

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 22, 2015, 7:00 P.M.  
AGENDA MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Anesh called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Mayor Anesh read the sunshine statement and announced that same is being held pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1974 and all provisions of that Act have been met with adequate notice of this meeting having been provided to the Borough's two official newspapers and also published on the Borough's website.

The roll call was administered by Amy Antonides as follows:

COUNCIL	Present	Absent	Late
Councilman Barletta	X		
Councilman Bengivenga	X		
Councilman Diana	X		
Councilman Richkus	X		
Councilman Rusnak	X		
Council President White	X		
Mayor Anesh	X		
ALSO PRESENT			
Administrator Cullen	X		
Clerk Antonides	X		
Attorney Bill Robertson	X		
Engineer Miller	X		

**Review of Agenda Items:** Clerk Antonides reviewed all the items on the agenda for this evening. Mayor Anesh asked if the Council has any comments on the agenda this evening. Councilman Diana asked to pull Resolution #15-210 to be voted on separately.

**RESOLUTION #15-201  
AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION MEETING**

There was no closed session for this evening.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:** Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Mike English of 123 Lee Place inquired about the appointment shown on this evening's agenda pertaining to an OEM Coordinator. In summary, Mr. English expressed his dismay at the appointment of the Police Chief as OEM Coordinator, instead of re-appointing Mr. Mike Zushma who has been serving in the capacity for over 30 years. Mr. English expressed concerns for the time restraints put upon the police department to now incorporate OEM business into their routine. Mayor Anesh explained that this is a Mayoral appointment that he is responsible for and desires to move in a different direction regarding OEM at this time and believes this change to be in the very best interest of the Borough. Mr. English argued that he doesn't believe this decision to be in the best interest of the Borough as we will be losing someone who is a valuable asset to this Borough. Councilman Diana expressed his concerns for the administrative workload put upon our Police Chief and officers. Mayor Anesh said that he has full faith in our Chief that he and his officers know what they can and cannot do in both their personal life and professional life. Councilman Rusnak said he personally called the Chief and asked his opinion on becoming the new OEM Coordinator and after the conclusion of the phone call Councilman Rusnak said that he has the utmost confidence with the Chief and his team in their management of OEM.

Mr. Gary Vesce of 2133 Audobon Avenue said he was one of those dispatched to assist during hurricane Sandy and in summary went on to also express his concerns pertaining to the additional workload put upon the Police Department during an emergency. During Sandy he noticed that police forces throughout the County were stretched very thin. Mr. Vesce asked what would happen if a storm catastrophe were taking place while at the same time a "radical" came in and began a shooting spree; where would the focus be. Mayor Anesh said though he does not micromanage the Police Department, obviously the priority would be tending to the "radical" situation over the storm. Mayor Anesh said that as for the administrative workload from the aftermath of a crisis or storm, it is many months well after an incident before any reports are tended to for FEMA because as you know, FEMA as a government agency is probably not the most expeditious. Many corporate entities work a lot more swiftly than FEMA does. Thus there is more than ample time to file such reports. On another note, all our department heads are the ones who are pulling the data together for the OEM Coordinator. Mayor Anesh said that public safety comes first. A radical situation will always have the utmost attention first and a natural disaster would be secondary. Mayor Anesh said that will be the case, that was the case probably 25 years ago as well. OEM types of issues were always a Police Departments responsibility long before OEM came into play.

With no further public comments made, Mayor Anesh closed the floor from public comments.

**ADJOURN AGENDA MEETING:** With no further comments, Mayor Anesh asked for a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting. Council President White made a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting at 7:26 p.m., seconded by Councilman Richkus and unanimously carried by an all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Amy Antonides*

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Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC