

M I N U T E S
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Monday, March 29, 2010
7:00 P.M.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER -

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall.

SILENT PRAYER - FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Watkins called for a moment of silent prayer and asked Councilman Porco to lead the salute to the flag.

STATEMENT -

Mayor Watkins read the statement under the Sunshine Law and asked the Clerk to put it into the minutes. "Adequate Notice of this meeting has been made by sending notice on March 19, 2010 to THE RECORD and THE RIDGEWOOD NEWSPAPER, by positioning on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Borough Hall, and filing a Notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk".

ROLL CALL - Councilwoman Walker, Councilwoman Rush, Councilman Porco, Councilman Smith, Councilman Cannon, Councilman Cordts and Mayor Watkins were present.

ORDINANCES - 1st Reading

Denise Dondiego, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #1694 as follows:

Ordinance #1694 - AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2010

Motion by Councilwoman Rush, seconded by Councilman Cordts to approve the first reading of Ordinance #1694 as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #1694

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2010

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY2010 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$366,396.97 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring that, in the CY2010 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of River Edge shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increase by 3.5% amounting to \$366,396.97 and that the CY2010 municipal budget for the borough of River Edge be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced by filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days on introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Margaret Falahee Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Denise Dondiego, Borough Clerk
Dated:

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Walker, Councilwoman Rush, Councilman Porco, Councilman Smith, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

Motion by Councilman Cannon, seconded by Councilman Cordts to approve resolution #10-133 through #10-144.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Walker, Councilwoman Rush, Councilman Porco, Councilman Smith, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

#10-133 Introduce 2010 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the Local Municipal Budget of the Borough of River Edge, Bergen County, New Jersey for the fiscal year 2010 be approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, and the Clerk be and she is hereby instructed to advertise it in THE RECORD and THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS on April 23, 2010 and that a final public hearing before passage will be held on May 3, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and that said budget shall authorize total general appropriations of \$13,976,031.91 and the anticipated revenues of \$3,498,101.91 leaving an amount to be raised by taxes for municipal purposes of \$10,477,930.00.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

#10-134 Authorize Increase in Deferral of School Taxes

WHEREAS, under the provisions of statute the unpaid portion of the year of levy of school tax may be deferred to the extent of not more than 50% of the levy; and

WHEREAS, the annual increase in deferred school tax results in a corresponding increase in surplus; and

WHEREAS, the Local River Edge School Tax Deferred at 1/1/09 was \$6,168,185.36 and at 12/31/09 was \$6,293,654.00; and

WHEREAS, the River Dell School Tax Deferred at 1/1/09 was \$6,382,285.20 and at 12/31/09 was \$6,696,116.42.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge do hereby confirm their desire to increase the deferral of the Local River Edge and River Dell School taxes.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

#10-134 Authorize Increase in Deferral of School Taxes

WHEREAS, under the provisions of statute the unpaid portion of the year of levy of school tax may be deferred to the extent of not more than 50% of the levy; and

WHEREAS, the annual increase in deferred school tax results in a corresponding increase in surplus; and

WHEREAS, the Local River Edge School Tax Deferred at 1/1/09 was \$6,168,185.36 and at 12/31/09 was \$6,293,654.00; and

WHEREAS, the River Dell School Tax Deferred at 1/1/09 was \$6,382,285.20

and at 12/31/09 was \$6,696,116.42.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge do hereby confirm their desire to increase the deferral of the Local River Edge and River Dell School taxes.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

#10-135 Introduce Capital Budget 2010 and Capital Plan for 2010-2015

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Capital Budget for 2010 and the Capital Plan for 2010-2015 are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Capital Budget and Plan be published as part of the Municipal Budget for 2010 in the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on April 23, 2010.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

#10-136 Include Item of Revenue in 2010 Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge desires to anticipate as an item of General Revenue in the 2010 budget with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Reserve for Sale of Assets.....\$15,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of General Revenue in the 2010 budget under the following caption:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior
Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Reserve for Sale of Assets.....\$15,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

