

CITY OF UNION CITY
HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING : TRANSCRIPT OF
: :
: :
-----: PROCEEDINGS

VETERANS MEMORIAL SCHOOL
1401 Central Avenue
Union City, New Jersey

Tuesday, December 19, 2022
Commencing at 7:06 p.m.

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T:

LUCIO P. FERNANDEZ, COMMISSIONER
WENDY A. GRULLON, COMMISSIONER
MARYURY A. MARTINETTI, COMMISSIONER
CELIN J. VALDIVIA, COMMISSIONER
BRIAN P. STACK, MAYOR

M E M B E R S A B S E N T:

A L S O P R E S E N T:

SCARINCI HOLLENBECK
BY: JORGE de ARMAS, ESQ.
Corporation Counsel

HILDA ROSARIO, City Clerk

SUSAN BISCHOFF, CCR, RPR
449 Columbia Blvd., Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075
201-933-8220 SBischoffccr@yahoo.com

1	<u>I N D E X</u>	
2		<u>PAGE</u>
3	CALL TO ORDER	3
	SALUTE TO FLAG	3
4	ROLL CALL	3
5	APPROVAL OF MINUTES	4
6	ORDINANCE (S) FOR INTRODUCTION	5
7	CONSENT AGENDA	7
8	REGULAR AGENDA	14
9	CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD	15
10	ADJOURNMENT	17
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 MS. ROSARIO: Please stand for the
2 Pledge of Allegiance.

3
4 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
5 recited.)

6
7 MS. ROSARIO: This is a regular public
8 meeting of the Union City Board of Commissioners
9 being held on Monday, December 19, 2022, at
10 7:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Elementary
11 School, 1401 Central Avenue.

12 This meeting has been called in
13 accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
14 Adequate notice was forwarded to The Jersey
15 Journal, The Record, and The Hudson Reporter, has
16 been posted on the bulletin board in the City Hall
17 and has been made available to the public in the
18 Office of the Municipal Clerk.

19

20 **ROLL CALL:**

21

22 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Fernandez.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

4 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Here.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

6 MAYOR STACK: Here.

7

8 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

9

10 MS. ROSARIO: The first item on the
11 agenda is the approval of minutes. Motion to
12 approve meeting minutes for the December 6, 2022,
13 Board of Commissioners meeting. May I have a
14 motion to approve?

15 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

16 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Commissioner
17 Valdivia.

18 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
20 Grullon.

21 Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

23 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

24 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

3 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

5 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

6

7 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
8 action on the following item:

9

10 **ORDINANCE (S) FOR INTRODUCTION:**

11 1. An ordinance amending Chapter 301 of
12 the Code of the City of Union City Entitle
13 "Peddling and Soliciting" setting forth permitted
14 hour of operation.)

15

16 MS. ROSARIO: There's one ordinance for
17 introduction. Adoption on first reading
18 authorizes the Municipal Clerk to advertise the
19 ordinance with a notice of the introduction,
20 together with a notice of the time and place when
21 the ordinance will be considered for final
22 passage. The ordinance will be further considered
23 at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners to be
24 held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at the Emerson
25 Middle School, 318 18th Street.

1 MAYOR STACK: All this ordinance will do
2 is it's going to govern the vendors that are out
3 in the street right now. We have some vendors
4 that are staying out there all night, whether it
5 be with a hot dog cart or with a vending truck,
6 they're out there all night. This will just have
7 them out there from, I believe, 7 a.m. to --
8 Jorge, what time?

9 MR. De ARMAS: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

10 MAYOR STACK: To 11 p.m., which I think
11 is more than enough time and not to have them out
12 there. I just think that leaving them out there
13 3:00 in the morning just makes an attraction for a
14 problem to take place.

15 And it's something I noticed just from
16 driving around late at nighttime, as many times as
17 we speak to them. And some of them are leaving
18 the vehicle or the piece of equipment, the cart,
19 or whatever on the street, actually leaving it in
20 a parking space at nighttime. It takes up a
21 parking space, but also again it leads to
22 vandalism. We just want them to take it with them
23 and come back in the morning. They're welcome to
24 do it seven days a week, but at least to be out
25 there from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. is more than enough

1 time for them. And nothing good is going to
2 happen in those hours of the nighttime. That's
3 all it's doing. I'll make a motion to introduce.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Mayor Stack,
6 second by Commissioner Fernandez.

7 Commissioner Fernandez.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

10 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

11 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

12 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

13 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

14 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

15 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

16 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

17

18 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
19 action on following items in total:

20

21 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

22

23 (1) Resolution Approving the Payment of Claims.

24 (2) Resolution Approving the Payment of

25 Concurring Claims.

- 1 (3) Resolution Approving the Escrow Refunds.
- 2 (4) Resolution Approving the City Payroll.
- 3 (5) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll.
- 4 (6) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Redemption
- 5 Monies to Outside Lienholders.
- 6 (7) Resolution Authorizing Tax Refund in Tax
- 7 Appeal Decisions By the Tax Court of New Jersey.
- 8 (8) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of
- 9 Payment.
- 10 (9) Resolution Authorizing the Receipt of Bids
- 11 Fro Elevator Inspection Services For a Second
- 12 Occasion.
- 13 (10) Resolution to Adopt a Union City Vision Zero
- 14 Action Plan to Achieve the Goal of Eliminating All
- 15 Traffic-Related Injuries and Deaths in Union City
- 16 By 2027.)

17

18 MS. ROSARIO: There are ten items on the

19 consent agenda.

20 One, resolution approving the payment of

21 claims.

22 Two, resolution approving the payment of

23 concurring claims.

24 Three, resolution approving the escrow

25 refunds.

1 Four, resolution approving the City
2 payroll.

3 Five, resolution approving the library
4 payroll.

5 Six, resolution authorizing refund of
6 redemption monies to outside lienholders.

7 Seven, resolution authorizing tax refund
8 in tax appeal decisions by the Tax Court of New
9 Jersey.

10 Eight, resolution authorizing the refund
11 of payment.

12 Nine, resolution authorizing the receipt
13 of bids for elevator inspection services for a
14 second occasion.

15 Ten, resolution to adopt a Union City
16 Vision Zero Action Plan to achieve the goal of
17 eliminating all traffic related injuries and
18 deaths in Union City by 2027.

19 Mayor abstains on payment to Chasan
20 Lamporello and Mallon.

21 Mayor, would you like to take public
22 comment on the consent agenda?

23 MAYOR STACK: Sure. Just before we do,
24 just for the Commissioners, this was a late entry.
25 I always like to try to circulate so everybody

1 could read it. And I'll circulate it -- I think I
2 may have put it in the folder today, you may not
3 have gotten in your office. This is really a good
4 thing, this vision zero is an organization that
5 has come forward. It is quite detailed, the
6 proposal that they made about eliminating traffic
7 deaths, not only in urban areas, but throughout
8 the State of New Jersey.

9 We've seen how many individuals are hit
10 by vehicles, not only in Union City, but in Hudson
11 County. We've seen it happen. We've seen people
12 get hit down Tonnelles Avenue, 1&9, which is a
13 state road. We've seen the consequences what's
14 taken place, I mean it's bone chilling what you
15 see taking place.

16 But even here in Union City about a week
17 and a half, two weeks ago, we had a crossing
18 guard -- not a crossing guard, I'm sorry -- we had
19 a pedestrian get struck on 13th and New York
20 Avenue. Somebody turning the corner struck the
21 pedestrian. And there's been others in the City.
22 So we'd really like to take this approach, make
23 the City safer, look for recommendations from
24 professionals, maybe get at least one other
25 Commissioner to serve on this committee. I'm

1 going to serve on it as the director of public
2 safety. We'll have the chief, we'll have
3 representatives of the parks department, all the
4 departments will be represented, revenue and
5 finance, public works, public affairs, and then
6 we'll get people from fire prevention.

7 It's pretty much laid out when you read
8 the ordinance -- the resolution, it's pretty laid
9 out. You'll have recreation on there, just a lot
10 of different perspectives. And we'll start
11 meeting on a monthly basis, maybe before or after
12 a Commission meeting, just to really look how we
13 can make it safer.

14 So we've tried with flashing signs in
15 the community, better striping in the community,
16 safer crosswalks, brighter street lights. But
17 even in daytime, we need to look when it's light
18 outside, we need to look for other ways to make it
19 safer.

20 We live in the most densely populated
21 city in America, all of us know that, I don't need
22 to preach to the choir. But see how we can make
23 it safer. Maybe there's a recommendation that
24 Wendy has or Lucio has, Celin, Margie, that may be
25 the chief doesn't see, I don't see, that maybe the

1 engineering firm that represents the City,
2 Colliers Engineering, doesn't see. But I think
3 there's more and more we can do. And I just felt
4 this was a good opportunity.

5 On top of that, when you adopt this, you
6 could also apply for funding. I think it's up to
7 like -- I forgot the number, Jorge, do you
8 remember, it's like 15 million dollars that's set
9 aside for Vision Zero in New Jersey. I read the
10 whole packet, it was quite thick. But there's
11 money that you can apply for for other items.
12 Like being that we're going to do Hudson Avenue,
13 next summer, we'll start Hudson Avenue. What else
14 can we do to enhance that? And we'll have
15 testimony, we'll have public hearings, stuff like
16 that. And we'll do this from now until 2027.
17 This committee will meet regularly, whether we do
18 it quarterly, monthly, we'll come up with that.
19 But I'd like to try at least to get one of the
20 Commissioners also see if they'd like to serve on
21 this board. I think this would be great.

22 Anyone wishing to comment on any matter
23 on the agenda right now, please step forward,
24 state your name and address for the record.

25 Seeing none, I'll make a motion to close

1 public hearing.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Mayor Stack.

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
5 Valdivia.

6 Commissioner Fernandez.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

8 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

9 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

10 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

11 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

12 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

13 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

14 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

15 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

16 MS. ROSARIO: Motion to approve all
17 items on the consent agenda?

18 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Commissioner
20 Valdivia.

21 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
23 Grullon.

24 Commissioner Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

6 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

7 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

8 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

9

10 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
11 action on the following:

12

13 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

14

15 1. Resolution approving a payment of
16 claim to the Hudson County Improvement Authority.)

17

18 MS. ROSARIO: There's one item on the
19 regular agenda, resolution approving payment of
20 claims to the Hudson County Improvement Authority.
21 Commissioner Martinetti will recuse from the vote.

22 May I have a motion on item number one?

23 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Motion.

24 MAYOR STACK: Second.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Commissioner

1 Grullon, second by Mayor Stack.

2 Commissioner Fernandez.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

5 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

7 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

8 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

9 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

10

11 **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

12

13 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor, would you like to
14 take public comments?

15 MAYOR STACK: Sure. Just before we do,
16 I would just like to thank the Commissioners for
17 their dedication and all the work that they're
18 doing in the community to make it a better place.
19 It's truly making Union City like a large family.
20 They saw us being together as one and being
21 together as a family, we bring the community
22 together.

23 I'd just like to thank each and every
24 one of you for the hard work that you put in, your
25 dedication and loyalty to the community and to the

1 City. Thank you very much.

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: I'd like to
3 thank you for everything you do for the City.

4 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: We had a great
6 year this year in terms of new projects and some
7 that are still coming and that's because of your
8 leadership as a state senator and especially as
9 Mayor of Union City.

10 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: And I want to
12 that you for everything you do for Union City.
13 And I want to thank the city clerk, the attorney,
14 yourself. I want to wish the three of you a
15 healthy and blessed new year.

16 MAYOR STACK: And thank you for your
17 work.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Thank you.

21 MS. ROSARIO: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: We won't meet
23 again until we meet in Emerson.

24 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Happy holidays.

1 MAYOR STACK: And healthy and happy
2 holiday to everyone in the community also.

3 Anyone wishing to comment on any matter
4 concerning municipal government in the City of
5 Union City, please step forward, state your name
6 and address for the record.

7 Seeing none, I'll make a motion.

8 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Mayor Stack.
10 Second by Commissioner Martinetti.

11 Commissioner Fernandez.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

13 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

14 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

15 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

16 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

17 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

18 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

20 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

21

22 **ADJOURNMENT:**

23

24 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
25 adjourn?

1 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

2 MAYOR STACK: Second.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Commissioner
4 Martinetti, second by Mayor Stack. All in favor?

5

6 (Whereupon, all Commissioners indicate
7 in the affirmative.)

8

9 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at
10 7:17 p.m.)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1

Brian P. Stack

2

Lucio P. Fernandez

3

Maryury A. Martinetti

4

Celin J. Valdivia

5

Wendy A. Grullon

6

Board of Commissioners

7

8

9

Attest:

10

Jorge de Armas, Esq.,

11

Corporation Counsel

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the testimony and proceedings as taken stenographically by me at the time, place, and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

SUSAN BISCHOFF, CCR, RPR
LICENSE NO. 30XI00233700