

## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AT BOROUGH HALL

### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.**

BOROUGH CLERK: this meeting is being held in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by forwarding a Sunshine notice which included the time, date and location of this public meeting of the Mayor and Council.

### **ROLL CALL:**

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Kearney, Councilman Tanelli and Councilman Yampaglia

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Peter C. Massa, Borough Clerk, Terence M. Wall, Borough Attorney, Gregory Randazzo

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Massa – ladies and gentlemen at this time, I'm going to suspend the hearing of citizens to recognize the president tonight of a group of individuals from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, especially the new executive director, Mrs. Marcia Karrow. I would like to have Mrs. Karrow please come forward so we can, the council and myself can formally welcome her and congratulate her on her appointment and wish her all the best in her new position. If you'd like to make a comment m'am, please.

Marcia Karrow – Mayor, thank you so much for letting us come to tonight. I'm making the rounds. You're our third start on a whirlwind tour of 14 towns in two counties. Last night we met with the Bergen County Freeholder Board, the night before that with the municipality of East Rutherford and we'll be continuing all through February. Being new to the Meadowlands, I just thought it was proper protocol to come up and introduce myself on your turf and meet all of you on your turf rather than asking you to come out to the Meadowlands and I would rather come here formally along with some staff and just say hello. I brought along with me most of my senior staff, Deputy Director Bernie Nengal, the hand of land use, Sarah Fondel, and so they're waiting back there if not wave; my attorney because you know we're politicians, we have to always travel with attorneys right Chris Anz, the head of our environmental research institute Dr. Francisco Artiguez, I know all of you probably know Irfan Bora our CFO, the head of our solid waste and natural resources, Tom Materano, and my public information officer, Brian Aberback, who put together the packages for you that we brought that have a lot of information about the things that we're doing at the Meadowlands, I'm sure you know about a lot of it. We have a new package in there from the environmental research institute, some of the things that they're doing for the municipalities right now that are pretty exciting; that's their action plan going out for a few years as well as a sheet of some of the financial support we've give you in kind or straight

out money that we've done in the last few years, we're doing each one of those for each of the municipalities as well just so you have an idea of the kind of partnership that the Meadowlands has had with you and the kind of partnership I'd really want to enhance with you by way of background I come from Hunterdon County from Flemington and I have served as a mayor myself and on a township committee for 9 years, I was freeholder and freeholder director for 8 years, served in the New Jersey Assembly and then in the Senate, in the budget committee as well as a number of other committees. I served for Governor Christie as the chair of his DP transition team so I'm pretty well versed statewide and all things environmental in the state and I also chaired his task force on the housing opportunities which is the COAH task force. So I speak COAH fluently, I'm probably one of the handful of people in the state that do. And I just want to say to all of you straight out within statutory authority that I have with the Meadowlands, I am totally in favor of [inaudible] and I do not like COAH. And I'm going to be totally honest about those things; I do have statutory regulations that I have to abide by as do you but wherever I can you know help you, I am more than happy to be your partner. One of the things that both Deputy Executive Director Nengal and director Materano have been charged with is to come up with some new concepts of shared services, things that we can do with you, ways that we can enhance our relationship and you know, I'm here with my staff to answer any questions that you might have anything that's going on that you want updates on, they're here to answer questions if I can't and being new, I probably can't. That's it Mayor.

Mayor Massa – thank you so much Madam Director and if any of the members have any questions or comments, please feel free to be recognized. Well I think first of all [inaudible] that there are no comments or questions, I think I can speak...

Marcia Karrow – I dazzled with my charm right.

Mayor Massa – for the council and myself of course that we're prepared to have a wonderful productive working relationship with the commission and going forward with a number of projects that the commission has on the front burner and that we have on the front burner here in North Arlington for redevelopment at the Meadowlands that we can move forward for the mutual benefit of our taxpayers and do the things that we have to do for tax relief or for responsible development and working with the commission in a productive partnership so I want a very, I wish you all the best and tell you my door is always opened...

Marcia Karrow – mine too Mayor.

Mayor Massa – my phone is always opened and I'm glad to hear that and we're looking forward to a good working relationship with you.

Marcia Karrow – let me just say to all of you, in those folders is my business card it has my personal cell phone number, I'm only giving that out to elected officials, so you know you have direct access to me whenever you need it, please don't hesitate. My door's always opened to elected officials, always has been as a legislature, as a freeholder, still is and sometime in the fall we're going to be putting together an elected officials day at the Meadowlands and invite all of you out for a day to take a pontoon ride and maybe take a little tour of the site formally known as Encap. I know people are curious...

Mayor Massa – yes we know it well, especially over here.

Marcia Karrow - I know you do. Come and see our facility but spend some time with us if you want, we'd love to have you and you know pick you up for like the nice ride and see some of the beautiful wetlands that we do have. So thank you so much for your time and your hospitality. It's really appreciated.

Councilman Hughes – just one moment, Mr. Mayor, [inaudible] Mrs. Karrow took over as director, she was helpful in some of the meetings we had in getting the Cherokee [inaudible] and BCUA properties returned back to the Meadowlands so that they can be put up for sale, maybe you can give us a brief overview of where we stand with the potential sale of those properties for development, have we gotten any interest yet in those properties?

Marcia Karrow - that is with our broker, Irfan you want to comment on the status on, we did solicit with C.B. Richard Ellis who is our broker on your behalf we're doing everything by attorney general rules and regs of the state so you all know government works; it just works very slowly. So I don't have to tell you that so it's working but slowly.

Unidentified speaker - as Marcia's stated we are working closely with the attorney general's office following the guidelines [inaudible] and we expect to within a month or so [inaudible]. You know again we have to do this process Mrs. Marcia said as per the guidelines of the A.G. office. You know we're very optimistic, it's going to happen and we want to make it happen quickly I think for the town, for our sake you know we have this property and obviously we don't want to hold it [inaudible].

Marcia Karrow - we would really like it back on your tax rolls and I can tell you that we have had a number of phone calls as has our broker, they've had a number of phone calls of interest so we're very confident that we're going to end up with this sold and you with a fabulous ratable.

Mayor Massa – very good, thank you. Well I'm sure you'll get a lot of them that were referred to you by us because we get them all the time.

Marcia Karrow – just keep sending them over. Just send them over.

Mayor Massa – we forward all the calls to you.

Marcia Karrow – the more competition, the better the product we're going to get, right?

Mayor Massa – very good.

Marcia Karrow – so thank you so much.

Mayor Massa – thank you so much m'am. Best of luck.

[Applause].

Mayor Massa – ladies and gentlemen, at this time I'll open the meeting to the hearing of citizens. Anyone wishes to be heard, please come forward, state your name and address for the record. Please limit your comments to five minutes to give everybody the opportunity to be heard and please confine your comments to municipal matters. Neither myself nor the members of the council will comment on the hearing of citizens until the hearing of citizens is completed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jack Desai – good evening. I'm a physician who practices out of Clara Maass Hospital. I specialize in pain medicine.

Mayor Massa – take the microphone in the middle sir. I think that's the one that's working right.

Jack Desai – I'm a physician who specializes in orthopedic and cancer pain management. Currently, my office is based out of Lyndhurst and my colleague and I have been there for about three years and we're looking for a little bit more of a home base and establish an office here that we can own. One of the locations we're looking at is Mr. Ferrone's property on Ridge Road and Canterbury. And we were advised by Robert Kairys just to come present our initial idea to the borough of North Arlington just to get some initial feedback before we proceed to make any major offers or decisions at this time so just to summarize our idea or vision is to have a family medicine, health practice in that location and we would like to provide both adult and possibly even pediatric medical services. And myself, my partner, my wife who's a gynecologist are part of a core group of physicians that would be interested in developing that location so we just wanted to give that initial idea to you guys and maybe get some feedback or see what your initial thoughts were.

Mayor Massa – thank you sir. Anyone else? This time I'll entertain a motion to close hearing of citizens.

### **MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Tanelli

SECONDED BY: Councilman Hughes

ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

Mayor Massa – approval of minutes.

Councilman Hughes – do we want to comment on...

Mayor Massa – anyone wishing to, we want to thank you number one I'm sorry Doctor. I want to thank you very much for the presentation and we'd like to know more about what your involved with so perhaps you can leave some paperwork with the clerk's office and distribute it out to the rest of the council.

Councilman Hughes – I have a couple questions for the doctor if you wouldn't mind coming back up. This is just the way we do things, we close out the hearing of citizens and then we can

discuss things. Can you give us a brief idea of what it is you want to put on that property, is it a one story, two story, five stories building or?

Dr. Jack Desai – initially it'll be a one story most likely. We were interested in finding out what the options were if we could have some air rights to build up to a second floor if needed. Obviously it's limited space with limited parking so we would have to take that into consideration. I know across the street I think there's a cvs pharmacy that has a large amount of parking but I'm not sure what the availability is so I think the most limiting factor for that actual location would be parking. And that's something that would probably limit the size of what we can probably do long term.

Councilman Hughes – so you're looking to raise the current building that's there and build new or...

Dr. Jack Desai – not initially no. It would be nice to have the option down the road but initially it would probably be just what's there, just remodel it, build it out to meet codes [inaudible].

Councilman Hughes – you do understand it was a gas station at one time?

Dr. Jack Desai – yeah I do. Oh, we've had some initial discussions with the owner and as far as he's told us that it's just about clear from all the environmental work that he said he's done on it.

Councilman Hughes – yeah I believe all the gas tanks have been removed and the soil's fine. The building itself [inaudible]...

Dr. Jack Desai – yeah, it'd take some work.

Councilman Bianchi – I'd like to say something. As long as you get guided by Robert Kairys, he can tell you what you can build to the maximum that you can build there and our engineer Mr. Neglia probably help you a lot too, I would give you my blessing on that property. I think it would be a great asset for the town of North Arlington to see a Doctor's office there. I envision in my mind something very nice which I think you would do and I think it would make that corner look a lot nicer and the residents would like it too. So you would have my blessing but of course you would have to go through Robert Kairys and he will tell you exactly how much you can build, how big, how wide, and everything like that so go by him, plus our engineer and you should have no problem.

Councilman Hughes – and then makes proper applications because I'm sure you're aware now Ridge Road is in a redevelopment zone and because of that nature it's handled a little bit differently than going to a regular planning or zoning board. You would actually come back before this board who would actually hear the application for any variances that would be requested or required for that property so unless you know you're building within the complete specifications of the redevelopment zone, then you can just go ahead and proceed with the design [inaudible] Mr. Kairys.

Dr. Jack Desai – yeah, he's been a lot of help already so we appreciate it.

Councilman Hughes – very good thank you.

Mayor Massa – I think perhaps if you have some architects rendering or some tentative plans you could...

Dr. Jack Desai – very tentative.

Mayor Massa – might make it a little bit easier for the Construction Department to give it an idea as to what you want to do and he can tell you how your plans might fit in to what would be allowable at that location.

Dr. Jack Desai – sounds good.

Mayor Massa – anyone else. Thank you sir. Approval of minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting November 10, 2010

Special Meeting December 21, 2010

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councilman Tanelli

ROLL CALL All council present vote in the affirmative

Mayor Massa – resolutions on consent.

### **RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT**

R-36-11 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CLAIMS

R-37-11 RESO RE: REFUND OF MONIES DUE TO COUNTY BOARD JUDGEMENT

R-38-11 RESO RE: COST SHARING AGREEMENT RT. 7 & SCHUYLER AVE BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON AND THE TOWN OF KEARNY

R-39-11 RESO RE: OFF PREMISE 3 MONTH CALENDAR RAFFLE QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

R-40-11 RESO RE: OFF PREMISE RAFFLE QUEEN OF PEACE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

R-41-11 RESO RE: APPROVAL OF 2011 BUSINESS LICENSES

R-42-11 RESO RE: RESIGNATION OF ZONING BOARD MEMBER

R-43-11 RESO RE: CDBG REPRESENTATIVES

R-45-11 RESOLUTION TO AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

R-46-11 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

R-47-11 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

R-48-11 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR  
**[PULLED FROM CONSENT]**

R-49-11 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

R-50-11 RESO RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

R-51-11 RESO RE: REFUND OF TAX MONEY – CLERICAL ERROR

R-52-11 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

R-55-11 RESO RE: RESIGNATION FROM ZONING BOARD

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councilman Johnson

Mayor Massa – discussion?

Councilman Tanelli – I'd like to have resolution R-48-11 pulled.

Mayor Massa – R-48-11 pulled, borough auditor. 48-11 be pulled. Any other comments? Councilman?

Councilman Yampaglia – Mr. Mayor, I just had a question regarding R-43-11.

Mayor Massa – representatives to the community grant development.

Councilman Yampaglia – I was just wondering Mr. Mayor what projects are we seeking community development funding for? Are we seeking any funding [inaudible] project?

Mayor Massa – well what we will be doing there is setting representatives to the regular routine meetings of the county agencies that handles various county agencies that handles these boards and these grants and making our applications and following through as to see make sure they're successful. So that'll be a [inaudible] for those members. Any other comments, questions, discussion?

Administrator Wall – then a roll call on all items excepting resolution 48-11.

ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative  
\*Councilman Hughes abstains from any fire department purchases on the claims reso.

### **RESOLUTIONS OFF CONSENT**

R-48-11 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Kearney

Mayor Massa – discussion?

Councilman Yampaglia – Mr. Mayor, I just had a question regarding that 48-11. If they are, Lerch is preparing the budget for this year and they're auditing that same budget the following year, can that be a conflict?

Mayor Massa – yeah, I think we have a question that has to be answered here perhaps by the borough administrator and possibly even the borough attorney, essentially what the concern is we have the municipal audit, they're also working on the budget and then also auditing the budget and doing an audit so we want to clarify what differences in duties there'll be with that same companies, that same corporation performing those same, performing those different duties that could conceivably cause a conflict, does anybody want to...Councilman Hughes.

Councilman Hughes – sure, as you are aware that that's not any different than what was being done with Mrs. Judy Tutela when she was the borough auditor and also assisting with the budget for several years in a row and frankly most of the items that are done in the audit aren't necessarily a balancing of the books. It's procedures, it's processes and procedures that are audited for whether they comply with state law, whether they comply with standard accounting practices, whether they comply with just regular good business sense. So it's not so much that you're actually auditing the dollar and cents although that's a minor part of it, but the biggest part of it is the procedures and everything as we saw from last year's audit, a lot of our procedures were lacking. Mr. Wall has been adept at getting a lot of that corrected. And I know we still have a little bit of work to go on that but as you remember from the audit, most of the things that were written up were procedures and practices or lack of procedures and practices.

Mayor Massa – alright, thank you councilman.

Councilman Tanelli – point of order. My concern is the fact that were issuing the \$55,000 contract and being that Mrs. Tutela was brought up, she billed us \$80,000. We were billed by Mr. Lerch upwards of about \$130,000; that's my concern and as I voted against some of these purchase orders last year because I felt they were out of scope as well as I don't remember authorizing to do some of the things that were listed on the bill list. So, that's my concern with this is are we going to be issuing \$55,000 and then he's going to come back with another \$30,000?

Councilman Hughes – I think many of the things that Mr. Lerch uncovered and had to work on last year were onetime items and most of those things have been corrected into this year's budget. Some of the things were our lack of CFO, an easily reachable CFO, the fact that we had our one hour a week CFO created quite a hardship for most of our borough employees and elected officials. So, as a result, he ended filling in a lot of that time and a lot of that work so that it can get done properly. Then there was an extraordinary amount of work done with just getting a lot of our stuff straightened out with the state so I don't foresee at this time those kind of bills this year. I felt it was a one time issue and I think as we go all through the year, we'll keep a close eye on it and keep it under control.

Councilman Tanelli – that's what I'd like to do, put some type of security involved in this because like I recall, some of those issues that came up on the bill list, I don't recall ever being brought to our attention to where we would approve him going over whatever money was [inaudible] so I would at least put on the record that if there's anything out of the ordinary that he finds, that he comes to us...

Councilman Hughes – okay.

Councilman Tanelli - ...before work gets followed through before he gets paid.

Mayor Massa – I'm in agreement with that because when he presented his report last year, it was done here at a council meeting, a copy of the audit report was handed to everyone including myself. I was never advised by anybody of any allegations regarding issues to have an opportunity to myself, interview the people involved who were running various departments and various programs that were reviewed. So it's going to be my expectation that if the auditor does come up with any issues that you notify the borough clerk in writing at least if by an e-mail memorandum with a copy to the mayor and council president.

Councilman Hughes – I'm sure Mr. Wall can give them that direction.

Administrator Wall – just to stay within the confines of with the resolution is and if there's something outside the confines that comes back to the council, the governing body, and the mayor, is that the direction just so I'm clear?

Mayor Massa – yes.

Councilman Hughes – yeah, I think it's important that we keep a handle on this but you know as you go through the course of time one year we saw attorney Delia's bills were very high because we had a lot of work that was needed to be done in the year that he did that. So last year I'll legal fees were considerably lower than Mr. Delia but we had to put the money into the accounting side of it just to get some of our financial house in order and I think we built a foundation last year on our budget on our financial side that should carry us through into this year and into the future.

Mayor Massa – councilman.

Councilman Yampaglia – is it possible that we can refrain on this tonight or voting on this?

Mayor Massa – well we'll vote on this resolution to make the appointment councilman.

Councilman Kearney – I'd like to have a point of order please your honor. Basically my understanding of what Mr. Lerch had done was he had the extraordinary job of trying to go back several years to do an accounting of what North Arlington got paid for from grants that we supposedly received, what we didn't get paid for, the amount of time and effort it took for him to obtain this paperwork to give us an answer with regard to the accounting. And my understanding is in plain English, the accounting that went on before him was so out of whack that he used all his time and efforts to try to straighten out our funding, our budget, our financing, in this borough so I mean although I agree we got to keep a tap on what Mr. Lerch is doing, I think he's doing a very admirable job and I think that what he's doing is something that's positive with North Arlington. hopefully, I'm very hopeful that as a result of them putting our finances in shape, that it's not going to be anywhere near what it was last year.

Councilman Hughes – we've also, I'm sorry go ahead.

