

FAIR LAWN MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AND
FAIR LAWN 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
PRESENTS THE

RE-ENACTMENT OF FAIR LAWN'S
FIRST COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Municipal Building
Council Chambers



Fair Lawn Town Crier: Timothy Yuskaitis

Hon. Kurt Peluso, Former Mayor of Fair Lawn

The Organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough Of Fair Lawn was held in the Fire House River Road 1924.

There were present:

Mayor Rober A. Smith Hon. Robert Gordon, Former Mayor and
Former State Senator

Councilman William M. Croucher, Jr. Hon. Steve Weinstein,
Former Mayor of Fair Lawn

Councilman Richard Shortway Matthew Correia

Councilman Andrew E. Fox Hon. John Cosgrove,
Former Mayor of Fair Lawn

Councilman James N. Hyslop Jane Young, Granddaughter of Former
Councilman, James Hyslop

Councilman Garret Houtsma Hon. Lisa Swain, Former Mayor and
current Assemblywoman

Councilman William F. Hill Maria Morone-Zotto

Jasper Van Hook, Borough Clerk Pam Coles

Collector of Taxes Harry T. Shannon

Assessor Lukas Kuiken

All Officials were duly sworn in and qualified.

Mayor Robert A. Smith delivered the following address:

Gentlemen of the Council:

It now becomes our duty to launch the new ship of State, The Borough of Fair Lawn” upon its voyage into the great unknown future, with yourselves as the crew and I as your Captain and I sincerely pray, That with the help of God, that we may guide our craft through the many shoals and channels of civil life in safety, so that when we return to our port, our fellow men and women will say “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

I need not remind you at this time, that the eyes of our townfolks, are, and will be, for sometime to come upon us, to see how we care for and nourish the infant municipality that has been placed in our custody; for I am sure that you are well aware of that fact.

However, I do want to impress upon you the necessity of sound sense, careful and practical deliberation upon your future ministering to its needs and requirements in order that it may develop and grow to a healthy and prosperous town second to none in the County of Bergen and be worthy of its Title “the Garden Spot of New Jersey”.

To you the administration of Public affairs is something that you have never before been engaged in, but you have been placed here by our townspeople because you bear reputations of honesty ability and fair dealing in your various vocations and you are expected to apply those qualities in the administration of the business affairs of our Borough with the same reasoning and juris-prudence as you do to your own business.

Your path is not going to be one of roses. You are going to meet with obstacles, which at times are going to be very hard to over-come: in-fact many of them will sorely try your patience. You will meet with rebuffs, criticism, and very often abuse that will test every fiber and caliber of your manhood to the extreme of endurance, and the manner in which you meet these barriers and over come them shall determine your future right to leadership among your constituents.

You will be approached from all sides; both, within and without the Council Chambers, by individuals and small coteries, for special favors and request that will be represented to you as being the desires of the Public at large and I wish to take this opportunity of advising you against the making of any pledges for the support of theses projects, until you have first assured yourselves and determined that there is a public and popular demand on the part of the general public for the same: in other words ?”Be sure You’re right, and then go ahead”.

It becomes your duty to legislate wisely for the benefit of the people within there territorial limit of the Borough. All ordinances, Street maintenance, Repairs, Lighting, Expenditures, Improvements, taxation, and the supervision of the routine business of the Borough shall come within your jurisdiction.

It becomes my duty to consult and advise you upon these matters, to peruse and scrutinize the wisdom of your actions and proceedings upon all matters pertaining to the Public and I sincerely hope that we shall co-operate with each other for the mutual benefit of all.

Remember, Gentlemen of the Council, that we have been elected to our respective office, upon a platform of economy with which you are all familiar and I herewith charge you with a specific performance of your duties in accordance therewith.

In closing Gentlemen, let me suggest, that we all put our shoulders to the wheel, with the forward "ONWARD" for a greater, bigger and more prosperous BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN.

Respectfully submitted

(Signed)

Robert A. Smith
Mayor

Dated 1924.

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS MADE BY THE MAYOR.

MAYOR:

Gentlemen of the Council:

With your advise and consent I, here by nominate and appoint Jasper Van Hook, Jr. as Borough Clerk.

By Councilman Fox:

Resolved:

Seconded by **Councilman Croucher**

MAYOR: That the above nomination and appointment be confirmed

All those in favor:

Unanimously carried.

MAYOR

Gentlemen of the Council:

With your advise and consent I hereby nominate and appoint Rober Schuerer as Borough Treasurer.

By Councilman Croucher:

Resolved:

Seconded by **Councilman Hyslop**

MAYOR: That the above nomination and appointment be confirmed

All those in favor:

Unanimously carried.

MAYOR

Gentlemen of the Council:

With your advise and consent I, here by nominate and appoint Mackay and Mackay as Borough Attorneys.

By Councilman Fox:

Resolved:

Seconded by **Councilman Hyslop**

MAYOR: That the above nomination and appointment be confirmed

All those in favor:

Unanimously carried.

MAYOR

Gentlemen of the Council:

With your advise and consent I, here by nominate and appoint Robert P. Zoerner as borough Engineer.

By Councilman Houtsma

Resolved:

Seconded by **Councilman Croucher**

MAYOR: That the above nomination and appointment be confirmed

All those in favor:

Motion carried.

MAYOR

Gentlemen of the Council:

With your advise and consent I, here by nominate and appoint the following as Borough Marshalls:

Michael Vanore,	Chief Marshall
Samuel Greydanus,	Marshall
Harry Asher,	“
Charles LaGrosa,	“
Milton D. Sindel,	“
William Wachter,	“

By Councilman Fox:

Resolved:

Seconded by **Councilman Houtsma**

MAYOR: That the above nomination and appointment be confirmed,

All those in favor:

Unanimously carried.

