



**BOROUGH OF ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

MINUTES OF THE CAUCUS MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

DATE: November 12, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

Council President Favaro presided the meeting due to Mayor Parisi's absence.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Councilman	Zhi Liang
Councilman	Ramon Ferro
Council President	Joe Favaro
Councilwoman	Gloria Oh
Councilman	Ed Aversa

ALSO PRESENT:

Borough Attorney	E. Carter Corrison
Superintendent DPW	Mark Neville
Borough Engineer	Bernie Mirandi
Auditor	Steve Wielkocz
Municipal Clerk	Lisette M. Duffy

ABSENT:

Mayor	Joseph C. Parisi, Jr.
Councilman	Nunzio Consalvo
Police Chief	Michael Cioffi

MUNICIPAL CLERK STATED:

Adequate notice of this meeting was given to the press and posted as required. Date and time of these meetings was legally given as required by the "Open Public Meetings Act." This notice is on file with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the bulletin board. Minutes of this meeting will be made available to the public upon the completion of typing and proofreading by the Municipal Clerk.

The following resolution was read by the Clerk:

RESOLUTION 14-157

RE: CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to go into closed session during a public meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Englewood Cliffs has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Englewood Cliffs will go into closed session for the following reason as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any pending or anticipated litigation - Tax Appeals

A motion was made by Council President Favaro, seconded by Councilman Aversa, and carried unanimously to go into closed session.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Liang, Ferro, Favaro, Oh, Aversa

On a motion by Council President Favaro, seconded by Councilwoman Oh, and carried unanimously, the Council came out of closed session.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Liang, Ferro, Favaro, Oh, Aversa

PUBLIC PORTION:

On a motion by Councilwoman Oh, seconded by Councilman Aversa and carried unanimously, the meeting was opened to the public for discussion.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Liang, Ferro, Favaro, Oh, Aversa

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FAVARO STATED:

“IF ANYONE WISHES TO COMMENT, THEY MAY DO SO AT THIS TIME.”

No one from the public spoke.

After ample opportunity had been given for public discussion, Councilwoman Oh moved the public portion be closed. Motion was seconded by Councilman Aversa, and carried unanimously.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Liang, Ferro, Favaro, Oh, Aversa

The Council President discussed the agenda and asked if anyone had any questions on the resolutions.

DPW Superintendent requested approval to get bids for a shed.

Council President Favaro gave approval to obtain bids for DPW shed.

Borough Engineer said that the bids for the Witte Field Basketball Court renovation have been rejected due to high cost.

Steve Wielkotz, auditor, clarified Resolution 168, Resolution 169, and Ordinance 14-12. He spoke about tax appeals and gave the reasons for the emergency appropriations to fund state court judgments. We are trying to control the municipal tax rate. The ordinance funds the emergency resolution. The bond ordinance for the severance pay lessens the impact to homeowners and the municipality.

Carin Geiger, 270 Alfred Street, Englewood Cliffs, NJ spoke from the public and gave her opinion on budgeting the tax appeals in 2015.

Steve Wielkotz responded to the resident's concerns.

The Council President asked if everyone reviewed the items offered for tonight's meeting. No one on the Council had additional questions; therefore the following items were placed on Regular Agenda for approval:

CORRESPONDENCE: Steven Muhlstock, Esq

MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS WERE PLACED ON THE REGULAR AGENDA FOR APPROVAL:

Caucus Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2014
Regular Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2014

THE DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS for October 2014 WERE PLACED ON THE REGULAR AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

THE FOLLOWING VOUCHERS WERE SIGNED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR PAYMENT – CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD
October 7, 2014 through November 12, 2014

CAUCUS REVIEW & DISCUSSION on the Following:

RESOLUTIONS 2014:

Consent Agenda

- 158 - Tax Appeal Alps LLC 120 Sylvan Ave
- 159 – Tax Appeal Choi 37 New Street
- 160 - Tax Appeal Bedrock 720 Palisade Ave
- 161 – Tax Appeal TAG Sylvan Corp at 910-920 Sylvan Ave
- 162 – Tax Appeal Unilever McNerney 700 Sylvan Ave
- 163 – Tax Appeal 51 N. Virginia Court (September Correspondence)
- 164 – Capital Budget Amendment
- 165 – Authorization to Award Bid to CrossMatch Technologies and the Mayor to Sign the Agreement
- 166 – Rejection of Bids for the Improvement of Witte Field Basketball Court
- 167 – Retirement of Joseph Iannaconi, Jr.

- 168 – Application LFB Bond Ordinance
- 169 – Emergency Resolution to Fund Tax Court Judgments
- 170 – Authorization to Award Bid to SavATree and the Mayor to Sign the Agreement

ORDINANCES 2014: Introduction Public Hearing on December 10, 2014

- 14-12 Refunding Bond Ordinance
- 14-13 Authorize Special Emergency Appropriation for Accrued Severance Liabilities
- 14-14 Amend and Supplement Building and Housing Section 9-17.4 Certificate of Continued Occupancy
- 14-15 Amend Salary Ordinance for Fire Inspector - Annual Salary

THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT STATED:

“IF THERE WAS ANY UNFINISHED BUSINESS or NEW BUSINESS AT THIS TIME”

UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS:

Best Practices 2014 - Everyone reviewed the 2014 Best Practices information.

Shade Tree Commission – Yvonne Favaro spoke about the Emerald Ash beetle that has arrived from China that attacks ash trees exclusively. The tree dies from the bottom up causing the tree to fall down. This is a hazardous situation and she recommends that the ash trees be removed before they die. The budget will need to be expanded to include the cost to remove approximately 50 ash trees. Even treated trees can succumb.

Council President Favaro recommended that residents should be notified on how to identify the ash tree and look for signs of infestation.

Borough Clerk suggested that we put a picture of the ash tree leaf on the Borough facebook page to inform residents that if anyone has a tree with that type of leaf, to contact the Borough.

DPW Superintendent suggested that we could notify residents by placing the information in the recycling flyer that will be mailed next month.

Seeing and hearing none, on a motion by Councilman Aversa, seconded by Councilman Liang, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

ALL IN FAVOR:

AYES: Liang, Ferro, Favaro, Oh, Aversa

Respectfully submitted by Lisette M. Duffy, RMC Borough Clerk

ATTEST:



Lisette M. Duffy, RMC Borough Clerk