

**BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2014**

A Special Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Borough of Woodland Park was held in the Second Floor Conference Room in the Municipal Building, 5 Brophy Lane, on October 6th, 2014 and was called to order by Mayor Keith Kazmark at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Council President Spinelli, Councilman DeCesare, Councilwoman Gatti, Councilman Holloway, Councilwoman Kallert, Councilwoman Pascrell and Mayor Kazmark

Absent: None

Kevin Galland, Administrator, was present.

Passaic Valley Water Commission Guests

Ms. Gloria Kolodziej, Chairwoman
Mr. Jeffrey Levine, Commissioner
Mr. Russell Grady, Commissioner
Mr. Joseph Bella, Executive Director
Mr. James Duprey, Director of Engineering
Mr. Kevin Byrne, Principal Engineer

The Mayor stated in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law P.L. 1975 c.231, notice requirements for this special meeting were advertised in the Herald News on September 20, 2014 detailing the time and place of this meeting and with notice given to the public by posting a copy thereof on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Kazmark requested that a motion be made to postpone the Public Hearing portion of the meeting until after the presentation and discussion of the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) Storage Improvement Project. Upon Motion by Council President Spinelli, seconded by Councilwoman Gatti, and passed on roll call vote, the Public Hearing portion of the meeting was moved to follow the project's discussion.

DISCUSSION:

PVWC & Mayor & Council
Great Notch Reservoir; New Street Reservoir; and Levine Reservoir

Mayor Kazmark thanked the representatives from PVWC in attendance and provided an overview of the project regarding the draining of the reservoirs and replacing the water storage capacity with tanks.

Councilman DeCesare needed to excuse himself from the meeting at 6:14 pm.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Joseph Bella, PVWC Executive Director who provided an overview of the infrastructure of the water system; and then presented a hand out which provided information on the communities served by PVWC; the need for the storage improvements; differences between a closed vs. open drinking water system; number of uncovered distribution reservoirs in service (five in NJ, Trenton, Cedar Grove and the three under discussion); the multi-barrier approach to killing germs; explanation of pathogens and bacteria found at the faucet; historical coliform reports dating back to August 2010; project schedule; costs with and without the reservoirs; annual charges of selected water utilities; and PVWC projected debt.

A discussion followed regarding the specifics for the New Street and Great Notch Reservoirs.

NEW STREET

Mr. Bella stated that the cost of the project does not include the need for new service lines; that the New Street Reservoir is the heart of the system and serves some 400 thousand customers; that the proposed plan calls for the installation of two tanks, 15 million gallons each to replace the current 65 million gallon capacity; and that there would be no negative impact on fire protection.

Further, Mr. Bella stated that the water cannot be retreated with UV treatment, if it was an alternative, a new treatment plant would need to be located by the dam. The Commission did investigate the possibility of using membranes, which was determined not to be feasible. The proposed plan calls for placing the tanks close to the dam which would make them significantly less visible. The tanks cannot be buried in water or earth as cross contamination would be a major concern.

Mayor Kazmark questioned whether North Jersey District Water has capacity to provide water to make up for the capacity of New Street. Mr. Bella stated that yes that entity has the usage capacity, but not the storage capacity as would be required in an emergency. Further, the elevation grades are not right and that the water would need to be pumped into the PV system. It would be a closed system with no excess capacity.

GREAT NOTCH

Mr. Bella stated that the Great Notch Reservoir (200 million gallons) and the Cedar Grove Reservoir (600 million gallons) are interconnected. There are on-going discussions with the DEP, Newark and PVWC regarding the possibility of building a UV re-treatment plant at Cedar Grove, which would eliminate the need to drain the Great Notch Reservoir. This would require a cost sharing agreement amongst the principals and the projected cost for the project could be reduced to approximately half of the cost for building tanks.

Mayor Kazmark stated that this proposed project is the solution to saving the Great Notch Reservoir and everyone needs to work to bring this to fruition.

SCHEDULE

The schedule presented by Mr. Bella is approximately one year old. There is currently a three month extension in place for implementation of the project at Levine and Mayor Kazmark questioned whether that delays the projects for the remaining reservoirs by the same three months.

Mayor Kazmark stated that Congressman Pascrell, Senator Menendez and Senator Booker sent a jointly signed letter to the head of the Director of the EPA requesting that more time be provided to identify and investigate less costly, but equally beneficially, alternatives. Mayor Kazmark asked the Chairwoman that based on the current high level of involvement of elected officials, would the Commission ask for a stay in the implementation schedule. The Chairwoman responded that the Commission is under an ACO to move forward with the project, and further suggested that the DEP and the EPA should come and explain the ACO. The Chairwoman did agree to go back and see what can be done.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Upon Motion by Council President Spinelli, seconded by Councilwoman Kallert, and passed on roll call vote, the Public Hearing portion of the meeting was opened to the public.

The following individuals spoke against the project and requested that the PVWC seek and find an alternative solution to the perceived problem.

William Linteris, President PCBOR, 95 Wilson Ave., Wayne, NJ

Alan Weinberg, NJCDC, 32 Spruce Street, Paterson, NJ

Sara Gilbertson, 57 Wedgewood Drive, Woodland Park, NJ

Kelly Predojevic, Zambrano Drive, Woodland Park, NJ

Tom Fugsaldo, 42A Prechmas, Paterson, NJ

Gianni Intili, Hillside Terrace, Woodland Park, NJ

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mayor Kazmark again thanked the PVWC guests and residents for attending this meeting and expressed his desire to work together to find a solution that will be less of an impact on the cost to the water customers and the impact on the aesthetics of the area.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon Motion by Councilman Holloway, seconded by Councilwoman Pascrell, and unanimously passed on roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin V. Galland
Municipal Clerk

Keith Kazmark
Mayor