MAYOR

Gentlemen of the Council:

With your advise and consent I, here by nominate and appoint the following as members of the Sinking Fund Commission, and that they are required to furnish Surety Bond in the amount of \$2,000.00 each.

Mr. Robert Schuerer
Mr. Walter Bogert
Mr. George Vogel

By Councilman Fox:

Resolved:

Seconded by **Councilman Houtsma**

MAYOR: That the above nomination and appointment be confirmed,

All those in favor:

Unanimously carried.

MAYOR

Gentlemen of the Council:

With your advise and consent I, here by nominate and appoint the following as members of the Board of Health.

Miss Mary L. Gledhill
Mr. Walter Burke
Mr. William Toepfer
Mr. Cornelius Bogertman
Mrs. Marguerite Comstock

By Councilman Croucher:

Resolved:

Seconded by **Councilman Shortway**

MAYOR: That the above nomination and appointment be confirmed,

All those in favor:

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

By Councilman Fox:

Resolved:

That the salary of the Borough Clerk for the remainder of the ensuing year of 1924 be and is hereby fixed in the sum of \$300.00

Second by **Councilman Houtsma**

All those in favor:

Motion carried.

By Councilman Croucher:

Resolved:

That the salary of the Borough Treasurer for the remainder of the ensuing year of 1924 be and is hereby fixed in the sum of \$150.00,

Second by **Councilman Fox**

Motion carried.

By Councilman Fox:

Resolved:

That the salary of the Borough Collector for the remainder of the ensuing year of 1924 be and is hereby fixed in the sum of \$400.00,

Second by **Councilman Croucher**

Motion carried.

By Councilman Fox:

Resolved:

That the salary of the Borough Assessor for the period June 1, 1924 to July 1, 1925, be and is hereby fixed in the sum of \$600.00,

Second by **Councilman Croucher**

Motion carried

By Councilman Houtsma:

Resolved:

That the Collector of Taxes be require to furnish Surety Bond in the amount of \$20,000.00,

Second by **Councilman Hyslop**

Motion carried.

By Councilman Houtsma:

Resolved:

That the Treasurer be required to furnish Surety Bond in the amount of \$20,000.00,

Second by **Councilman Hyslop**

Motion carried

By Councilman Croucher:

Resolved:

That the Borough Attorney be allowed a retainer fee of \$50.00 for the remainder of the ensuing year 1924, and be allowed \$10.00 for every meeting he is requested to attend.

Seconded by **Councilman Houtsma**

Motion Carried.

By Councilman Hyslop:

Resolved:

That the Borough Engineer be allowed a retainer fee of \$25.00 for the remainder of 1924, and be allowed \$5.00 for every meeting he is requested to attend,

Seconded by **Councilman Houtsma**

Motion carried.

By Councilman Hill:

Resolved:

That Councilman Croucher be appointed President of the Council,

Seconded by **Councilman Shortway.**

Councilman Croucher

On question of the motion Councilman Croucher made a resolution,

Resolved:

That Councilman Houtsma be appointed President of the Council,

Seconded by **Councilman Hyslop,**

BOROUGH CLERK:

Roll Call on the Vote for Council President:

- Councilman Croucher
- Councilman Shortway
- Councilman Fox
- Councilman Hyslop
- Councilman Houtsma
- Councilman Hill

Roll call showed	Councilman Houtsma	4
	“ Croucher	2

MAYOR:

Roll call was taken and Councilman Houtsma was elected President of the Council.

By Councilman Hyslop:

Resolved:

That the time and place of meetings of the Mayor and Council shall be held at the Fair Lawn Fire House, River Road on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 O'clock.

Seconded by **Councilman Croucher**

Unanimously carried.

By Councilman Houtsma:

Resolved:

That the Citizens Trust Company of Paterson, NJ be and is hereby designated as the Official Depository of all Borough Funds

Seconded by **Councilman Hyslop**

Motion carried.

By Councilman Houtsma:

Resolved:

Whereas, the Honorable Arthur Rhodes of the Borough of Hawthorne extended his hearty greetings on behalf of the Commissioner and public which he represents to our newly created Borough of Fair Lawn, and, inasmuch, we believe these greetings in their sincerity represent the feelings of the citizens and people of the Borough of Hawthorne at large.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we accept these greetings in the same manner in which they were extended and give our thanks for same.

Be it further resolved, that we reciprocate by extending our best wishes for success to the Honorable Mayor Arthur Rhodes, his Commissioners, and the people which they represent.

Be it lastly resolved, that theses resolutions be spread in full upon our records and that a copy of the same be sent to each the Honorable Mayor Arthur Rhodes and the Hawthorne News, in which paper said greetings were extended

Seconded by **Councilman Hyslop**

Motion carried.

The Following Standing Committees were appointed by the Mayor:

STREETS AND STREET LIGHTING

Councilman Houtsma, Chairman
“ Shortway,
“ Croucher,

POLICE AND FIRE

Councilman Croucher, Chairman
“ Hyslop
“ Shortway

TAXATION

Councilman Hill, Chairman
“ Fox
“ Houtsma

STATIONERY, ADVERTISING & PRINTING

Councilman Shortway, Chairman
“ Hyslop
“ Fox

UTILITIES

Councilman Hyslop, Chairman
“ Croucher
“ Hill

FINANCE

Councilman Fox Chairman
“ Houtsma
“ Hill

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Councilman Croucher, Chairman
“ Hill
“ Houtsma

By Councilman Croucher:

Resolved

There being no further business to be transacted I move we adjourn,

Seconded by **Councilman Fox**

Motion carried.

Time 9:30 O'clock.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jasper Van Hook, Jr.
Borough Clerk