

M I N U T E S  
Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
Monday, March 7, 2011  
8:00 P.M.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER -

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 Mignone 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 December 24, 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 - Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Cannon, Councilman Cordts and Mayor Watkins were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - By Consent

Motion by Councilman Cannon, seconded by Councilman Porco to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council work session and regular meeting of February 22, 2011.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes, Councilman Mignone abstained.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Cannon to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council work session meeting of February 28, 2011.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes, Councilman Mignone abstained.

PROCLAMATION & AWARDS -

Mayor Watkins read the Proclamation Declaring the Month of March as The Woman's Club of River Edge, Inc. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration into the record as follows:

*PROCLAMATION*

*WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC was organized November 16, 1894 and has continued to exist as one of the largest and oldest nondenominational service organizations of volunteer women in the State of New Jersey, with more than 10,000 members in 275 local clubs; and*

*WHEREAS, members of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC have worked in their communities to assist in activities such as founding New Jersey College for Woman (Douglas College); Preserving the Palisades; Saving the New Jersey Highlands; supporting The Community Food Bank of New Jersey; providing annual funding for Special Olympics, Operation Smile, CARE, and UNICEF.*

*WHEREAS, the Woman's Club of River Edge, Inc., a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC is celebrating 75 years in the Federation, serving this community through scholarships for our High School; as well as our Library, Police and Fire Departments, Ambulance Corp, Girl and Boy Scouts, 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities and River Edge Day; and*

*WHEREAS, the Woman's Club of River Edge, Inc. a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs continues to provide its members with opportunities*

to grow in knowledge, share compassion for others, and through various projects provide necessities and enjoyment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, I, Margaret Falahee Watkins, Mayor of the Borough of River Edge and on behalf of the Council do proclaim:

*The Month of March  
The Woman's Club of River Edge, Inc.  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

in recognition of the many hours of service to this community and others.

*Mayor Margaret Falahee Watkins*

Dated: March 7, 2011

The Mayor presented the proclamation to Marge Garofalo, Barbara Christensen, June Maher and Rosemary Boylan.

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APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES

Motion by Council Porco, seconded by Councilman Cannon to approve the hire of Mary Sheehy, 870 Park Avenue as a School Crossing Guard, at the rate of \$16.67 per hour, effective starting date contingent upon training and medical examination.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve the retirement of Patricia Henry, School Crossing Guard, effective March 1, 2011.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Letter	-	Cablevision - 2/23/11 Re: Launch of Neo Cricket & South Asian Package
Letter	-	State of NJ - DEP - 2/24/11 Re: Compliance Inspection
Notice	-	River Edge Board of Education - 2/24/11 Re: Meeting on March 2, 2011
Letter	-	NJ League of Municipalities - 2/24/11 Re: Congratulations to Mayor for Induction into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame
Notice	-	PSE&G - 2/25/11 Re: Long Term Capacity Agreement Pilot Prog.
Letter	-	JM Sorge, Inc. - 2/25/11 Re: Receptor Evaluation-5 New Bridge Road
Notice	-	River Edge Board of Education - 3/2/11 Re: Meeting - March 9, 2011
Letter	-	Excel Environmental Resources - 3/2/11 Re: Receptor Evaluation-Huffman Koos Property

MONTHLY REPORTS -

Shade Tree Commission	-	January 20, 2011
Zoning Board of Adjustment	-	December 8, 2010
Beautification Committee	-	February 10, 2011
Building Department	-	February 2011
Police Department	-	January 2011

ORDINANCES - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - NONE

ORDINANCES - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - NONE

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to approve resolution #11-103 through #11-106 and resolution #11-108 through #11-115 and #11-117.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

#11-103 Acknowledge Receipt of Certification of Request for Emergency Purchases - Sewer Main Break at Elm, Oak and Continental Avenue

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works and Borough Engineer have certified that an emergency condition exists in the Department of Public Works Buildings and Grounds due to a sewer main break at Elm, Oak and Continental Avenue; and

WHEREAS, this condition constitutes an emergency affecting the public health, safety and welfare of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby confirm and acknowledge the receipt of Certification of Request for Emergency Purchases for this emergency.

March 7, 2011

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#11-104 Amend Agreement with Environmental Resolutions, Inc., 525 Fellowship Road, Suite 300, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, 08054-3415 for Services Relating to the Environmental Investigation and Building Demolition for the Bogert Road Pocket Park

WHEREAS, there exists a need for expert engineering services related to the environmental investigation and building demolition for the Bogert Road Pocket Park; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has previously awarded a contract to Environmental Resolutions, Inc. via resolution #10-274 dated July 6, 2010 in the amount not to exceed \$2,800.00 and amended via resolution #10-447 dated December 20, 2010 in the amount of \$1,800.00; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is required for extra work for ten (10) additional samples for asbestos abatement quotes, inspection and laboratory analysis in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Resolutions, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Environmental Resolutions, Inc. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Environmental Resolutions, Inc. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed this matter at a work session on February 22, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1652-100 of the Current Account not to exceed \$2,000.00 and

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Environmental Resolutions, Inc., 525 Fellowship Road, Suite 300, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey 08054-3415.
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.

March 7, 2011

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#11-105 Rescind Resolution #11-90 Authorizing Alan Spiniello, Esq., to Enter Into a Stipulation of Settlement with Van Buren Apartments, LLC, Block 619, Lot 2

WHEREAS, the Governing Body passed resolution #11-90 dated February 22, 2011 authorizing Alan Spiniello, Esq. to enter into a stipulation of settlement with Van Buren Apartments, LLC for a total assessment for 2010 of \$2,250,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the total assessment on resolution #11-90 was incorrect; and

WHEREAS, the correct assessment amount for Van Buren Apartments, LLC for 2010 is \$2,520,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that resolution #11-90 is hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to change her records accordingly and to send a copy of this resolution to Alan Spiniello, Esq. and James Anzevino, Tax Assessor.

March 7, 2011

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#11-106 Emergency Temporary Budget

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-19 provides that (where any contract, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2011 budget) temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolution adopted in the year 2011 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$1,659,998.08.

WHEREAS, the line items and appropriation amounts listed below have been included in the budget as approved on introduction and will be included in the budget as finally adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with N.J.S. 40:4-2:

1. An emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made for:

TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION - 2011

<u>General Appropriation</u>	<u>Operations Within CAPS</u>	<u>Operations Excluded CAPS</u>
General Administration		
Salaries & Wages 20-1001	\$ 10,000.00	
Other Expenses 20-1002	\$ 2,000.00	
Mayor & Council		
Salaries & Wages 20-1101	\$ 2,500.00	
Other Expenses 20-1102	\$ 1,885.00	
Municipal Clerk		
Salaries & Wages 20-1201	\$ 21,000.00	
Other Expenses 20-1202	\$ 5,000.00	
Insurance		
Liability 23-2102	\$ 50,000.00	
Revenue Administration		
Salaries & Wages 20-1451	\$ 6,000.00	
Other Expenses 20-1452	\$ 500.00	
Financial Administration		
Salaries & Wages 20-1301	\$ 40,000.00	
Other Expenses 20-1302	\$ 10,000.00	
Planning Board		
Salaries & Wages 21-1801	\$ 800.00	
Engineering Services		

Other Expenses 20-1652	\$	20,000.00	
Legal Services			
Salaries & Wages 20-1551	\$	700.00	
Other Expenses 20-1552	\$	20,000.00	
Public Buildings & Grounds			
Salaries & Wages 26-3101	\$	1,000.00	
Vehicle Maintenance			
Salaries & Wages 26-3151	\$	22,000.00	
Other Expenses 26-3152	\$	12,000.00	
Construction Official			
Salaries & Wages 22-1951	\$	5,000.00	
Other Expenses 22-1952	\$	500.00	
Other Code Enforcement			
Salaries & Wages 22-2001	\$	2,000.00	
Uniform Fire Safety			
Salaries & Wages 25-2651	\$	2,000.00	
Office of Emergency Management			
Salaries & Wages 25-2521	\$	500.00	
Public Works			
Repair & Maintenance			
Other Expenses 26-2902	\$	45,000.00	
Sewer System			
Salaries & Wages 31-4551	\$	1,000.00	
Public Health Services			
Other Expenses 27-3302	\$	5,000.00	
Administration of Social Services			
Salaries & Wages 27-3451	\$	1,000.00	
Animal Welfare			
Other Expenses 27-3402	\$	3,304.14	
Recycling			
Salaries & Wages 26-3051	\$	25,000.00	
Recreation Commission			
Salaries & Wages 28-3701	\$	5,000.00	
Maintenance of Parks			
Salaries & Wages 28-3751-011	\$	16,000.00	
Maintenance of Free Public Library			
Salaries & Wages 29-3901			\$ 9,000.00
Utilities			
Petroleum 31-4472	\$	25,000.00	
Electricity 31-4482	\$	25,000.00	
Telephone & Telegraph 31-4402	\$	5,000.00	
Fire Hydrant 31-4452	\$	10,000.00	
Water 31-4462	\$	1,500.00	
Municipal Court			
Salaries & Wages 43-4901	\$	13,000.00	
Other Expenses 43-4902	\$	1,000.00	
Hackensack/Paramus Sewer			
Other Expenses 31-4553			\$ 35,000.00
Social Security System			
Other Expenses 36-4722	\$	15,000.00	
Police Communications			
Other Expenses 25-2502			\$ 5,000.00
Audit Services			
Other Expenses 20-1352-166	\$	23,000.00	
Bus			
Salaries & Wages 27-3311	\$	5,000.00	

Public Employees Retirement System Other Expenses 36-4712-011		\$342,667.00
Police & Fire Retirement Systems Other Expenses 36-4753-100		\$683,588.00
Maintenance/Public Library Electricity 31-4302-174		\$ 2,500.00
Maintenance/Public Library Telephone 31-4403-076		\$ 100.00
Consolidated Police & Fire Other Expenses 36-4742	\$ 12,512.00	
Maintenance/Public Library Gas 31-4463		\$ 800.00
Public Defender Other Expenses 43-4952	\$ 1,500.00	
Interest on Bonds 45-9302		\$ 43,000.00
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust 45-9452		\$ 3,026.94
Total Operations Including Contingent Within "CAPS"	\$ 474,201.14	
Total Other Operations Excluded from "CAPS"		\$1,124,681.94
Total Temporary General Appropriations	\$1,598,883.08	

March 7, 2011

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Motion by Councilman Porco, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve resolution #11-107.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone and Councilman Cordts voted yes, Councilman Moscaritolo and Councilman Cannon voted no.

#11-107 Rescind Bergen County Open Space Enabling Resolution #10-344

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge passed Bergen County Open Space Enabling Resolution #10-344 dated September 20, 2010 for the assistance in the development or redevelopment of municipal recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this enabling resolution was to obtain a \$46,000.00 matching grant from the County Trust Fund to fund the following project: Cherry Blossom Community Park; and

WHEREAS, due to the prevailing economic conditions, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge has decided not to match the grant request from its Operating, Capital or Municipal Open Space Funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that resolution #10-344 is hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to change her records accordingly and to send a copy of this resolution to the Bergen County Department of Planning & Economic Development.

March 7, 2011

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#11-108 Authorize Alan P. Spiniello, Esq. to Enter Into a Stipulation of Settlement with Ernesto & Maria Cadiz v. Borough of River Edge, 888 Summit Avenue, Block 206, Lot 1

WHEREAS, Alan P. Spiniello, Esq., 45 Essex Street, Hackensack, New Jersey will handle the litigation of Ernesto & Maria Cadiz v. Borough of River

Edge, 888 Summit Avenue, Block 206, Lot 1; and

WHEREAS, Alan Spiniello, Esq. has recommended stipulation in the above stated matters; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have considered these recommendations at their work session of March 7, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge hereby authorize Alan Spiniello, Esq. to enter into a Stipulation of Settlement with an assessed value for 2009, \$650,000.00, \$625,000.00 for calendar year 2010 and \$605,000.00 for calendar year 2011 for Block 206, Lot 1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to forward a copy of this resolution to James Anzevino, the Borough's Tax Assessor and Alan Spiniello, Esq.

March 7, 2011

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#11-109 Approve Licenses for Newsracks and Newspaper Vending Machines

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4-21, Chapter 292 of the Code of the Borough of River Edge entitled "Newsracks and Newspaper Vending Machines", it is unlawful to erect, place, maintain or operate a newsrack or newspaper vending machine without a license; and

WHEREAS, the following named newspapers have applied for such a license and submitted the proper fee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby approve the issuance of a license to the following newspaper vending machines in various locations within the Borough of River Edge:

New York Post, P.O. Box 67, River Edge, NJ 07661 (1)  
USA Today, 92 E Main St. STE 202 Somerville, N.J. 08876-2319 (1)  
The Record, North Jersey Media, 150 River Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601 (2)  
New York Daily News, 125 Theodore Conrad Dr., Jersey City, NJ 07305 (1)  
Wall Street Journal, P.O. Box 300, Princeton, NJ 08543 (1)  
Star Ledger, One Star Ledger Plaza, Newark, NJ 07102 (1)

March 7, 2011

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#11-110 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain enumerated circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the public shall be excluded from the March 7, 2011 meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session</u> <u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Reference</u>
11-3/7-1	Personnel - PBA/SOA Negotiations	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(4)
11-3/7-2	Personnel - DPW Negotiations	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(4)
11-3/7-3	Personnel - Salaries & Wages - Non-Contractual	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)

2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public within a reasonable time, the substance of which will be released after the Mayor and Council or the specific authorized public body has reviewed and specifically accepted the data.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

March 7, 2011

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#11-111 Authorize the Computation of the Percentage for the Reserve for  
Uncollected Taxes Pursuant to Public Laws of 1997, Chapter 28

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has experienced a significant number of tax appeal judgments awarded to property owners from action of the County Tax Board or the State Tax Court; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-41(c)(1), which permits the tax collection rate used to compute the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes to be based on the average of the collection rate for the previous three years; and

WHEREAS, it is desirous of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge to compute the 2011 Reserve for Uncollected Taxes based upon the average collection rate for the previous three years; and

WHEREAS, the tax collection rate for 2010 was 98.79%, 2009 was 99% and 2008 was 99.03% amounting to a three year average of 98.94%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the 2011 Reserve for Uncollected Taxes be based upon the three year tax collection rate average of 98.94%.

March 7, 2011

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#11-112 Authorize Alan P. Spiniello, Esq. to Enter Into a Stipulation of  
Settlement with Van Buren Apartments, LLC, Block 619, Lot 2

WHEREAS, Alan P. Spiniello, Esq., 45 Essex Street, Hackensack, New Jersey will handle the litigation of Van Buren Apartments, LLC v. Borough of River Edge, Block 619, Lot 2; and

WHEREAS, Alan Spiniello, Esq. has recommended stipulation in the above stated matters; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have considered these recommendations at their work session of February 22, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge hereby authorize Alan Spiniello, Esq. to enter into a Stipulation of Settlement with a total assessment of \$2,520,000.00 for calendar year 2010 for Block 619, Lot 2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to forward a copy of this resolution to James Anzevino, the Borough's Tax Assessor and Alan Spiniello, Esq.

March 7, 2011

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#11-113 Enter Into Agreement with Let It Grow, 52 Ackerson Street, River Edge,  
New Jersey, 07661 for Leaf, Grass and Yard Waste Recycling

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has included the collection of leaf, grass and yard waste as part of its recycling program in an effort to reduce solid waste; and

WHEREAS, Let It Grow, 52 Ackerson Street, River Edge, New Jersey has agreed to enter into a contract with the Borough of River Edge for the disposal of compost; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. Section 40A:11-5(1)(s) and N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 permits the awarding of a contract without competitive bidding for the marketing of recyclables; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney and Superintendent of Public Works have prepared a contract containing the approved terms and conditions of the sale; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed this matter at a work session on March 7, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with Let It Grow, 52 Ackerson Street, River Edge, New Jersey 07661.

March 21, 2011

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WHEREAS, each bill has been checked by the receiving department, approved by the Chief Financial Officer and Borough Clerk and reviewed by the three members of the Finance Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that bills as listed now be confirmed for payment from the appropriate funds as follows:

CURRENT ACCOUNT TOTAL	\$415,012.32
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 3,775.00
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 1,055.00
ANIMAL WELFARE	\$ 28.20
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 200.00
OPEN SPACE ACCOUNT	\$ 345.00
TRUST OTHER DEVELOPERS ACCOUNT	\$ 495.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that claims read and approved by the Governing Body at a Council meeting will be dated the day after the reading of those claims and will appear on the following bill list at the next public meeting of the Mayor and Council at which time claims would be paid.

March 7, 2011

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#11-117 Authorize Refund from Recreation Dedicated Account

WHEREAS, ten (10) residents had signed up for the Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip which was cancelled due to poor attendance; and

WHEREAS, one (1) resident had signed up for the Atlantic City Bus Trip and could not attend; and

WHEREAS, they had paid in full for both bus trips.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that refunds will be made to the following:

Mary Baker 264 Valley Road River Edge, New Jersey	\$30.00 Atlantic City Casino Bus Trip Cannot attend
Marianne Duggan 83 Kenwood Road River Edge New Jersey 07661	\$100 (2 people) Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip Cancelled
Joan Greenspan 140 Voorhis Avenue River Edge New Jersey 07661	\$100 (2 people) Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip Cancelled
Alice Scott 179 Dorchester Road River Edge New Jersey 07661	\$100 (2 people) Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip Cancelled
Mary Miller 430 Elizabeth Street New Milford, New Jersey 07646	\$100 (2 people) Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip Cancelled
Valeska Lau 407 Elm Avenue River Edge New Jersey 07661	\$50 Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip Cancelled
Mary Churley 172 Mohawk Drive River Edge New Jersey 07661	\$50 Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip Cancelled

BE IT RESOLVED that a total of \$530.00 be refunded from the Recreation Dedicated Account to the above listed residents.

March 7, 2011

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Mayor Watkins read the commendation that the Veterans of Foreign Wars received from the National Federation as follows:

*Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States  
Diamond Jubilee Award*

*Presented to*

*Caldroney-Klaiber-Frost Post 876  
River Edge, New Jersey  
Mustered 1-16-36*

*In special commemoration and grateful recognition of its seventy-five years of exceptional service to the nation and its veterans throughout its seven and one-half decades of dedicated support for the programs and purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.*

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OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilman Cannon to open hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

Kathleen Murphy-741 Williams Avenue-made reference to the resolution entering into the agreement with Let It Grow and asked how much will that cost?  
Alan Negreann-explained that this agreement will allow the Borough to sell compost to Let It Grow and in turn that money will go into the recycling trust fund to offset the cost of doing the recycling.  
Kathleen Murphy-asked why the Borough put a resolution on to rescind the \$46,000.00 Open Space Grant.  
Mayor Watkins-explained that in order to accept the grant, you have to have the money to match it and the Borough doesn't have the money in the budget.  
Kathleen Murphy-asked where this leaves the project?  
Mayor Watkins-stated that the project is on hold.  
Thomas Campagna-223 Berkeley-stated that he understands that the town didn't send recycling calendars out this year due to budgetary constraints and offered to volunteer his time and print out calendars from his personal computer for the senior citizens.  
Mayor Watkins-thanked Mr. Campagna and stated that we do have copies of the calendars in the Library and some at Borough Hall for anyone who wants them.  
Denise Dondiego, Borough Clerk-also stated that the Clerk's office has been mailing calendars to senior citizens who have called and requested them.  
Tom Smith-288 Manning Avenue-stated that he's noticed that there doesn't seem to be a recycling program at certain restaurants and stores in town. He continued by saying that a few years ago Lisa from the DPW was trained to actually go out and take a look at business establishments, apartments, etc. to make sure they were in compliance with recycling. He asked for an update as to whether anyone at DPW is doing this.  
Mayor Watkins-stated that she didn't think so.  
Alan Negreann-stated that it's in the plans but we haven't made it a reality yet.  
Tom Smith-stated that just so he understands, they've had the training but haven't implemented it yet.  
Mayor Watkins-replied, yes.  
Ben Weinstein-206 Oak Avenue-commented that when he walks around the apartment areas, he noticed recyclable materials laying around that haven't been picked up and sometimes sees them in the garbage receptacles. He asked if anyone monitors that.  
Mayor Watkins-explained that the apartments are supposed to give us their recycling tonnage but she doesn't know how often they do it. The Mayor stated that she thought that we have someone who checks on that. The Mayor stated that they try to keep on top of it.  
Ben Weinstein-stated that he was told by the DPW that batteries can be put in the garbage and asked if that is correct.  
Councilman Bartelloni-stated that there is a collection container at the Police Station for household batteries and encouraged residents to use it.  
Jim Arakelian-213 Woodland Avenue-stated he is unable to stay and continue discussions regarding Community Development Block Grant, but as the Mayor's appointee he doesn't agree with using the Legion strictly as senior center and would like to see it opened up to other people in town. His recommendation to

the Council is to not take the \$100,000.00 grant and suggests that they look to the County Open Space Trust for money because those funds would be less restrictive.

Hal Campagna-223 Berkeley Road-voiced his concerns that Berkeley Road is becoming a busy thoroughfare for motorists.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to close hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS -

Councilman Bartelloni-thanked SCORE members for coming out and voicing their opinion and concerns. He addressed Kathleen Murphy's comments regarding Open Space and the Pocket Park, and stated that the lot is still being tested for contamination and feels that to allocate funds wouldn't make sense at this point until they find out what the level of contamination is. He informed everyone that the River Dell Education Association is having a community education program and offered the web-site address for people to get more information. Councilman Bartelloni feels that the American Legion building is iconic in this town and when it comes to making any decisions, the Council will not take those decisions lightly. He is disappointed that prior information regarding stipulations for the usage of the building was not accurate and feels that there was a lack of diligence on the part of prior Councils. Councilman Bartelloni feels that before they purchased the Legion they didn't fully investigate how the building could be used and now this Council is left to make difficult decisions. He stated that originally they thought they had received the \$100,000 grant and now they find out now that they hadn't. They also weren't told that they have to add a deed restriction in order to get the \$100,000 and he keeps hearing how we should move forward in hopes of getting more grant money. He continued by stating that they all received an e-mails that the House of Representatives slashed this program by 67% and feels that it would be foolish to plan on receiving this funding at the current level when the House of Representatives and the President are looking to slash it. Councilman Bartelloni stated that even if we did receive \$300,000 he doesn't feel that it would cover a complete renovation to get the building up and running. He believes that this building, as it currently stands, does not meet the needs of the public. He continued by saying that this building can accommodate 100 people and he has been told that the over 65 population continues to grow and if that is the case, we won't be able to fit one tenth of those people into the building as it currently stands. Councilman Bartelloni feels that it is foolish to go forward with the building in its current state because he doesn't believe it meets our needs today or in the future. He feels that this Council needs to plan for a community center that provides for our seniors, our Recreation Department and Cultural Center to meet future needs.

Councilman Moscaritolo-informed everyone that he attended the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Historic Commission where they reviewed the Historic Preservation ordinance and discussed the Bogert Road Pocket Park and any historic significance the property might have. He explained other topics that were discussed and feels that it was a very productive meeting and looks forward to future meetings. Councilman Moscaritolo stated that in his opinion, it seems inconsistent to spend more money on testing at the Pocket Park and at the same time give up the opportunity to obtain \$46,000 in funding. He continued by saying that the \$46,000 was not in our Open Space budget or our operating budget, it was in our capital budget which would have cost pennies on a dollar in order to receive this \$46,000 grant. He stated that it was foolish to rescind the resolution and feels that they should be doing all that they can to obtain grant money so that we can make better use of our facilities and infrastructure instead of letting the property go dormant. Councilman Moscaritolo stated that the Borough Engineer appeared before the Council at the last meeting and gave them the facts. The fact is that the Borough owns the building and needs to take care of the building which currently they are not. Councilman Moscaritolo stated that we have \$100,000 available to us and the majority of the Council wants to give it back. He feels that we should take the \$100,000 and apply for more grants which will enable us to protect the building and give our seniors a home. Councilman Moscaritolo stated that he knows that there are several other towns who have senior citizens buildings that are put to other uses and not used for seniors 100%. He continued by saying that everyone is just speculating on the costs at this point to repair the building and feels that someone should go in and give a detailed analysis. He feels that it would be a mistake to undo what has already been done and suggests that they move forward across partisan lines and get these things back on the front burner where they need to be.

Councilman Porco-informed everyone that they are still going through the budget process and trying to keep it under control. He continued by saying that there has been a lot of cutting over the years because of the lack of revenues due to the economy and rising costs and they are constantly having to cut to make up that difference. Councilman Porco stated that it's a difficult situation and no

one wants to make these cuts to any department but it is a fact. He continued by saying that the problem with State of New Jersey and River Edge is that they continue on the path of spending money on "nice to haves" instead of only doing what you can afford. He continued by saying that he would be in favor of a senior center if the money was there. He stated that with the large yearly tax increases that we've been having, our houses are decreasing in value and is concerned that no one will want to come in to town with such high taxes. He again stated that we have to stop purchasing things and doing projects that we cannot afford.

Councilman Mignone agreed with the comments made by Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Porco regarding the Legion and Pocket Park. He stated that too often we fall into the mind set that these grants are magic money and they pay for everything and in most cases it only covers a fraction of the total cost. He also agrees that we can't keep spending money that we don't have. On a personal note, Councilman Mignone thanked the members of the Police Department and Ambulance Service for responding to his home twice in one week and stated that he's always had great respect for our emergency services. He thanked them for their compassion and professionalism during a difficult time and feels fortunate that we have such people working on our behalf.

Councilman Cannon welcomed Councilman Mignone back. Councilman Cannon stated that personally, he's glad that we own the American Legion property and feels that we purchased it inexpensively for the size lot that it is. He explained how the property is zoned and stated that someone could have easily purchased the property and put another McMansion up. He understands that there will be debates on what to do with it and hopefully they will be constructive debates. He assured the seniors that they all agree on the goal for the property but they may disagree on how they get there. He again stated that he's glad we own the property because he feels that it will benefit the community for years to come. Councilman Cordts feels that the Legion building is part of River Edge history and doesn't want to see it go and never did. He stated that before he was elected he was in contact with the American Legion, the Hibernians and the former VFW and asked how they could save it because he didn't want to see it go away. He too is glad that the town purchased the property because he also would hate to see someone put house on the property. He explained that his comments in the newspaper were that of someone who is looking forward and feels that if the building does get demolished, it may take a while to get something up there. He feels that its not in the Borough's best interest to keep putting money that we don't have into it. He feels that our senior citizens deserve the best and although it would be sad to see the building go away he feels that our town is at a point that it can't afford to keep certain things up. He explained that his comments in the newspaper made it sound like he wants to take everything down and stated that's not true. He just wants to save the town from getting buried by a tidal wave of taxes which will hit our seniors the hardest. He also stated that although the Council may not always agree, they have to get the Borough back on the right track for the future. He thanked the seniors for coming up and voicing their opinions.

Mayor Watkins was pleased to see so many people in the audience and congratulated the Woman's Club for 75 years of service. The Mayor informed everyone that the Cultural Center had an art show opening for River Dell High School students and will be open on Mondays and Wednesday from 2 to 4. The Mayor also informed everyone that the Water Works Conservancy in Oradell put on a show at the high school yesterday and explained that they are working hard to make that property into a park and historic museum. Mayor Watkins announced that the Mayor and Council will be attending a meeting at Cherry Hill School on Wednesday evening and also reminded everyone of the River Dell Referendum that is coming up on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor stressed the importance of getting out to vote and explained that if the referendum passes, property tax could increase as much as \$1,000 per household. The Mayor explained how the current funding formula is calculated and encouraged everyone to spread the word on this important issue. The Mayor thanked everyone for coming up this evening and announced that there will be a senior prom for our seniors at the high school on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

ADJOURNMENT - 8:50 P.M.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Cannon to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Moscaritolo, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes.

Mayor Margaret Falahee Watkins

Attest:

Denise A. Dondiego, Borough Clerk  
Dated: