain Farm, a unique Closter treasure, developing Buzzoni Park, Hagen Park and Farrell Woods, new trails in the nature center and security for Mark, our teacher par excellence, we've improved our parks with new and renewed children's playgrounds, walking tracks, improved tennis courts and added a bocce court and a roller rink, new bleachers, new bathrooms and new lighting, as well as lightning detectors.

We've built on Closter's 300+ year history: declaring West Street a historic district, with street signs to match, acquiring the Lustron House, planning the renovation of Village School to provide both market rate and affordable housing; and renovating our own Borough Hall. We've also brought that history to Borough Hall, placing photographs of Closter's historic buildings on the stairwell and our vestibule. The Historic Commission has augmented that with our two historic walls in the main floor corridor and in the Council Chamber. Local artists have helped to embellish our building with local scenes: Helga Olsson with Ruckman Pond, Dr. John Pagano with the Closter Horseman and Bill Angresano with our brand new paintings of the playground at Memorial Park and the chicken coops at the Brooks farm. We've provided for those less fortunate with several additions to Spectrum for Living and Vantage house, as well as providing an outstanding food pantry and supporting ever growing coat drives and toy drives at Christmas time. We received annual grants to repair our roads and a special grant to build sidewalks near Tenakill School. Our web site gives complete access to Borough events and we've instituted robo-calls to disseminate emergency and other important information. We've improved waste collection and lowered the cost; and we've done this be remaining fiscally conservative, preventing onerous tax increases by not replacing some retiring employees, having the County cover our dispatch services, sharing services with our neighbors, as for instance senior transportation, gasoline and diesel fuel, and lightning warning devices, and by reconfiguring Borough hall space, having, in one instance, \$200,000 over the last eight years by returning the building department to Borough hall. And throughout these years, my office has been an open door for all our residents, to express their questions, concerns, and sometimes their kudos.

As I said: parting is such sweet sorrow. The sweet is that I will no longer need to spend sleepless nights worrying about whether a particular tree should come down, or how to frame a grant proposal, or how to assure only a positive impact from a proposed ordinance, or replying to a concerned homeowner whose street has not yet been cleared of snow, or leaves, or brush, depending on the season. The sorrow is that I will not be able to shepherd some of my dreams to fruition: And so, I am asking the 2015 Mayor and council to pursue the unfinished tasks:

Uppermost among the items I am leaving unfinished is the rezoning of some parts of Closter's business and industrial districts. The apparent reluctance to remediate conditions that are so deleterious to our business community as well as to residences devalued because of the encroachment of illegal occupancies is a blot on Closter and a serious loss of rateables. I urge the incoming administration to follow the recommendations of our planner as quickly as possible, and make good on the promises I made some twelve years ago.

Needless to say, I am disappointed that the renovation of our borough hall has not been completed within my term of office. I trust that our new Mayor and Council will continue the improvements with a more appropriate Lewis Street entrance to the building and a new HVAC system that will create a more comfortable workplace for our staff, as well as save operating costs. And I hope that the newly acquired Lustron building will become a true landmark for Closter, with a caretaker-docent-restorer.

As to Closter Plaza, after five years of hard work by the Planning board, we did get all our ducks in a row, and are only waiting for Edens, the developer, to finalize the process. I hope that like, most of Closter, I will get to celebrate a ribbon cutting in front of Whole Foods.

Though much improved, our Borough communication systems still need work. We need to be able to reach all our residents equally through the web, and we need to enhance the information on our site. We must assure, as well, that our staff is consistently and timely aware of all the happenings in our municipality.

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And then there are the dreams I could not fulfill: Our trail building petered out some years ago, and there are several that would enhance our Borough's liveability. I urge the Environmental Commission to pick up where it left off, and add to our walking trails.

Finally, my most cherished dream: A jitney system for the Northern Valley which could provide more independence for both oldsters and youngsters. Somehow, we need to find funds to make our town more liveable for seniors who wish to age in place and for teens who what to engage in sports or get together with friends without depending on their parents.

And so, I welcome our new Mayor and our Council, knowing that Closter is in good hands and that they will work to make my and all our residents dreams come true."

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Sine Die Meeting at 7:28 p.m. was made by Councilman Kashwick, seconded by Councilman Glidden and declared unanimously carried by Mayor Heymann.

Provided to the Mayor and Council on
January 8, 2015 for approval at the
Regular Meeting to be held
January 14, 2015

Loretta Castano, RMC
Borough Clerk

Prepared by Carol A. Kroepke, RMC
utilizing recording and Borough Clerk's
notes

Approved at the Regular Meeting held January 14, 2015
Consent Agenda Item No. 12a