

**MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL
HELD FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hipp at 11:02 a.m. with the following Councilmembers present:

- Councilwoman Inguanti
- Councilman Sasso
- Councilwoman Birdsall
- Councilman DeSalvo

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- Councilwoman Keyes – Absent
 - Councilman Genovesi – Absent

Mayor Hipp asked those present to join him in a salute to the flag.

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Borough Clerk Mary Kriston read the provision of the Open Public Meetings Law.

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HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Mayor Hipp opened the hearing of citizens; As no citizens wished to speak, the hearing of citizens was closed.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Councilwoman Inguanti made a motion to approve the following payment of bills, excluding the bill from New Jersey League of Municipalities for \$100 for further review, seconded by Councilwoman Birdsall with all members present voting aye:

RESOLVED: That bills in the amount of \$640,932.08 from the Current Account, all detailed as follows on the attached sheets, be passed for payment, warrants drawn and charged to the proper accounts. A complete list of these bills is on file with the Borough Clerk.

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Councilwoman Inguanti made a motion to approve the following transfer of funds, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo with all members present voting aye:

WHEREAS, certain 2009 budget accounts will have unexpended balances and other 2009 budget accounts will have sufficient amounts to cover requirements;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following amounts be transferred to and from the accounts named:

FROM		TO	
Dumping Fees	26,822	Legal Fees	5,000
		Fire Hydrant Service	19,000
		BCUA Sewerage	2,822
TOTALS	\$26,822	Total	26,822

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Gasoline	18,500	Solid Waste Equipment	15,000
		Solid Waste Salaries	3,500
TOTALS	18,500		18,500

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For **FINANCE**, Councilwoman Inguanti reported that though they were in a new year, Rutherford still faces significant challenges as they close out 2009, they are unfortunately closing out with a deficit. She said it was in large measure due to the ongoing legal machinations between the Meadowlands Commission/American Home Insurance and the State in general over the Encap properties and who is responsible for tax payments and every member of the Governing Body will be committed to finding resolution for that in the coming year that will take Rutherford off the hook. She said the taxpayers of Rutherford are almost exclusively bearing the burden financially of the failed development deal.

Councilwoman Inguanti said the good news in terms of the deficit was that they cut it in half from last year, a slightly more manageable number considering that the structural deficit they are facing is still substantial going into the new year. Councilwoman Inguanti said there were a lot of good things they instituted in the last couple of years, one of which was the estimated tax payments, instead of doing tax anticipation notes; that was actually made note of in the report from Moody's and as they concurred with all of them there were a lot positives of the Borough. Councilwoman Inguanti said they had a high income rate, generally they have a good housing stock, they are managing to hold the values to a degree but there were some things they did need to work on and using one-time revenue sources to balance the budget it something they really have to look at and try to find cuts they could all agree on and increase the revenues where they could. She said what they

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should also know is that the comptra aid that the State was threatening to cut in the final days of 2009 was restored which puts about \$20,000 back into the budget which was good because it was assumed and approved by the State to be assumed. Councilwoman Inguanti restated that there was good news and bad but she thought all of the governing body are really committed to working hard for the taxpayers and hopefully getting the fiscal house in more order than they managed to create in the last year.

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For **POLICE**, Mayor Hipp stated that Councilman Genovesi wasn't present, the report will be on file in the Clerk's Office.

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For **PUBLIC WORKS**, for Councilman DeSalvo reported that the previous morning he and Superintendent Seidler were scheduled to finalize the end of year report but they had a surprise snow storm so the full report will be available on January 12.

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For **FIRE**, Mayor Hipp stated that Councilwoman Keyes wasn't present, the report will be on file in the Clerk's Office.

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For **BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES**, Councilwoman Birdsall reported for the year ending 2009 there was a slow but steady growth with fewer existing homes being demolished and existing structures being renovated or restored which had resulted in activity within the Building Department. Homeowners continue to improve and upgrade their properties and there was an enormous amount of inspections, plan reviews, complaints and clerical work that go along with that. Councilwoman Birdsall commended the Building Dept. for their work always being completed in a timely manner and complying with the State requirements and making all the accommodations to the public that they do so as to not cause undue inconvenience or time delays in all the construction projects.

She summarized the annual report as follows: total revenues for 2009 exceed those of 2008 with the total being \$615,656.; number of permits issued, slight down from 2008, but overall the Building Dept. had been moving forward and was quite busy for 2009; monthly report ending for December, 2009 shows uniform construction code revenue totaling \$29,157 and Construction Dept. total revenue \$3,000 bringing the total for the month \$32,167 and the total value for construction for December \$1,292,423; 80 permits were issued for the month; 502 Department inspections were conducted. Councilwoman Birdsall stated that in the report for the year-end there was an increase in revenue from 2008 to 2009 of \$83,921; for the uniform construction code revenue there was an increase of \$7,199.64 from 2008 bringing the grand total of revenue increase to \$85,999.20 and

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2009 the total revenue was \$618,628. Councilwoman Birdsall stated that the entire annual report will be on file at the Borough Clerk's Office.

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For **HUMAN RESOURCES**, Councilman Sasso reported that the Recreation Dept. completed another successful year in offering a variety of programs both in the children's area, as well as the adults; they also offered a variety of trips; helped in the coordination in special events such as the Halloween Parade, Touch-A-Truck, Easter Egg Hunt; sponsored and helped in the scheduling/coordination of various youth traveling teams ranging from girls and boys basketball, softball, indoor soccer, fall soccer, track and field, wrestling, volleyball, cross-country track, spring travel soccer, clinics for girls' soccer and camp, recreation competitive cheerleading and school yard basketball all for the children of Rutherford. Councilman Sasso said in addition to those travel programs they also offer a variety of adult sports from softball to volleyball to basketball and also Senior activities.

He highlighted some of the year's event such as the revamp of the Summer Camp Program as in years past it was mainly held outdoors in Memorial Field with the cooperation of the Board of Ed it was a conjunction held within the schools to avoid the cancellation/closure due to inclement weather; also the renewal of the Pre-K license; the transition from the Parks and Recreation Crew underneath the Recreation Dept. was the improvements to Diamonds 5 and 6 with the back stops as well as several lease agreements signed with the various organizations in town and shared-services agreement with the Board of Education. He stated that comes with a lot of hard work and commitment with the ladies and gentlemen that work at the field to make all the fields accessible to the residents in town. Councilman Sasso said that the one thing that would be a continued constraint for the coming year was going to be the facilities whether they are park facilities or indoor facilities for the adults and the children as that is just another thing that would have to be balanced in the upcoming year for the benefit of everyone; not one organization should be penalized for the benefit of any other, there needs to be a balance in place.

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MAYOR'S AGENDA

Mayor Hipp stated that his office was able to generate \$5,900 in marriage license fees for the Borough which exceeded the budgeted amount of \$4,600. Mayor Hipp said with respect to the Library which was the more important item he wanted to bring to the public's attention some interesting statistics; the library continues to be a vital resource for the community in 2009 they averaged 21,081 persons per month coming through; the items borrowed averaged 24,055 per month and the number of people who attended their library programs averaged 1,122 and the number of registered library holders grew from 10,967 in 2008 to 12,250 in 2009 a significant increase. Mayor Hipp said the library provides a lot of services for the residents in addition to allowing for research, they have Wi-Fi internet access as well as the use of the library computers for people to go on themselves; people go to the library to not only to use those resources they go to learn

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English; to make copies and send faxes; to learn about local history; to research their family tress; to have documents notarized; to take defensive driving classes and the like. Mayor Hipp said it is one of the most valuable resources the town has had and he wanted to speak as a member of that Board how proud he was as not only a resident of the town but on behalf of the Board of Trustees, of the wonderful job that the staff has done in very difficult times. The Mayor said at the next meeting there would be a presentation by the library, Item 17 on the agenda so he encouraged everyone present to listen carefully to the wonderful things that were being done.

Mayor Hipp reminded all that the Committee Reports would be on file in the Clerk's Office.

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Councilman DeSalvo moved to adjourn Sine Die, seconded by Councilwoman Inguanti with members present voting aye. The meeting ended at 11:20 a.m.

Borough Clerk