Councilman Tanelli – we're going to have a difference of opinion because obviously when other people take control and bring in their own professionals, the first thing they do is they go back to the professionals that were previously here and they get dumped on. There's nothing that was done extraordinary last year by Mr. Lerch that wasn't being done every year. We take grants every year. We have to chase down the grants every year. The issue, I think Rich you hit it on the head, was the problem that we don't have a CFO present at a regular [inaudible] time, I know the administrator complains about that quite often. I think everything the auditor is all in scope, they do it every year it's the same thing. Did he uncover some things, some procedural things that may help us guide us a little bit better? Sure. But Judy Tutela I thought did a fine job when she was here, you were here, you sat here while she was here and you know as far as I'm concern I think she did the best that she could do in the situation that she was prevented. North Arlington's problem is one column keeps going down and the other column keeps going up. That's a problem that faces us every year.

Councilman Hughes – as you are aware though we have advertised for the position of a part time CFO. One of the requirements we have put on that is that they be available at least part of the time during the day time to work with our borough employees and I believe the mayor and I going to be and Mr. Kearney as administration are going to be sitting down doing interviews next week.

Mayor Massa – that's correct. In fact just to comment on what the council president mentioned there are number of very highly qualified individuals that have applied to the position that we'll be interviewing over the next week or so.

Councilman Hughes – correct but one of the things that we eliminate some of the people that applied was that they were not available during day time hours, regular business hours, we weren't interested because we wanted someone here at least a half day a week [inaudible] so that

we can have somebody in house who can not only oversee and [inaudible] but also be an in house CFO available to our professionals. And I think that'll actually relieve a lot of the problems that we have incurred last year with Lerch, Vinci, and Higgins.

Councilman Tanelli – okay. Thanks.

Mayor Massa – for myself I just want to comment that I did take a review of the past audits that were done by Carr Daly and compared them to the work of Mr. Lerch and a lot of the work identification of a number of issues were quite similar. It did take a while many times to deal with the bureaucracies on the federal and state agencies to collect grant money. I know for a fact that the borough administrator had on many times been on top of the representatives from both the federal and the state governments that had given us these grants to collect those funds, but in any event the audits that were done in the past did identify various issues and of course different auditors are going to have different opinions as to how policies and procedures in public agencies should be carried out. So that being said, we do anticipate that we will be able to go forward any revisions and policies for our department head, any financial management issues that have to be revised. Any further discussion? Call the roll.

ROLL CALL:           AYES: Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson,  
                                  Councilman Kearney  
                                  NAYS: Councilman Yampaglia, Councilman Tanelli

Administrator Wall – next item are mayor's appointments.

### **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Massa – I respect the appointment of class II members to the planning board. I've had some discussion with the council president regarding these issues. Board members, appointments are always sometimes can be bipartisan, they can sometimes be contentious. The objective here is to try to bring people on board that are the best qualified people we can find and have people that have an interest. The class II member of the planning board, I think I sent some direct communication to the borough administrator on that, I think that would be Joe Burzinski's presently...

Administrator Wall – Joe Burzinsk is an employee class.

Mayor Massa – and for class IV members, be reappointing David Charowsky, Jay Corrigan, be a new member Richard Schumman that'll be appointed, and I think those, do we have another one there, a fourth one for that, could we send that up?

Councilman Hughes – I think that's it for the planning board Mayor.

Mayor Massa – yeah, I think that's it, I just want to double check.

Councilman Hughes – unless you want to appoint an alternate for yourself.

Mayor Massa – I did have plans on appointing an alternate for myself. I will be attending the meetings whenever I'm available and in town, however, I will be notifying the council president of an alternate probably in the next couple of days or so. So we'll have them on board for the next council meeting. But the important thing now is making sure the planning board of course has a sufficient number of people to move and get their business in order. Appointment to recreation commission. We'll appoint Mr. Nicholas Mazzolla to the unexpired term of Glen Smiley. Mr. Mazzolla's been a long term municipal employee of the borough and the school system. He's highly well regarded and he has a very strong commitment to recreation in the community. So I'd like to, he had indicated to me over the past few months that he was interested in that position.

Councilman Hughes – point of order Mr. Mayor. I do appreciate the fact that the recreation commission is entirely your appointment but as I expressed to you I believe by email and conversation, I have strong reservations about this appointment based on the fact that in the 2009 audit Mr. Mazzolla refused to cooperate with the auditors and would not provide any of the financial records for both the youth center and the summer rec programs and was written up as such. And I think putting him in this position I have great reservations about doing that. I know Mr. Mazzolla has contributed a lot to the town over the years and very active in youth programs and recreation programs but somebody in the position that you putting him in has to be accountable and that accountability has to be there so that we are running an open government. So I do express my reservations on this appointment but I do respect that it's your decision sir.

Mayor Massa – well I take your comments seriously Mr. Council president however in my interview with Mr. Mazzolla, he told me that he did follow procedures that had been in place for a number of years and submitted all the documentation of records and he was not aware that any of these documents had not been accounted for in the municipal audit and I think that perhaps he had some reservations about being interviewed directly by the auditor without knowing exactly what he was going to be interviewed about. So, there was never any allegations of any wrongdoing. If this is an issue regarding procedural errors which Mr. Lerch did point out rather than any impropriety, I think he should be given an opportunity to serve as a recreation commission; bear in mind duties as a recreation commissioner do not involve any fun management or any documentation he'd be accountable to the mayor and council and to the administrator and also full time, part time rather recreation director would be responsible for any of those activities. So I'm comfortable in appointing Mr. Mazzolla in light of his reputation and in light of this commitment to recreation.

Councilman Kearney – Mr. Mayor, I'd just like to say something also and I know that during my first month when I had made my first report or the second month, with regard to Nick Mazzolla, when Michael Kraft had taken over a position relating to Mr. Mazzolla's overseeing of that position with regard to the food that was expired for more than two or three years with regard to the shape of the youth center, the rugs, the stove not working, the condition in general of the premises underneath Mr. Mazzolla's responsibility, there was a lot of work, a lot of disappointment with regard to what went on there. And I don't know that Nick Mazzolla personally is responsible for that but I know that he oversaw the program and I just want to bring it to light. I feel the responsibility to do so because when I was the liaison to the rec commission at that time, I just distinctly remember that I couldn't believe some of what I was reading you

know before this Mayor and council when we were first selected so I just wanted to bring that to light and just hopefully a conversation of some sort could be had with regard to responsibility to this position. I mean I just feel the obligation to do so for our children. Thank you.

Mayor Massa – thank you councilman. Well again, Mr. Kraft's [inaudible] report, I interviewed parents and people involved in the program and many of people were very satisfied with the job that he had done. We also had the board of health do an inspection on the facility because of our concerns and they found that there were as the administrator I think can recall, you want to comment on that, that there were no health issues with the building. Again, I don't want to see a situation whereby as a matter of a opinion as to what's wrong and what's right. We're not appointing Mr. Mazzolla to the youth center directive position, I'm appointing him to the recreation commission where he would be involved in hands on activity with our young people, something that he has a great deal of experience with and where he does hold a great deal of regard. And I'll be accountable for his performance.

Councilman Hughes – the buck stops with you.

Mayor Massa – it's the best I can say.

Councilman Bianchi – you look a little bit like Harry Truman.

[Laughter.]

Mayor Massa – I'm accountable for everything. The buck stops with me. Mayor's appointment of confidential assistant. I've had some discussions with the council president regarding the appointment of Mr. Douglas Bern as my confidential assistant in replacing Mr. Jim Ferriero who will not be handling these duties any longer. My confidential assistant would be handling a variety of different issues of a confidential nature to myself with the objective of assisting me in be able to possibly perform my duties a little bit more effectively then I can whenever possible. And handle matters for me when I'm unavailable to handle certain interviews regarding confidential and sensitive business matters regarding the borough. So I'm appointing Mr. Bern tonight and if the council wants to comment then I'm open to the comments.

Councilman Hughes – Mr. Mayor, I expressed to you my reservations about this. We already have a borough attorney who will handle many of the things. We have a borough administrator and a borough clerk who could handle many of the duties you stipulate so at this time, I'd like to have Mr. Randazzo pass out a resolution that I want to introduce into the record tonight. And this resolution is going to withdraw the funding for the position of a mayor's confidential assistant so that it would be an unfunded position at this time and then under the borough ordinances, we're going to be introducing an ordinance that is going to be abolishing the position of confidential assistant.

Mayor Massa – I can understand your concerns; I don't know whether or not it's the funding that's an issue Mr. President or whether it's the fact that the mayor's appointing a confidential assistant who just happens to be an attorney. I just hope that he's not being punished politically or I'm not being punished politically. I also have to say that his experience is very extensive in

local government and county government. And I can say if you take a look at the records, a former mayor had a \$50,000 a year full time confidential aid. I'm only seeking a part time confidential aid who just happens to be an attorney. I respect the power of the council to resolute whatever they want to resolute but I just think it should be on the record this is a position that would cover a great deal of issues for me as mayor with statutory authority that I have. And would not be a position that flies in the face of municipal attorney. But that being said, you have your resolution prepared and you can take whatever action you deem appropriate.

Councilman Hughes – so noted. Mr. Randazzo's going to hand out copies of the resolution now. And maybe if Mr. Wall would be kind enough to read it, we could vote on it.

Administrator Wall – read it by title or read it in full.

Councilman Hughes – I'd say read it in full.

Administrator Wall – okay, this would be I believe resolution 56. Resolution 56-11 resolution regarding the availability of funds for compensation of confidential assistant to the mayor. Whereas, chapter 48 of the code of the borough of North Arlington establishes the position of confidential assistant to the mayor, and whereas, chapter 48 section 60 of the code of the borough of North Arlington permits compensation for the position of confidential assistant to the mayor between the range of 10,000 and 60,000 per year, and whereas, the mayor and council have undertaken a review of the current financial circumstances of the borough of North Arlington to determine if the necessary funds should be made available to support the employment of a confidential assistant to the mayor and, whereas, based on its review of the current financial condition of the borough, the mayor and council have determined that it is not in the best interest of the borough to make the necessary funds available to compensate a confidential assistant to the mayor and, now therefore be it resolved, by the mayor and council of the borough of North Arlington that in light of the current financial condition of the borough of North Arlington, the funds necessary to compensate the confidential assistant to the mayor as required by the code of the borough of North Arlington shall not be made available for 2001.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councilman Kearney

Mayor Massa – discussion? I do have my own comments I'd like to make. Whereas based on review of the current, it's the first time I've seen this by the way. I haven't seen it any other time. Review of the current financial conditions of the borough, the mayor and council determine, I would like to strike my language 'mayor' and leave that to council. And be it resolved by the council of the borough of North Arlington that in light of the current financial condition. Although I will comment that tonight when we appointed a public defender or prosecutor and a municipal attorney, we gave them raises so if we're in that kind of financial straits perhaps they should have deferred their raises. But I don't want to make a political issue out of government. I respect the position of every elected official here and so any other discussion or comment without that the clerk will call the roll.

Councilman Kearney – I would like to have a point of order comment. Any raises that we gave to people are in these positions such as prosecutor or public defender, they took a pay cut from previous years from the previous year what the going salary was for that position and as a result just like we have done with police officers that we have appointed here asking them to step aside and continue with the same or similar salary that they have. We ask them to step aside and take a pay cut to help our budgetary purposes for continuing to help the borough residents to basically undergo these tax increases we've been getting and part of that was elevating their salaries not even to the highest salary that was given the year previous to them to try to get them to work with us Mr. Mayor. So these raises that were given were somewhat given as a result of negotiation that took place and their helping the borough in essence by giving thorough admirable services; some of which are legal services or accounting services and they expect to get what they consider to be a normal rate of pay and that's all we did.

Mayor Massa – councilman, with all due respect but when they were appointed and when we went for the RFQs, the council majority at the town said that they were willing to work for less money than the previous professionals were. And that's one of the reasons they did that. Now, they're not willing to work for less money, they want their raise. This is a time when I've asked municipal employees who work full time to for pay freezes and for give backs and for to make sacrifices so again it's not an issues of looking to argue with you on that at that point but I think we should be very open and cover all sides of the issue, councilman?

Councilman Tanelli – also mayor when we went out for RFQs, the professionals we hired or that were hired by the majority weren't even the least expensive professional out of the group because if you recall at the reorg meeting, I had all the information on which I actually provided you with the chart on who vote least, professionals what they would work for. So.

Mayor Massa – thank you. Comment?

Councilman Yampaglia – Mr. Mayor, I think this issue goes to risk versus reward or the benefit like a risk benefit analysis where Doug Bern he was a former councilman, I believe Englewood Mayor, and been in government for many years. What does he bring to the table versus a \$10,000 that we would spend. What kind of financial impact would that cost and what would he bring. He could with his kind of experience he could bring, you know he brings 25, 30 years experiencing government for again...

Mayor Massa – well salary already established it was minimum at the scale of 10,000.

Councilman Yampaglia – I don't know I just think you just have to weight it and in light of the salary, I think this might be a very good...

Mayor Massa – well what happened here I mean there's a resolution on the table and what I find somewhat disappointing is that the council hadn't even asked to interview Mr. Bern in close session, review his credentials and qualifications and have him reassure the council that he would not be working counter to the municipal attorney but that being said I don't want to belabor the issue that council has made a determination and if there's any further, unless there's any further discussion we can call the roll.

Administrator Wall – will Councilman Hughes and Councilman Kearney wish to amend their introduction and second to delete the reference to ‘Mayor’ in paragraph 3, 4, and 5?

Councilman Hughes – yes, I’ll be willing to do that.

Councilman Kearney – yes.

Administrator Wall – okay. Reading now the roll call based on that one word deleted amendment.

ROLL CALL:           AYES: Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson,  
                                  Councilman Kearney  
                                  NAYS: Councilman Yampaglia, Councilman Tanelli

### **MAYORAL NOMINATION**

Mayor Massa – okay, mayoral nominations. Zoning board. Based upon my discussions with the council president and other members of the council, he and I come up with some nominations for the zoning board which will be my nomination but require approval of this body. So making those nominations, I’m placing the names of Mr. Brian Fitzhenry a nomination, Mr. Frank Picone is a former councilman, and Mr. Hurley was his last name...

Administrator Wall – Mr. Hurley was another gentleman yes.

Councilman Johnson – Tom Hurley.

Mayor Massa – Thomas Hurley. Just for the record, just to prove that I’m a bipartisan type of elected official, I know both Mr. Fitzhenry and Mr. Picone are registered republicans. So I worked cooperatively, we can be cooperative with the council president and council majority of this issue. There was an alternate name proposed of alternate member but with the council president deference, I’d just like to defer that appointment if that doesn’t create a problem tonight.

Councilman Hughes – actually it would mayor because we may not have enough people to reconstitute the board on the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting which would take place before our next regularly scheduled meeting. As you are aware there are two resignations from the zoning board on tonight’s agenda that we accepted and we’re going to have to go through the process of coming up with names to fill those positions sometime and you know February meeting so I think it would be beneficial if we were to make the nomination for the alternate for the zoning board.

Mayor Massa – be that the case, I’ll allow the council president to make that nomination.

Councilman Hughes – alright, I'd like to nominate Mrs. Kerry Gennace of Canterbury Avenue for a two year term as an alternate on the zoning board.

Administrator Wall – just for the record would this be Mr. Fitzhenry for a full term to expire 2014, Mr. Picone full term to expire 2014, Mr. Hurley full term to expire 2014, Mrs. Gennace unexpired term expiring 2012 leaving remaining vacant the two unexpired terms from the recently resigned individuals.

Councilman Hughes – I believe that is correct.

Administrator Wall – that'd be resolution 53-11.

Mayor Massa – motion introduced?

Councilman Tanelli – isn't there a way we can break these individuals up into individual resolutions rather than the entire package?

Councilman Hughes – yeah I think...

Administrator Wall – as you wish, we can whichever you prefer.

Councilman Johnson – it may be easier in terms of length of term.

Councilman Hughes – I think Mr. Wall did that to save paper but...

Councilman Tanelli – well I don't support them all so.

Administrator Wall – would you like to vote separately and list separate resolution number for each individual? We can do that if you wish.

Councilman Hughes – why don't we do that.

Administrator Wall – okay. Resolution 53-11 would be resolution to appoint Brian Fitzhenry to fill the full term with said term to expire to the zoning board, said term to expire December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 or soon thereafter as his successor shall qualify.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Bianchi

SECONDED BY: Councilman Hughes

ROLL CALL: All Council present vote in the affirmative

Administrator Wall – next resolution would be resolution 57 which would be resolution to appoint a Mr. Frank Picone to fill the full term to the zoning board which said term to expire December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 or soon thereafter as his successor should qualify.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councilman Bianchi

ROLL CALL: AYES: Councilman Yampaglia, Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Kearney  
NAYS: Councilman Tanelli

Administrator Wall – next resolution would be resolution 58 is a resolution to appoint Mr. Hurley, I'm sorry the gentleman's first name?

Mayor Massa – Tom Hurley.

Administrator Wall – Tom Hurley to fill the full term to zoning board with said term to expire December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 or soon thereafter as his successor shall qualify.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Bianchi  
ROLL CALL: AYES: Councilman Yampaglia, Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Kearney  
ABSTAIN: Councilman Tanelli

Administrator Wall – next resolution is resolution 59-11. Resolution to appoint Kerry Gennace to fill alternate position on the zoning board with said term to expire December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 or soon thereafter as her successor shall qualify.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Johnson  
ROLL CALL: AYES: Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Kearney  
NAYS: Councilman Yampaglia, Councilman Tanelli

Administrator Wall – thank you.

Mayor Massa – library board. Based upon my conferences with council president he has indicated to me that he would like to place a name of Mrs. Margaret Zukatus for appointment to the library board. As my alternate I am appointing, reappointing Mr. James Dombrowski to be the mayor's alternate at the library board. I don't know Mr. Administrator if that appointment requires council approval or not but in any event those are the only two vacancies I believe that exist right now and we can have a motion to introduce by...

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Tanelli  
ROLL CALL: all council present vote in the affirmative

Mayor Massa – ordinances.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2069**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THAT A BUSINESS ENTITY WHICH MAKES POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES AND MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY POLITICAL PARTIES SHALL BE LIMITED IN ITS ABILITY TO RECEIVE PUBLIC CONTRACTS FROM THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Tanelli

SECONDED BY: Councilman Hughes

Mayor Massa – discussion? Well I think this ordinance has been given a lot of publicity in the last few weeks or so and the last few months actually since the municipal government accepted the \$400,000 from the state of New Jersey in transitional aid, we are required by virtue of that agreement to have this kind of ordinance in place and the state of New Jersey has placed specific parameters for the language in this ordinance as to what it will prohibit, what it will allow. Not to belabor the issue, it's a quite comprehensive and extensive ordinance however I trust that after reviewing it myself and having the administrator review it and I believe that council president has reviewed it also. We're of the opinion that it would pass [inaudible] with the state of New Jersey. So once it is finally enacted, it will have to be reviewed by the state of New Jersey unless we are able to through communication with the state of New Jersey have the administrator send out a draft copy...

Administrator Wall – we'll forward the introduced ordinance.

Mayor Massa – to forward the introduced ordinance for review, their comment and possible revisions. Is that acceptable gentlemen?

Councilman Hughes – yes sir.

Mayor Massa - okay, so call the roll.

ROLL CALL: All Council present vote in the affirmative.

Administrator Wall – thank you. Next item is ordinance 2070.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2070**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 187 §9(B) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councilman Tanelli

Mayor Massa – discussion? Call the roll.

ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

Councilman Hughes – point of order Mr. Mayor. At this time I'd like to introduce I guess would be ordinance 2071, would be an ordinance to abolish the position of mayor's assistant for a first reading.

Mayor Massa – is that an ordinance for first reading?

Councilman Hughes – yes. That's correct sir.

Mayor Massa – do we have a copy of that?

Councilman Hughes – Mr. Randazzo's handing them out now.

Mayor Massa – I have before me a copy of what council president Hughes identifies as ordinance 2071. The clerk can read the, not to read the entire ordinance, but he can read the title into the record.

Administrator Wall – yes, mayor. This will be ordinance 2071.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2071**

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 48 SECTIONS 57 THROUGH 62 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON ENTITLED "EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS"

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councilman Johnson

Mayor Massa – any discussion? Well in light in the fact that this is an introduction of this ordinance, I have not had an opportunity to read it but I will review it and take it under advisement. It's unfortunate that the council has taken this step and I don't want to belabor the time of the public hearing and the council with regarding any comments I have other than as I mentioned before there was a history with regard to this particular position. And even though previous republican councils and mayors are so fit to fill this position at \$50,000 a year full time, this council deems it necessary or appropriate or whatever their feeling is justification to repeal the ordinance. Any further comment? Call the roll.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Councilman Bianchi, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Johnson,  
Councilman Kearney

NAYS: Councilman Tanelli, Councilman Yampaglia

**SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2064**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 277 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON ENTITLED "RAFFLES"

**MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2064 TO THE PUBLIC**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Tanelli  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Bianchi  
ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

Mayor Massa – ladies and gentleman at this time if anyone wishes to be heard on ordinance 2064, please come forward, state your name and address for the record and please restrict your comments to ordinance 2064. There be no one wishing to be heard on ordinance 2064, I'll entertain a motion to close the hearing and adopt.

**MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Tanelli  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Yampaglia  
ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

**ORDINANCE NO. 2065**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 19 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON ENTITLED "DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION"

**MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2065 TO THE PUBLIC**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Yampaglia  
ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

Mayor Massa – ladies and gentleman at this time I'll entertain anyone who wishes to be heard regarding ordinance 2065, please come forward, state your name and address for the record and please confine your comments to ordinance 2065. With no one wishing to be heard on this ordinance, I'll entertain a motion to close and adopt.

**MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Kearney  
ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

**ORDINANCE NO. 2067**

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$60,000 FOR SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON AND TO APPROPRIATE \$60,000 FROM GENERAL CAPITAL FUND BALANCE

**MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2067 TO THE PUBLIC**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Bianchi  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Yampaglia  
ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

Mayor Massa – anyone wishing to be heard on ordinance 2067, please come forward, state your name and address for the record. Please confine your comments to ordinance 2067. With no one wishing to be heard, I'll entertain a motion to close hearing and adopt.

**MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Yampaglia  
ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

**ORDINANCE NO. 2068**

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$84,985 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SENIOR BUS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON AND TO APPROPRIATE \$84,985 FROM GRANT PROCEEDS

**MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2068 TO THE PUBLIC**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Yampaglia  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Tanelli

Mayor Massa – discussion?

Councilman Bianchi – yes. Can you explain this to me? I'd like this ordinance explained to me.

Administrator Wall – yes. We have to set up a finance vehicle; we are in the process of receiving grant funding but even with a grant you have to set up the finance vehicle for the funding of capital equipment. So the at the end of the day, the bonds would not be sold, it would be offset by the grant when it's received to pay for...

Councilman Bianchi – you know this is a sore subject with me. We've been waiting well over a year for this money and when does it come?

Administrator Wall – we anticipate it within two months. We have the applications in; we have the paperwork in process. And we're in contact with NJ Transit who's responsible for handling the proceeds from the federal transportation administration.

Councilman Hughes – and unfortunately we paid for the bus a year ago and because of that the money came out of general operating funds so it's left a hole in our operating budget so by moving this to capital expenditure, it also frees up that money.

Administrator Wall – and just by way of information, the funding is listed in official bill. It is an actual appropriation in law and so it's not subject to interpretation. It is an actual appropriation...

Councilman Bianchi – how long do you think we'll wait for this 85,000?

Administrator Wall – I'm anticipating within two months.

Councilman Hughes – because we got a big check if you want to try and cash it.

[Laughter].

Mayor Massa – we'd been given assurances by [inaudible] in Rothman's office that the funds will be forthcoming. Any other discussion?

Councilman Bianchi – anyone wish to be heard on ordinance 2068, please come forward state your name and address for the record and please confine your comments to ordinance 2068.

Joe Cerrone – Joseph Cerrone, 48 Biltmore Street...

Mayor Massa – please use the microphone in the middle Joe. Thank you.

Joe Cerrone – Joseph Cerrone, 48 Biltmore Street. I have some questions about this. This is money that Mr. Rothman supposedly allocated to us way before the election. The figure was \$90,000 but now I'm hearing Joe say \$85,000 besides not getting the money expeditiously, where'd the other \$5,000 go?

Mayor Massa – the administrator can answer the question I think.

Administrator Wall – I was simply going to say that with the prices, if the pricing comes in under the actual grant award, they don't give you the additional money, they pay for the...

Joe Cerrone – what you're saying is that this vehicle only cost us \$85,000 opposed to the 90 that was promised to us?

Councilman Bianchi – no can I explain to him?

Mayor Massa – councilman.

Councilman Bianchi – the grant was for, the award was for \$90,000...

Councilman Hughes – up to \$90,000.

Councilman Bianchi – up to 90,000, okay that's a better way to put it so what had happened was when the bus guy came and we ordered the bus, we did the most we could to spend the 90 grand but we couldn't, 85 was that's all we could spend.

Joe Cerrone – oh I have no problem with that.

Councilman Bianchi – yeah, so there was \$5,000 left to go somewhere.

Joe Cerrone – now Mr. Rothman seemed to be a little bit confused on this issue at the reorganization meeting.

Councilman Bianchi – what do you mean?

Joe Cerrone – well he thought it was a school bus and Jesus this money was promised to us almost a year ago.

Councilman Hughes – the bus has been in service for almost a year.

Joe Cerrone – yeah exactly, how come it took so long for us to get this money?

Administrator Wall – I originally wrote the grant when I arrived here in 2008. The grant award was sometime a year after that.

Joe Cerrone – Mr. Rothman, he promises the money. Did he ever give us an indication how long it would take us to get the money because obviously it sounded like we were under the assumption that the money was coming right away. We ordered the bus right away, we received the bus we put it in service; by the way it's a senior citizen bus not a school bus.

Administrator Wall – correct.

Joe Cerrone – did anybody have any idea that it was going to take this long to get this money?

Administrator Wall – it's longer than anticipated, yes.

Joe Cerrone – it needed no reason?

Administrator Wall – there was communication breakdowns between the federal transportation administration and NJ Transit and we're working through those breakdowns.

Joe Cerrone – okay.

Administrator Wall – different grants are processed differently. [inaudible] we apply for every grant. We're just expanding the grant of \$125,000 for [inaudible].

Joe Cerrone – you got me a little confused now. You're saying we've applied for something that Mr. Rothman's said he came here and he got us with that big check you know.

Administrator Wall – it is an appropriation bill.

Councilman Hughes – but we couldn't cash that Joe. If they go to take it...

Joe Cerrone – yes, I figured that.

Administrator Wall – the grant is in a bill, it isn't a law, I could copy it for you. So it's the funding that has been allocated to North Arlington, the process is the federal transportation administration allocate the funds through NJ Transit and there's a breakdown between the federal transportation administration and NJ Transit which we are working through and...

Joe Cerrone – so basically what you're telling me is we've applied for a grant for this bus, what did Mr. Rothman do?

Administrator Wall – he wrote...

Joe Cerrone – he promises something here but it doesn't seem like he really has any involvement.

Administrator Wall – I'm sorry, I've been trying to defend any elected officials but I will say that he lobbied for the funding, he secured the funding for the municipality and it is baked into an actual bill and which has been documented. Now the objective for the public was to have a brand new senior bus at no cost. The end result will be that.

Joe Cerrone – it's going to cost us.

Administrator Wall – no, that's not accurate.

Joe Cerrone – even though we had to use our money or ...

Administrator Wall – yeah.

Mayor Massa – we will be reimbursed.

Joe Cerrone – any interest involved because of delay in the funding actually getting to us?

Councilman Johnson – how about the bond? Is there a charge for the bond council that we had to take out the bond?

Administrator Wall – whether you set up the finance vehicle in this fashion or set up the finance vehicle in a prior year, you would still have that same cost. That finance vehicle needed was required to be set up regardless of the timing. The most important aspect is the taxpayers not paying \$85,000 of their money for a bus to have a new bus at no charge...

Joe Cerrone – oh I fully agree. I listened to Mr. Rothman at the reorganization, by the time he got done, I was completely confused you know school bus, senior citizen bus...

Administrator Wall – he probably wasn't aware of the breakdown between the FTA and the NJ Transit.

Joe Cerrone – it seemed like he came here with a lot of enthusiasm to get us this money but then the money just you know...

Administrator Wall – I can't speak for...

Joe Cerrone – maybe lines were crossed, maybe...

Mayor Massa – excuse me Joe, council has a point of order.

Councilman Tanelli – I just want to know why he's confused whether it was a senior bus or school bus, it was never earmarked for school bus. What happened with, you mentioned this last month, if there were two, we had two funding vehicles for the senior bus because we were in dire need of a senior bus and Joe can recall that they're even contemplating spending a dollar and buying a school bus and put that in service because the senior bus was down all the way. So that's why once we were awarded and we got the letter that we were awarded the money, the council moved forward and pursued the bus, not having any idea that [inaudible]...

Joe Cerrone – ...it was going to take so long to get the actual money, yeah.

Councilman Tanelli – to get the money so and then there were some mix up with the contact name was our CFO if I'm not mistaken Terence?

Administrator Wall – that's correct.

Councilman Tanelli – and he wasn't responding in a timely manner to the DOT for to [inaudible] money, now Terence has changed all that; he's the point man on it and he's the one that that's why he's able to tell you that hopefully in the next two months we're going to retrieve that money.

Joe Cerrone – so in the future, when one of these political officials comes to our community and promises us something, we should probably ask them well how long is it actually going to take us to see this money? Should we go out and spend this money now or should we wait a little while til we actually know the money's coming across in a certain date/time frame you know that sort of thing? Maybe in the future that might be something we want to ask these people to come in and make it look it look like...

Councilman Hughes – unfortunately most of these grants are set up where we have to appropriate the money, we have to go spend the money, we have to go buy the product or pave the street or do whatever we do and then we submit for reimbursement. We will get a letter awarding the grant. We will act based on that letter in good faith and we'll go out and we'll appropriate the money, we'll buy the bus, we needed a bus desperately; the other one was breaking down.

Joe Cerrone – no I agree, I understand.

Councilman Hughes – almost daily so we went out and broke it down. Nobody anticipated the breakdown of communication. It's never happened before so we're hoping it's the one time glitch and we're working through it.

Joe Cerrone – maybe next time we can ask a couple more questions and maybe not get into this situation.

Councilman Hughes – well like I said we the procedure is we get a letter awarding a grant then we go out and spend it, [inaudible] appropriate, we put a funding vehicle in place usually called a bond; we don't ever actually sell the bonds but it's a way we can put it in the capital budget instead of the operational budget. Capital budget's for capital improvements, operational budget is pays everybody's pay check. And you know find copy paper and stuff like that. Capital improvements is for road work on sewer lines, major purchases like fire trucks or ambulances or things of that nature. But you have to put it in a capital budget, what you do is you create a bond, that's how you move something into a capital budget.

Joe Cerrone – so I guess creating a bond and posting a bond are two different things. This is creating a bond does not cost us like posting a bond would.

Councilman Hughes – doesn't cost us anything, we don't sell bonds. Most of the time bonds aren't sold individually anyway. We wait until you get several million dollars worth of bonds and sell them all at once, its a lot more economical to do it that way than going out and selling a hundred thousand dollar bond here, fifty thousand dollar bond there.

Joe Cerrone – so this is not an insurance situation?

Councilman Hughes – no, it's more of a budgetary procedure than anything else and its putting it in capital improvement instead of operational. Right now we thought the money was coming in relatively quickly. [Inaudible] pays for the bus out of operational budget. Now we're funding, creating the bond putting in a capital so that it's out of the budget and we don't have to worry about running into a deficit or running short of money in our operational budget.

Joe Cerrone – next year, yeah, okay very good.

Mayor Massa – the bottom line is Joseph that the \$84,000 to pay for senior citizen bus is not going to come out of tax money.

Joe Cerrone – very good thank you.

Mayor Massa – anybody else wish to be heard on this issue?

Councilman Hughes – and the bus is working fine.

Mayor Massa – motion to close hearing of citizens on ordinance 2068 and adopt.

### **MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT**

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Bianchi

SECONDED BY: Councilman Hughes

ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

Mayor Massa – administrator's report.

### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Administrator Wall – just one item and that's to the governing body, speaking about grants, we're exceptionally aggressive on applying for any and all grants period whether they come in quick or whether they come in slow. It's tax payer money that they don't have to spend. Including the competitive grant on Ridge Road for the streetscape including great congratulations to the fire company that I'm sure one of the members of the council will bring up an extremely competitive grant that they won recently. And also the appropriation grants that we constantly apply for. I'll finish with one other grant, we're working to extend an existing \$50,000 energy efficiency grant, federal government to extend that to instead of \$50,000 for HVAC improvements and the tax payers having to fund that whether it's you're hearing part of the improvement that needs to be made right now, extending that to \$125,000 grant, we may receive that money quickly, we may receive that money at some delay but we won't be receiving that money from the tax payers because they won't be obligated to pay it. And that is one of our key responsibilities in administration and we're proud of it. So I'll leave with that point and I shared some thoughts with the administrative liaison to defer to his report. Thank you that's all I have.

### **ENGINEERS REPORT**

Engineer – our report is very brief tonight based on the winter conditions; over the last several weeks and months there have not been a lot of activity obviously in the field of construction so if you go through our January 20<sup>th</sup> report, you'll see the majority items that is going to be held until the spring of 2011 before they start the paving and construction over the winter. The one thing I will also advise the mayor and council just quickly on is due to some of the economic conditions in the construction field where some contractors in the past have worked through the winter months and tried to get a jump start on construction, you're going to see a slower delay in 2011 because there's no need for them to try to finish last year's work early this year because there's really not enough work for them to bring back their crews and expenses as early as they use to in the past. So just to prepare you for scheduling purposes only that you may see a delay of

contractors coming back into town in the spring so as soon as the snow does melt and it does get sunny that doesn't mean the contractor will be out in 24 hours from that day, we'll have to get them remobilized [inaudible] work. The only other item that I have on the report is to answer Councilman Yampaglia question, one of the CDBG grants that the borough did apply for was the Gold Street application that is currently before them for their review. So that's one of the applications that are in same process that you just discussed for the last 15 minutes. So with that we also did hear from the cemetery, that's the last item in our report and again they [inaudible] starting and agree to the sidewalk work but it'll happen so rather than spend more time on this I don't think there's any need to, there's no work until spring.

Councilman Hughes – Mr. Mayor, point of order. Mr. Neglia has requested since we are going to two meetings a month and there's probably not going to be a whole lot that changes from two weeks before, he's requested the permission of the council to only attend one of the meetings per month instead of both of them. So I think that the council's in full agreement we can give them that leeway to work it out with the administrator as to which meeting out of the month he would be on the agenda and ...

Engineer – just to add to that, there'll be a good portion of the year like tonight where I really don't have a lot, we'll still furnish our reports to you but rather than taking valuable time out of your time at meetings. If it does pick up and you want me here twice a month, it's absolutely no problem, we'll be here, but I don't like issuing engineer's reports every two weeks that really don't change much. I think it's kind of a waste of time and paper to do such. So summer months [inaudible] issues that are facing the borough, I will happily be here twice a month but again every two weeks in January and February I'm not going to have lots to say. Consider that and ask me whenever you want.

Mayor Massa – I think with the concurrence of the members of this body that we would have you available just for the work session, submit a report a written report that will be on placed on file whereby if anyone had a public hearing wants to review that report they would be available to them, we would be able to at least read it into the record at the public hearing. Mr. Council president and councilmen confer with that?

Councilman Hughes – if you want a motion, I'll make a motion on it and we can vote on it.

Mayor Massa – I don't think it's something we have to vote on, I think it's just

Administrator Wall – communicate with Mr. Neglia and we'll know, we generally know when this items...

Mayor Massa – council reports.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

COUNCILMAN BIANCHI – okay, recreation report for January 2011. The widely popular zumba class take place at Washington school on Thursday nights 7PM and 8PM. All are welcome to enjoy the Latin exercise dancing and the cardio. Men's [inaudible] gym basketball is

held at Washington school from 8:30PM to 10PM. There has been as many 20+ men participating in the regular basketball. Also, two are boys and girls basketball leagues started and they're competitive biting games have become a very standard thing at Wilson School, Wilson the middle school. And recreation bowling has started, it's down at our bowling alley. Bowling is held every Saturday morning. North Arlington bowling they are also closed on...the bowling is on Saturday mornings, I don't know the exact time and that's the end of my report but I just want to say let's not forget about last month, the great job the recreation commission did on our tree lighting ceremony. They also ran a trip to New York City which was a sell out to Radio City music hall, \$60 a person and it was a sellout. Also two during the week of December 13<sup>th</sup> to December 16<sup>th</sup>, 30 awards were given out to homeowners throughout the course of the town for their homes, decoration of their homes for Christmas. That's all I have.

COUNCILMAN HUGHES – as far as the youth center goes Mr. Mayor, it's presently operating after school programs for the kids to go there, many kids go there and do their homework and play games and socialize waiting for their parents to come home, they're also gearing up for the tiny tots which it will be a four week program over the summer at a cost of \$300 per child which is a session that goes from 8:00 in the morning to 2:00 in the afternoon so far \$75 a week, they will take a lot of the tiny tots and keep them occupied and busy and learning new things in sports and recreation and activities [inaudible] over four weeks during the summer so it's quite a bargain for the residents in North Arlington. As far as the budget goes Mr. Mayor, Mr. Wall is doing preliminary meetings right now with the different department heads. Again this year, we're asking them to cut their budgets. It's getting more difficult every year because they've been so most of our department heads has been so good about cutting their budget but every year the belt is getting tighter and tighter and as you know our medical insurance cost went up astronomically this year and they're going to be that's going to be a tough thing to absorb into the budget so we're starting that process and soon we'll be meeting with the different department heads to review and refine their budgets getting ready for a submission of our budgets and I believe the introduction date has been put back a month by the latest local finance notice so I think we'll be looking to introduce it what is it April now.

Administrator Wall – yes, I don't have the date in front of me but its March or April.

Councilman Hughes – either the end of March or beginning of April somewhere around there. So we should be ready for introduction at that time. That's all I have Mr. Mayor.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON – this winter is shaping up to be one of the most challenging weather periods in recent history. Nearly 3 feet of snow the day after Christmas and as you guys know completely crippled the north east. Let me put the snow event into perspective, North Arlington were usually accustomed to about 6 inches of snow maybe every three years we'll get slightly over a foot. Obviously the Christmas blizzard is probably the biggest snow event that most of us will ever see in our lifetimes in this area. Our DPW led by superintendent McCabe did an excellent job clearing the snow and making the streets safe and passable. Snow plowing is a tough job. Not everybody's going to be happy. You're always going to have people out there who make the calls to the borough hall, this has to be done and that has to be done. People have to realize that we had nearly 3 feet of snow. There's only so many spots where you can put this snow especially on narrow streets such as Gold and Stover. Let me say this we had maybe ten

calls from residents that made some complaints about how the work was being done. Jimmy McCabe and myself personally went to each one of these residence; we made sure that the complaint were investigated and that whatever needed to be taken care of was taken care of. This is one of the advantages of living in a small town like North Arlington. Tonight they're predicting another 6 inches of snow, regardless it's going to be one of the toughest winters that North Arlington has ever faced. We're making sure that the equipment is ready to go, calling in some outside contract is when we need it especially to clear out the snow on Ridge Road so we're trying to do the best with what we have. That's all Mayor.

COUNCILMAN KEARNEY- with regard to the administrator's report, I'll speak first about budget development, that's begun. The administrator is meeting directly with each department to emphasize the continual and strict fiscal controls within which we must adhere this year. Finance committee work will begin shortly; with regard to collective bargaining discussions, another topic, they're ongoing. The administrator Mr. Wall is meeting with blue and white collar bargaining units next week and we will discuss further in executive session. A third topic is with regards to grants, our EECBG energy efficient grant. Mr. Wall is in discussions to expand our current energy efficiency grant to a full \$125,000 for HVAC improvements with minimal contribution by the borough. That'll help save energy and money assisting the governing body that's us and our efforts to stabilize taxes and all departments are performing admirably. That's the end of my report, thank you Mr. Mayor.

COUNCILMAN TANELLI – North Arlington fire department there was a total of 24 calls. One car fire, 5 electrical fires, 10 activated alarms, 4 carbon monoxide alarms, 10 miscellaneous calls, 2 mutual aid calls other town, 1 snow emergency, and 1 water emergency. That was it for the fire department. Mayor, there's been a couple, I'd like to first thank the DPW, the EMS, and the Fire Department for their work over these last few storms like what's already been addressed tonight, that storm was record breaking. We all suffered, we all had to deal with the situation. In saying that, I'd also like to thank the fire department and emergency squad for having to work under severe conditions. A lot of times two of our councilmen know that they have to stay at the firehouse so that they can respond quickly and more efficiently. I had a couple of things I wanted to throw out into the council as far as that might better prepare the DPW for events like that, you don't need them all the time but one would be to advertise in the newspaper for a list of drivers with CDL licenses where he has a pool of 20 25 guys possibly that he can we can as a council approve them, have them available to drive in the event that there's a storm. There's a lot of people that are not working, it'll be an opportunity to give somebody some money to work. Second would be a list of vendors with equipment. It seems that no matter hwo may new trucks we buy or how much equipment we do have, the equipment goes down. The monster blizzard we lost two trucks first thing I was told the day of, Monday of the storm is we lost two trucks last night. So in the event that that happens we have to go out to vendors for equipment or maybe bring an outside contractors to help us plow. I know he has a few guys but I would like to lessen the burden on the DPW superintendent and give him a pool of people so that's another thing I'd like to advertise for companies that number one could come into the town and help us plow as well as a company that has equipment that we can rent. So that we have all the stuff set up and situated so that it's just a matter of a phone call once the mayor or the council president gives the authority to do so. And lastly would be a list of per diems to shovel. There's a lot of kids that need community service. I know in the past that both the high school and the police department

front desk had a list of kids that were available some did it for free because they needed community service hours but also I think it's another opportunity for us give people jobs that are hurting out there that are unemployed that would be available for a four hour, five hour period where they can come in and shovel. So I'd like to if everyone's in agreement, I'd like to advertise one, two, or three of those things so that Jimmy has a list of people who [inaudible].

Councilman Hughes – I do believe Mr. McCabe already has a list of people with CDLs. I know he draws from the fire department, there's a number of people in the fire department that are out of work at this time, many of the fire fighters do have CDLs so he does pull not all of them at one time but while they're in the firehouse he'll pull a couple from the fire department and I know he also pulls some other borough departments for people that do have CDLs so he does have a I believe has an adequate list of people with commercial driver's license so that they can drive the larger trucks now. Does he need is he requesting that list be expanded?

Councilman Tanelli – when I spoke to him, it didn't seem like he had had a good list. I mean we can double back with him before we advertise. And have Terence check with him but maybe have him first check the list.

Councilman Johnson – if I can Mayor. I think the list is adequate Councilman. What Jimmy focuses on is he gets retired employees from the DPW, people who are familiar with the streets in the town, they've done the job before, they know how to operate a snow plow. It's different between having a CDL license and having a CDL license and knowing how to use a snow plow. So I think that's...

Councilman Hughes – were, would have, go.

Councilman Johnson – were, would have, go exactly. And some of the streets in North Arlington difficult, most of these guys have done it before. They've done it for many years. It's not a bad idea trying to expand the list but I think his list is sufficient.

Mayor Massa – I think on that note might be worthwhile just sending out a questionnaire to the people that we have already listed to make sure that they're still available make sure that they're available physically, that they don't have any disabilities that can be aggravated by working for us and get a list of what times they're available. Some of them may be working and they have a commitment to a full time job. They might be available at night but not during the daytime. A little survey just to get an idea. An activity list, an operational list the DPW can do it the guys he has, the people he has listed and just get it up to date and perhaps if we need two or three more people in reserve, it's a good idea to have because we never know when we'll get any more snow storms. And with respect to some of these contractors, I know they've done a great job. With the major storm we had several weeks back around Christmas time, Cali came in with a bucket loader. He was taken 7 – 8 foot piles of snow from the corners putting them into containers and bringing them and dumping them down behind the DPW. So, that worked out fairly well. Of course I go around the community, I talk to citizens and we'll get a pat on the back for the great job we did and then every now and then somebody complains my street wasn't done as good as the other guys street. Well several issues that we try to do and we did this with mass telephone calling and we've also did it with the help of our public relations consultant who does an

excellent job for us is getting the word to people who do two things, please don't throw the snow back in the middle of the street, it's a violation and it's dangerous. And I can recall having to tell people that when I was a police officer here in the community and secondly whenever you can use off street parking during a storm, please do it. It makes it easier for the plows to pass down the streets. Especially dead end streets are a big problem for our plows. And that's where we seem to get a lot of complaints of people who live on dead ends. 'They didn't plow my street' well Mrs. we couldn't get down your street because the cars parked on the corner and the plow just couldn't get through. So the public has to cooperate with us and that's a key issue. So it's important that we stay on top of the public information issues whenever we have a storm and get the word out there to the community it's important that they cooperate with us.

Councilman Tanelli – I have one more ...

Mayor Massa – I didn't mean to interrupt.