#10-137 Include Item of Revenue in 2010 Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge desires to anticipate as an item of General Revenue in the 2010 budget with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Police Outside Duty \$41,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of General Revenue in the 2010 budget under the following caption:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior
Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Police Outside Duty \$41,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

#10-138 Include Item of Revenue in 2010 Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge desires to anticipate as an item of General Revenue in the 2010 budget with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Parking Lot Fees.....\$21,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River

Edge, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of General Revenue in the 2010 budget under the following caption:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior
Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Parking Lot Fees.....\$21,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

#10-139 Include Item of Revenue in 2010 Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge desires to anticipate as an item of General Revenue in the 2010 budget with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

County of Bergen Interlocal Snow Removal.....\$17,280.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of General Revenue in the 2010 budget under the following caption:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior
Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

County of Bergen Interlocal Snow Removal.....\$17,280.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

#10-140 Resolution of the Borough of River Edge Making Application to the Local Finance Board Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge in the County of Bergen desires to make application to the Local Finance Board for its approval of a proposed budget cap waiver pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:4-45.3; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council believe that:

- (a) it is in the public interest to accomplish such purpose; and
- (b) the cap waiver is for the health, wealth, convenience or betterment of the inhabitants of the Borough of River Edge; and
- (c) the proposal is an efficient and feasible means of providing services for the needs of the inhabitants of the Borough of River Edge and will not create an undue financial burden to be placed upon the Borough of River Edge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

Section 1. The application to the Local Finance Board is hereby approved, and the Chief Financial Officer, along with other representatives of the Borough of River Edge are hereby authorized to prepare such application and to represent the Borough of River Edge in matters pertaining thereto.

Section 2. The Municipal Clerk of the Borough of River Edge is hereby directed to file a copy of the proposed cap waiver with the Local Finance Board as part of such application.

Section 3. The Local Finance Board is hereby respectfully requested to consider such application and to record its findings, recommendations and/or approvals as provided by the applicable New Jersey Statute.

March 29, 2010 - Special Meeting

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Rush to open

hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Walker, Councilwoman Rush, Councilman Porco, Councilman Smith, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

There being no comments by the public, motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Cordts to close hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Walker, Councilwoman Rush, Councilman Porco, Councilman Smith, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS -

Councilman Smith-informed the Council that he will be putting the report he received from the Department of Public Works in their mailboxes. He stated that he was very pleased with the cooperation from all of the departments, unions and personnel during this difficult budget season. He further stated that although the Council members didn't always agree, they worked very hard and made difficult decisions to come up with this budget.

Councilman Cannon-thanked Alan, Denise, Judy and Adriana for their hard work. He also was pleased that the Council worked together to make tough choices but looks forward to moving forward in the future.

Councilman Cordts-stated that the Library can possibly use the \$19,000 in the future for upgrades for rugs and chairs. He also stated that as a newcomer to the Council, he is happy to have made it through his first budget season.

Councilwoman Walker-thanked Alan for all of his hard work and acknowledged that this budget season was a tough one and understands that any increase will be difficult on us as a town.

Councilwoman Rush-echoed what everyone has said and stated that of the eight budget seasons that she's gone through, this was the most difficult budget. She is confident that they've done the best that they can do and thanked the department heads and municipal workers for helping them out and working together to make this work.

Councilman Porco-thanked the Shade Tree Commission volunteers have been going around town and keeping tabs on the trees. Councilman Porco also acknowledged the difficult choices that had to be made during this budget season and hopes they made the right decisions to try and keep the quality of services in town.

Mayor Watkins-thanked Alan, Denise and Adriana for their hard work and stated that although there have been many cuts, she feels that its important to maintain the health, safety and welfare of our residents. The Mayor feels that they've worked very hard to keep things low but also stated that they need to be very conscious of the school budget because if it is voted down, it will fall back to the Council to make recommendations. She continued by saying that the whole process was frustrating at times because the Council was very limited on what they could do. The Mayor thanked the Council and all of the Borough departments for their cooperation.

ADJOURNMENT - 7:15 P.M.

Motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Walker to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Walker, Councilwoman Rush, Councilman Porco, Councilman Smith, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

Mayor Margaret Falahee Watkins

Attest:

Denise A. Dondiego, Borough Clerk

Dated: