

M I N U T E S
Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Monday, May 16, 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 Cannon 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 Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Cannon, Councilman Cordts and Mayor Watkins were present, Councilman Moscaritolo was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - By Consent

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Mignone to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council work session and regular meeting of May 2, 2011.

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

PROCLAMATION & AWARDS - NONE

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Cannon to approve the change in salary of Elizabeth Biggar, Patricia Henry and Mary Sheehy from \$16.67 per hour to \$18.52 per hour to return them to their rate of pay prior to their leave of absence, effective May 17, 2011.

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

Motion by Councilman Mignone, seconded by Councilman Cannon to approve the resignation of Trudy San Jose, Health Department Secretary/Registrar of Vital Statistics, effective June 10, 2011.

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

Motion by Councilman Mignone, seconded by Councilman Cannon to approve the change in salary of Joseph Starost from an annual Patrolman's salary of \$100,479.00 to Sergeant's pay of \$108,518.00 due to performing the duties of a Sergeant per contract, effective May 15, 2011.

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

CORRESPONDENCE -

Letter	-	N.J. Senate-Dr. Gerald Cardinale - 5/2/11
		Re: \$15,905.24 Clean Communities Grant
Letter	-	BCUA - 5/4/11
		Re: Public Hearing-Computation of Connection Fees
Notice	-	River Edge Board of Education - 5/5/11
		Re: Meeting Notice - May 9, 2011
Notice	-	River Edge Board of Education - 5/5/11
		Re: Meeting Notice - May 11, 2011
Letter	-	Patrick Fletcher - May 6, 2011
		Re: Letter of Support for River Edge Budget

Notice - River Edge Board of Education - 5/9/11
 Re: Time Change - Meeting of 5/9/11
 Letter - State of New Jersey - 5/9/11
 Re: Hazardous Discharge Notice
 Letter - Northwest Bergen Central Dispatch - 5/9/11
 Re: 2010 Annual Report
 Letter - Trudy San Jose - 5/10/11
 Re: Letter of Resignation
 Letter - Board of Chosen Freeholders - 5/10/11
 Re: Resolutions passed
 Letter - Bergen County Education Association-5/11/11
 Re: Support of River Edge School Budget
 Letter - Bergen County Utilities Authority - 5/12/11
 Re: Sewer Connection Fee Workshop
 Letter - Master Consulting, P.A. - 5/12/11
 Re: Flood Hazard Area Application

MONTHLY REPORTS -

Police Department - March 2011
 Beautification Committee - April 2011
 Building Department - March 2011
 Tax Collector - March 2011
 Zoning Board of Adjustment - April 2011

ORDINANCES - 1st Reading - NONE

ORDINANCES - 2nd Reading

Denise Dondiego, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #1731 as follows:

Ordinance #1731 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$205,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Ordinance #1731 was introduced by Councilman Porco, seconded by Councilman Cannon at the May 2, 2011 meeting as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #1731

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$205,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") is hereby authorized to make various public improvements and to acquire new additional or replacement equipment and machinery in, by and for said Borough, as more particularly described in Section 4 hereof. Said improvements shall include all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefor.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purposes"), the respective amounts of money hereinafter stated as the appropriation for said respective purposes. Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized and the down payment appropriated by this ordinance. Said improvements shall be made as general improvements and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that the making of such improvements is not a current expense of said Borough.

Section 4. The several purposes hereby authorized for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued are set forth in the following "Schedule of Improvements, Purposes and Amounts" which schedule also shows (1)

the amount of the appropriation and the estimated cost of each such purpose, and (2) the amount of each sum which is to be provided by the down payment hereinafter appropriated to finance such purposes, and (3) the estimated maximum amount of bonds and notes to be issued for each such purpose, and (4) the period of usefulness of each such purpose, according to its reasonable life, computed from the date of said bonds:

SCHEDULE OF IMPROVEMENTS, PURPOSES AND AMOUNTS

A. Replacement of the roof at the Public Library.	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$135,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 6,800
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$128,200
Period of Usefulness	15 years
B. Undertaking of environmental remediation at Bogert Road Pocket Park.	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 60,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 3,000
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 57,000
Period of Usefulness	15 years
C. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery consisting of a thermal imaging camera for the use of the Fire Department.	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 10,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 500
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 9,500
Period of Usefulness	15 years

Aggregate Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$205,000
Aggregate Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 10,300
Aggregate Amount of Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$194,700

Section 5. The cost of such purposes, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$15,000 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purposes, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, as amended; the "Local Bond Law").