Councilman Tanelli – over the course of the last week, there's been a lot of back and forth, a lot of posting of chat room forums and things in regards to the recreation lights at Allen playground. I just want to bring it up because I liked to make a recommendation that you form a committee this evening to meet with both the county executive Cathy Donovan as well as meeting with the parks commission up in the county, attend their meetings and let them know that we're not going to be going away anytime soon because one of the problems that, it would really solve a big problem that we have if those fields were brought up to snuff and kids can utilize the fields because one of the problems is the high school has to move to Allen Park some years back because the county wasn't cleaning the field properly and it was a safety issue. so if we're able to get those parks renovated and fixed which so far everyone's promising, the county said that they're going to take care of it for us, hasn't done anything. I mean you met with previous county executive. You made some promises to us and nothing happened so I'd like to volunteer to be on that committee to go up to the county parks commission.

Mayor Massa – Councilman Hughes and I had that discussion, only several hours before the meeting today.

Councilman Hughes – just so you know what's going on, Councilman Bianchi and myself have sent a letter to Kathy Donovan or are in the process of sending a letter to her reminding her of the commitment that was made by the previous administration to fix up county park, in fact plans were drawn up by Mr. Neglia's agency back in 2002 I believe for the complete renovation of the North Arlington Lyndhurst section of county park on River Road for major renovations and drainage improvements to the ball field found there with additional facilities for these places for this park. So we've requested a meeting with Mrs. Donovan, in fact I think Mr. Ammiratto is going to be doing a press release if it hasn't been done already for next weeks newspapers and we will be following that up. If you want to join us for the meeting, you're more than welcome...

Councilman Tanelli – absolutely.

Councilman Hughes – and then we're going to be going to Mrs. Donovan to probably meet with the new parks director up there Mr. Wolfgang Albrick who is a friend of North Arlington, he was

a previous park administrator and I understand worked very closely with previous administrations here in North Arlington where a lot of work was done and he's in the county park over the years and you know the last few years has kind of been let go why they were concentrating Over Pech Park so we are planning on following up on that and when we get a meeting set up, we'll get in touch with you.

Councilman Tanelli – thank you Councilman.

Mayor Massa – Councilman Tanelli I think would be pleased to be part of that process.

Councilman Tanelli – that's it, thank you Mayor.

COUNCILMAN YAMPAGLIA – [inaudible] Antonicello [inaudible] retirement and thank him for his service on the planning board and the library board over the years. There's one issue Mayor, I met with Stephanie Burke today because apparently there's a dangerous condition developed in the vestibule roof, there's a drain that's clogged. And she mentioned that it clogged I think Mr. Higgins went down there to try to alleviate the situation couldn't do it. Seeking outside help now but apparently the snow is building and everything is backing up and now there's water dripping in the vestibule which can open up a lot of difficulty for god forbid a law suit or what not but with the snow now, the snow is sitting there. The possibility is even raised with that kind of pressure; it can even collapse so I just wanted to get that word out where that can be looked at. [Inaudible] talk to Mr. McCabe or somebody should look at that asap.

Mayor Massa – I believe the administrator's in the process of having that taken care of.

Councilman Johnson – yeah I was there, it's a flat roof on the library vestibule and the drains that drain the water and the snow off that roof are apparently clogged underneath the sidewalk, snow builds up on top of the roof, leaks through the roof and is leaking through the drive wall inside the vestibule.

Councilman Yampaglia – they couldn't do anything to alleviate, right, he tried or something?

Councilman Johnson – they tried to unclog the drains through the street and wasn't possible to do that but they also believe that in the diagram through the library that they did put in two assessor drains that they have to locate and possibly we can use those instead of digging up the whole sidewalk. The problem may be alleviated if they can find the extra drains.

Councilman Yampaglia – when will we know? You don't know.

Councilman Johnson – Terence.

Administrator Wall – I spoke to Mr. Higgins today, it's an active project and I can have an update for you in the morning. I didn't speak to him this evening yet but it is a project that they're working aggressively to cure to ensure the safety of the folks and to make sure the building is sound. We're not aware of any unsafe structure issue at this time at all just to be clear about that and we are seeking to have a solution.

Councilman Yampaglia – that's all Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR MASSA – my own report, I want to thank the police department, public works, ems, fire department, volunteer emergency squad for all the hard work and diligence that they've done and all the great the community support that they've been involved in over the course of these last few big storms that we've had and I also I want to say we are going to have to start looking at replacing some of that old equipment that needs to be repaired. We've got to keep our maintenance program in place for our machinery because these major storms do cause a tremendous amount of stress on the trucks, especially trucks that are 8 and 10 years old. And of course asking the public to cooperate with us. I just want to comment today, tonight, we passed a resolution appointing a member of the police department and comes at a rather sad day for me I think for every cop in NJ and probably across the country; this morning the Lakewood Police Department had to bury one of its own who's a victim of a brutal brutal attack by an individual who's identified as a gang member who's also now been charged with another homicide. This officer was virtually gunned down without provocation by a vicious member of a street gang. And I think it hits home, hits home to me as a member of this police department that small town cops we call them small town cops, suburban police officers I think is the better term are exposed to dangers just as other police departments are, other police officers are in other communities. so I would ask that you keep the family of that officer in your prayers and I just want to extend my thanks to all law enforcement officers for the great job that they do and hard work that they do. I know public employees for the last several months have been the subject of a number of controversial issues regarding salaries, benefits, and so forth but a time like this I think we put a lot of those controversial issues behind us and keep in mind that cops don't run from trouble, they run to trouble, and firemen, and I'm very proud of the great job that our volunteers do here in North Arlington, doing the same work essentially in North Arlington that [inaudible] do in big cities. So I want to thank everybody for their hard work and dedication. I also want to extend my congratulations to the new executive director of the meadowlands commission. There'll be a lot of activity going on, a lot of correspondence, a lot of joint ventures going to hopefully with the meadowlands commission that will be beneficial to the community here in North Arlington with respect to our redevelopment so we're looking forward to picking up where we've left off long ago in this post encap era and working on getting the Porete Avenue redevelopment project done on track. That's all that I have, at this time I'll entertain a motion for executive session.

Councilman Hughes – Mr. Mayor, I'd like to bring up something. I think we've all been remised here on congratulating our fire department. They recently went out and applied and were granted a \$285,000 assistance to firefighters grant for the purchase of a new truck. As you know our fire departments been very aggressive in applying and this is actually the 4<sup>th</sup> grant that we received in the last number of years and actually the second grant that we've received for the purchase of fire apparatus. With modern fire apparatus costing \$400 and \$500,000 or more, this purchase will probably pay for that 2/3rds of the cost of the replacement of our oldest truck which is approaching over is almost 26 years old. So that we'll be able to keep the modern fleet that we have and I think they ought to be congratulated for the work that Chief Malhbacher and especially Chief Zidiak had been doing to get these grants. They've saved the borough of North Arlington and the residents and tax payers a lot of money.

Mayor Massa – thank you Mr. President, I’m glad you raised that issue. yes we did get a grant a year or so ago for \$350,000 toward a rescue vehicle, now North Arlington as well as a few communities in North Jersey to share in over a million dollars in federal grant money and of course we’ve had some discussion tonight about grant money. Well the thing is getting the grant and having it there, it’s like money in the bank to provide vital equipment to protect our community and protect our fire fighters so that they can protect themselves while they protect the town and save the tax payers in this case \$285,000. That’s nearly \$700,000 in grants toward apparatus that we will be seeing for this type of equipment that we really need to do the job. So I want to thank the Council President for making that recognition.

Councilman Hughes – and actually they pay their grants before the truck is delivered so usually about a month before the truck is delivered, we get the money so that we don’t ever have to go and bond that part of it.

Mayor Massa – I think that comes from homeland security, that’s a different fund of the senior citizen bus.

Councilman Hughes – yes, different group.

Mayor Massa – and probably a different crew of bureaucrats that handle those issues. Okay, executive session.

#### R- 44-11 EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to discuss: [Personnel; Collective Bargaining] “Public release of the discussion will only occur after counsel approval. Action may or may not occur after discussion”.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councilman Bianchi

ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council are now in executive session.

#### MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Tanelli

SECONDED BY: Councilman Kearney

ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative

Mayor Massa – just some business I want to revise with respect to some of these committee assignments. I want to replace Councilman Bianchi back on public safety. Councilman Yampaglia I’m going to remove him from public safety because I have very new assignment for

him coming up shortly. He's going to be the mayor's designee to the Hackensack Meadowlands Municipal Committee. That was an assignment that was generally done by my confidential aid in the past but my confidential aid no longer exists. So Councilman Yampaglia and I will meet the next few days with respect to that assignment; it's going to be very productive and for the community and it's going to be a good idea having an actual member of the governing body address those meetings on occasion with me or by himself when I am unavailable with time. No other new business at this time so motion to adjourn.

Councilman Hughes – okay, so you're moving Councilman Bianchi to public safety, taking Mark off of public safety.

Councilman Bianchi – but am I still on Rec?

Mayor Massa – you're staying on rec yes.

Councilman Hughes – what I suggested was change the chairmanship. Make him the chairman of rec and me the chairman of finance.

Councilman Bianchi – because he's more brilliant with numbers.

Mayor Massa – okay, let's make that change also.

Councilman Bianchi – I'm poor with numbers, I'm Italian.

Mayor Massa – then we'll make that change whereby Councilman Hughes would be chairman of finance and Councilman Bianchi will be chairman of rec. Any further business?

**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councilman Tanelli

ROLL CALL: All council present vote in the affirmative