Section 6. It is hereby determined and stated that moneys exceeding \$10,300, appropriated for down payments on capital improvements or for the capital improvement fund in budgets heretofore adopted for said Borough, are now available to finance said purposes. The sum of \$10,300 is hereby appropriated from such moneys to the payment of the cost of said purposes.

Section 7. To finance said purposes, bonds of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$194,700 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 8. To finance said purposes, bond anticipation notes of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$194,700 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, to not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 9. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Mayor and by a financial officer and shall be under the seal of said Borough and attested by the Borough Clerk or Deputy Borough Clerk. Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is hereby delegated to the Chief Financial Officer who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 10. It is hereby determined and declared that the average

period of usefulness of said purposes, according to their reasonable lives, taking into consideration the respective amounts of bonds or notes authorized for said purposes, is a period of 15 years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 11. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk of said Borough, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said Borough, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$194,700 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 12. Any funds received from private parties, the County of Bergen, the State of New Jersey or any of their agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purposes, shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purposes, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purposes shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 13. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

Section 14. The Borough intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 of this bond ordinance. If the Borough incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the Borough hereby states its reasonable expectation to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 15. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Borough for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 16. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

Mayor Margaret Falahee Watkins

ATTEST:

Denise A. Dondiego, Borough Clerk

Dated:

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - Ordinance #1731

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

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

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - Ordinance #1731

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

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

ADOPTION - Ordinance #1731

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Cannon to adopt Ordinance #1731.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Porco, Councilman

Mignone, Councilman Cannon and Councilman Cordts voted yes, Councilman Moscaritolo was absent.

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Cannon to approve resolution #11-188 through #11-193.

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

#11-188 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public on June 6, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

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 June 6, 2011 meeting at 7:00 p.m. and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory Reference</u>
11-6/6-1	Personnel - Interviews with Joseph DiCara and Peter Pulice for the Legion/Library/Borough Hall & DPW Projects	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.

May 16, 2011

#11-189 Amend 2011 Budget

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:A4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services approved the insertion or increase of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such an item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion or increase of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received a grant for a Reserve for Clean Communities Grant Unappropriated in the amount of \$15,905.24; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge that it does hereby request the approval of the Director for the following:

Increase an item of revenue entitled:

3. Miscellaneous Revenue - Section F

Clean Communities Grant.....\$15,905.24

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$15,905.24 and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations
(A) Operations excluded from the "CAPS"
Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenues

Clean Communities Grant.....\$15,905.24

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough forward two (2) copies of this

resolution to the Director of Local Government Services.

May 16, 2011

#11-190 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 May 16, 2011 meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory Reference</u>
11-5/16-1	Personnel - Non Contractual Salaries & Wages	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)
11-5/16-2	Personnel - PBA/SOA Negotiations	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.

May 16, 2011

#11-191 Resolution to Adopt an Updated Stormwater Management Plan for the Borough of River Edge

WHEREAS, a Stormwater Management Plan was prepared for the Borough of River Edge in September of 2004 providing an explanation of policies and procedures which would assist the Borough in its compliance with its Stormwater Management Permit issued by the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the original Stormwater Management Plan was prepared by the Borough Administrator and the Superintendent of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, an update to the Stormwater Management Plan was adopted by the Governing Body on November 16, 2009 via resolution #09-419; and

WHEREAS, an update has been prepared by the Borough Administrator and reviewed by the Superintendent of Public Works who is the Stormwater Management Coordinator for the Borough; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the Mayor and Council at a work session on May 16, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection requires that the Borough periodically update its Stormwater Management Plan to reflect changes and accomplishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that said updated Stormwater Management Plan is hereby approved and authorized for use by the Borough of River Edge and that any changes thereto shall not be made without approval by the Mayor and Council.

May 16, 2011

#11-192 Resolution to Approve License to Peddle Ice Cream Products

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

#11-195 Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement with the River Edge Superior Officers Association

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has reached an agreement with the River Edge Superior Officers Association for the years 2011 - 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said agreement.

May 16, 2011

Councilman Porco read resolution #11-196 into the record.

Motion by Councilman Porco, seconded by Councilman Cordts to approve resolution #11-196.

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

#11-196 Payment of Bills

WHEREAS, vouchers for the payment of goods and services rendered to the Borough of River Edge have been received; and

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	\$158,665.34
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 8,963.89
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 3,501.50
ANIMAL WELFARE	\$ 57.00
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 18,764.34
OPEN SPACE ACCOUNT	\$ 2,338.20

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.

May 16, 2011

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

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

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

Daragh O'Connor-Library Director-informed everyone that the new circulation desk which is part of a larger project to improve the interior of the building has been installed and he thanked the Mayor and Council for their support. He stated that Alan was instrumental in applying for the grant that covered most of the cost of the desk. He explained the position of the desk has opened up the floor area as well as being ADA compliant for the staff and the public. He offered to give everyone a tour of the Library if they are interested in seeing it. Daragh informed everyone that he's been receiving a lot of positive feedback from

patrons regarding services that the Library offers to job seekers. He continued by saying that there is a group that meets on Thursday evenings to help residents in their job search or career change.

John Fugazzie-244 Berkeley Road-spoke about the volunteer group that meets at the Library every Thursday night and commended Daragh for allowing them to use all of the resources that the Library has to offer. He stated that 28 people have signed up and approximately 12 to 15 people show up weekly. Most of those who attend are out of work or have a small business that is struggling. He stated that they've been meeting for about 16 weeks and he is happy to report that 5 people have been able to get jobs through the efforts of this support and networking group. He handed out information to the Mayor and Council and asked if they have any business contacts or know of anyone out of work to please refer them to this group.

Daragh O'Connor-informed the Mayor and Council that the Library has computer classes for job seekers which consist of four classes four times a week.

Peggy White-741 Center-stated that many people think there is no longer an American Legion because the building was sold and she wanted to make everyone aware that there are still legionnaires that meet in a different building. She spoke of the many things that the legionnaires do such as volunteer work at the Veteran's Home in Paramus, scholarships for Boys State and Girls State programs and scholarships for the High School. Peggy reminded everyone about the Memorial Day Ceremony in Memorial Park on May 30th.

Kathleen Murphy-741 Williams Avenue-spoke about Councilman Porco's comment regarding alarm fees and how he doesn't feel that you should have to pay a fee for an alarm if you don't use it. She feels that it's like having car insurance, you may never have an accident but you still have to have it. She feels that an alarm is a luxury.

Jerry Markowitz-435 Elm Avenue-asked if there has been any progress towards the de-commissioning of the fire sirens at the corner of Elm and Kensington? He commented that he knows that the Mayor and Council are doing their best to control expenses and keep our taxes as low as possible, but nevertheless, feels that our taxes are extremely high. Mr. Markowitz did a study of Bergen County towns and our average assessments are below the average in Bergen County but our average taxes are well above. Taking that into consideration, he asked what is on the table as far as any consolidation with other towns or shared services to keep costs down.

Mayor Watkins-explained that we have done some small things but there's no formal agreement. She further stated that we've been trying to work New Milford and Oradell but after the referendum question getting defeated, Oradell is not to eager to work with us right now. The Mayor explained that they have looked into several areas for sharing services and they will continue to do so but as of right now there is are no agreements.

Councilman Porco-informed Mr. Markowitz with regard to the fire siren, that there is a small group who plan to meet with the Fire Department soon. Right now they are trying to get their ideas together to form a petition.

Mayor Watkins-stated that she remembers asking the Fire Department to check the decibel level on that corner. The Mayor suggested that if Mr. Markowitz is interested in joining this group he should give his name to Councilman Porco so he can pass it on to the this committee.

Councilman Cordts-stated with regard to shared services, he feels that the biggest issue the Mayor and Council are facing is the fact that we have no ratables and they are working on bringing more businesses to town. He feels that it's almost easier to bring businesses in than to work with other towns on shared services.

Jerry Markowitz-asked if the Mayor and Council would consider Sunday hours as a way of attracting businesses.

Councilman Cordts-explained that there are a few stores that do have Sunday hours right now but if we wanted to change the blue laws, it would have to be voted on by our residents. He continued by saying that there are parking issues for businesses that are coming in which causes a problem and that's something they're looking into also.

Mayor Watkins-stated that any type of food business or drug store is allowed to be open and agrees that they need to attract businesses who would be allowed to open on Sunday.

Vincent Frisby-856 Elm-stated that after he returned from vacation he read in the newspaper that the Mayor and Council had passed the school budget. He asked the Mayor and Council if they've thought about what message they are sending to those who voted no. He feels that many people will not vote because they feel that their vote doesn't count. He stated that the Mayor and Council are there to represent the people and a majority of people voted no on the school budget. Mr. Frisby stated that many people assumed that voters were confused because of the referendum question and didn't know what they were voting for. He feels that they knew exactly what they were voting for.

Mayor Watkins-stated that she has received numerous e-mails and telephone calls from residents who feel the same way. The Mayor stated that she will let the Council address Mr. Frisby's comments because the full Council did not vote to restore the budget as is.

Neal Carroll-321 Wales Avenue-asked for an update on what the plan is for the American Legion building. He said that Councilman Porco had previously stated that the building was not going to come down and that they had plans for it. He's concerned with the mold issue that is currently in the building and feels

that if that problem isn't addressed soon the building may have to come down. Mayor Watkins-explained that right now there is no money to do anything so its at a stand still.

Alan Negreann-explained that our Environmental Joint Insurance Fund provides a service where they'll come in and do an analysis of the environmental issues that are there. He continued by saying that they did it at Borough Hall and provided a report of suggestions how to handle things and he is waiting for them to come and give a similar report for the Legion.

Councilman Porco-clarified that he never said that the building wasn't coming down and that they had plans for it. He said that there is a committee set up to look at it and evaluate the options.

Adeline Vallano-869 Elm Avenue-asked the Mayor and Council if they had an engineer come in and look at the building before the purchase.

Mayor Watkins-explained that they did have an engineer come in he estimated it would cost between 1 and 1.5 million dollars to do anything with it.

Councilman Bartelloni-stated that the engineer did not go in before it was purchased.

Adeline Vallano-asked why they would purchase it without having an engineer come in to evaluate it.

Mayor Watkins-stated yes, they should have.

Councilman Mignone-stated that the previous Council said that the building was purchased as is.

Mayor Watkins-stated that the previous Council did say that but there was nothing on the deed stating "as is". The Mayor continued by saying that the previous Council purchased it and now this Council has to take care of whatever is wrong and there is no money right now.

Councilman Mignone-stated that they're dealing with the same issue at the Pocket Park in that the contamination was not detected prior to the purchase.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

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

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS -

Councilman Bartelloni-spoke briefly about the \$60,000 included in Ordinance #1731 for the Bogert Road Pocket Park and explained that before the Borough can receive Green Acres funding from the State, they have to knock the building down and remediate the contaminated soil. He stated that unfortunately they'll have to spend \$60,000.00 to get \$220,000. As far as the school vote, Councilman Bartelloni felt that he explained his position on the night of the vote and advised everyone that his statement is on the Patch and encouraged them to take a look. He feels that the vote was skewed by the referendum question and believes that the democratic process played out quite well here. After visiting with the Superintendent, the teachers and visiting the classrooms, he felt that this was a fair budget.

Councilman Porco-stated that he was very discouraged after the school budget vote on Thursday because he feels it sends the wrong message to those Borough employees who have been furloughed and had their budgets cut. He also agrees with Mr. Markowitz that our taxes are astronomical and feels that the Mayor and Council have a lot of work ahead of them to continue to make cuts. He feels that if we can keep costs down, when businesses finally do come in to town, we can recover faster. He understands that people are discouraged with their vote but encouraged them to vote again next year because if the budget does get voted down, there will be no disputing it.

Councilman Mignone-announced that he had attended the river clean up on May 7th and unfortunately had a mishap with the canoe that he was in. He thanked everyone who participated and also thanked those who organized this worthwhile event. Councilman Mignone informed everyone that letters were received commending Joe Zemaite and Mike Varrecchia for their outstanding police work and he thanked them for their hard work. With regard to the school budget, he explained his reasons why he voted to restore it. Councilman Mignone explained that he did not agree with the items that were presented for discussion to be cut because he didn't feel the justification was there to stand on appeal. He also felt that the referendum question did cloud the vote and understands that many people are upset because they don't think the Council did enough.

Councilman Cannon-thanked everyone for coming this evening and stated that he wished those who voted no on the budget were a little more vocal before hand. He explained the most of the comments at meetings and via e-mail were in support of restoring the budget. He stated that while there are cuts that can be made in the municipal budget, there are expectations from our resident for certain services and those services cost money. He stated that they're trying to take a long term approach by changing contracts and long term things without just cutting which will result in no services for our residents. Councilman Cannon

stated that because River Edge doesn't have a thriving downtown, our schools are our best asset and didn't feel there was any justification to ask for a symbolic cut in their budget. He voted to restore the budget because he understands the amount of preparation that goes into it and felt that it was a sound budget. Councilman Cannon feels that we don't have a spending issue, we have a revenue issue and once the economy straightens out, we'll be in a better position. Councilman Cordts-appreciated Mr. Frisbys comments because he feels that the Mayor and Council are there to protect the taxpayers and they shouldn't have voted to restore the school budget. He felt that by asking the school board to cut \$50,000 out of a \$13,000,000 was fair and was disappointed that they weren't willing to work with them at all. He further stated that the suggested cuts would have no bearing on teachers losing their jobs or programs for the children. Councilman Cordts stated that many people felt that the \$68.00 tax increase for the schools was insignificant but he disagrees. He also disagrees with the fact that many people tried to analyze the no vote but he feels that no means no and that's what the majority wanted. He feels that he and Councilman Porco listened but the other Council members did not. As far as shared services, Councilman Cordts said that they have discussed several options with Oradell but it almost seems easier to get businesses in town rather than trying to get shared services going.

Mayor Watkins-thanked everyone for coming up this evening and informed everyone that she doesn't vote on budgets or monetary issues. The Mayor had received many phone calls and e-mails from residents who voted no the school budget explaining that they were uncomfortable speaking out because their children are still in the school system. The Mayor mentioned the large number of form letter e-mails that were sent saying that the Council would be irresponsible if they did not restore the entire budget and she felt that was intimidation. The Mayor felt the Council was obligated to take a thorough look at the budget even though many felt they should just pass it because it was a sound budget. Mayor Watkins agreed that there was no need to try and figure out why people voted no. She also agreed that no means no. The Mayor was also disappointed that the school board was not willing to work with the town at all especially when the suggested cuts had no bearing on teachers jobs or childrens programs. The Mayor also explained that Borough employees have had their salaries frozen, have to take furloughs and have had their budgets cut and feels it was unfair that the school didn't have to make any cuts. She also stated that if the school budget goes down again next year, it is important for those who voted against it to speak up and be heard. The Mayor explained some of the items included in the school budget such as the smart board for those who didn't know what it was. Mayor Watkins stated that Superintendent Ben-Dov had commented that the Tenafly schools can't compete with River Edge because of all things that they have. The Mayor again thanked everyone for coming up this evening and voicing their comments.

ADJOURNMENT - 9:00 P.M.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Cannon to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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

RE-OPEN - 9:29 P.M.

Motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilman Cordts to re-open the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

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

Motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilman Mignone to approve resolution #11-194.

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

#11-194 Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement with the River Edge PBA Local #201

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has reached an agreement with the River Edge PBA Local #201 for the years 2011 - 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said agreement.

May 16, 2011

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Cannon to approve resolution #11-195.

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

#11-195 Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement with the River Edge Superior Officers Association

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has reached an agreement with the River Edge Superior Officers Association for the years 2011 - 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said agreement.

May 16, 2011

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Cannon to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Margaret Falahee Watkins

Attest:

Denise A. Dondiego, Borough Clerk

Dated: