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RAHWAY News Record

New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper--Established 1822

VOL. 168 NO. 11

RAHWAY, N.J., THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1990

USPS 454-160

25 CENTS

Republicans charge Martin, Hartnett with violation on budget delay

Rahway City Council members William P. Wnuck, Katherine Fulcomer, and Michael Esposito today filed complaints with the Union County Prosecutor and with the director of the N.J. Division of Local Government Services, charging a violation of the state law on budgets by Democratic Mayor Daniel L. Martin and Business Administrator Joseph Hartnett.

"State law clearly requires submission of the mayor's 1990 annual budget to the City Council by January 15. This still has not been done. The disregard of the deadline by Martin and Hartnett is a scandalous violation of state law," said Councilman Esposito.

Council member Katherine Fulcomer reported that Mayor Martin and Joseph Hartnett have circumvented the law and covered up their negligence by writing to the Council members that the Council should consider last year's budget as the mayor's 1990 recommended budget until they have prepared their budget for 1990. The councilwoman charged that such a cavalier disregard for the law is "irresponsible and unethical fiscal chicanery."

"The refusal of Hartnett and Mayor Martin to submit the budget to us in a timely fashion prevents the entire Council from carrying out their current legal responsibility to examine the new mayor's recommendations. This Council process should have been going on since January 15. Instead, it has not even begun," said Councilman Wnuck.

Council member Fulcomer attributed the illegal delay to the fact that the "highly partisan political" business administrator is preoccupied with plans for the Democratic Primary elections for mayor. Because of his political obsessions, charged the councilwoman, Hartnett is unable to do his city job in a timely and efficient manner.

"Business Administrator Hartnett is so busy writing partisan political attacks and trying to suppress dissidents in his own city Democratic party that he doesn't have the time to run the city properly. Hartnett should resign, and the mayor should get a professional administrator, instead of a partisan political manipulator," concluded Councilman Wnuck.

Council approves anti-double-dip resolution Contains harsh words for 'certain members of council'

GOP councilmembers accuse mayor of 'grandstanding'

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Municipal Council approved a resolution censuring "double-dipping" for health care benefits at their regular meeting held on Monday night. The resolution, introduced by Councilman Dennis Hemenway and seconded by Councilman Chester Holmes, included strongly worded language condemning recent actions by Republican members of the council.

"It's just common sense," retorted Council President Vincent Addona. An enlightened person knows the City is paying the premium. Others on this council didn't take it and they weren't told about it. Sure, you signed, you just didn't read it.

After strongly worded language condemning "certain members of the council," the resolution established that local elected officials who can and do receive the same, better or substantially the same health insurance coverage from any source other than the City should not enroll in City health insurance.

In an additional resolution unanimously approved by the council, paid benefits for elected officials were directly addressed. The resolution stated that, with respect to programs whose rules and regulations are not controlled by the City, such as state health benefits plans and state pension plans, it is the position of the council to abide by said rules and regulations.

With respect to paid benefit programs controlled by the City, the council voted to allow elected and appointed officials to receive benefits only if they pay for them.

A Special Meeting of the Rahway Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, March 20, immediately after the March Regular Public Meeting, in the Louis R. Rizzo Board Meeting Room at the Intermediate School for the purpose of reviewing the 1990-91 Tentative School Budget.

Man arrested for theft of recyclables

A 26-year-old Perth Amboy man has been released on own recognizance after being charged with theft of recyclables from a Rahway curbside, a city ordinance violation. The arresting officer was Joseph Mikajlo of the Rahway P.D.

The truck and bags of aluminum were held as evidence. Joan W. Bulner, District Recycling Coordinator for Union County Utilities Authority, was in contact with Chief Barry Henderson to express her compliment and support in the enforcement of the City and anti-scavenging section of the recycling ordinance.

A fifteen-year Class Reunion is currently being planned for the Rahway High School Class of 1975. There are still a number of classmates who have not as yet responded and/or may not have received reunion information.

Special Board of Ed Meeting Urgent 'recall'!

A pre-camp session starts June 18. Camp runs through August 31. Sign up for one session or the whole summer.

Each day the campers have arts and crafts, swim lessons, recreational time and lots of fun. Each week they go on a trip to a different place.

all RHS '75 grads
If you are one of these individuals or know someone who has not been notified, contact: Madeline Schillaci Kropoth, 433 Murray St., Rahway, N.J. 07065 (phone 381-8559) as soon as possible.



WHAT'LL IT BE?... The Rahway High Pink Ladies of "Grease" taking a rehearsal break at the '50s restaurant "Fenders" are (l to r) Amy Moller, Meredith Murphy, Jennifer Canales, Starlette Smith and Jennifer Edmonds.

'Grease' being readied for Rahway H.S. stage

Rahway High School has traveled back to the '50s! The annual school musical now in rehearsal is the popular rock-n-roll show, "Grease." The cast of 48 students have been busy practicing their "hand jive" for five weeks.

CORRECTION

A candidate was inadvertently omitted from last week's list of residents who filed petitions to seek a seat on Rahway's Board of Education. Peter Kasperitis has announced his intention to run for one of three available seats on the board.

City Chairman brands Kennedy Poll a 'pre-planned scheme'

Rahway Democratic City Chairman Al Shipley revealed recently that an investigation by local Democrat of a poll recently conducted in the community on behalf of local jeweler James Kennedy proves that this was a slanted poll conducted by a biased person designed to produce a slanted result.

Shipley also pointed out that his party's investigation of the company Mr. Kennedy claims conducted the poll - Viewpoint Associates of Smithville - that "this alleged company doesn't even have a telephone listing."

"What we are left with," Shipley said, "is a bunch of friends who got together and worked out a questionnaire to try to make Mayor Martin look bad and Mr. Kennedy look good. Thus, this was no independent poll meant to discover an objective, independent result. It was a pre-planned scheme deliberately designed to produce an intended result and deceive the media and the public."

Shipley noted that "dozens of Democrats have called to complain about the tricky manner in which the questions were presented. They began with innocuous questions, then went through a series of increasingly negative questions - such as 'Do you think taxes are too high?' - to elicit a biased result."

No reputable pollster on the face of the earth would put his or her name on a poll based on leading questions," Shipley declared.

"We know people are mad about taxes," Shipley said, "but it is also Fifth Ward Councilman, and they are mad at the Mayor and Council Members because of their greed."

The Chairman pointed out that the poll "ignored local Democratic Party history and divisions and more importantly, ignored Mayor Martin's greatest strength - the independent voters of Rahway."

"We have had 15 polls taken in the past... That's how many times the highly independent voters of Rahway citywide have expressed their confidence in Mayor Martin and Council Members Vito - Deane, Walter McLeod and Jim Callahan," Shipley declared.

"And, they have an excellent pollster named 'Viewpoint Associates' who is a well-known name in the industry and has been used by the Mayor and Council Members for years."

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Fellow Dems support Martin for re-election

Deverin, Hudak among boosters at luncheon

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Mayor Daniel Martin announced his intentions to seek an unprecedented 6th term at a press luncheon held last week at the El Bodegón Restaurant on Main Street. Martin, citing his "unsurpassed record of achievement in Rahway," kicked off his reelection bid with endorsements from fellow Democratic politicians.

Assemblymen Thomas Deverin and George Hudak, representing the 20th District, endorsed Martin's bid for his 21st year as the head of City government.

"I've gotten to know Dan as mayor and also as a friend," said Deverin. "He is the kind of guy you want as a friend. He has great compassion for the people and great feeling for this community. Take a ride around Rahway. The improvements this town has had under Mayor Martin's administration are so obvious and visible they stand as his greatest endorsement. In Martin, you will get compassion, a good friend and experience."

Hudak pointed to Martin's record during past years, including the building of the new City Hall and development deals with Chase Manhattan and Hartz Mountain Industries.

"Dan is not the type of guy who seeks publicity," said Hudak.

"He takes things as they come. He knows the jobs that have to be done and goes out and does them. He has the taxpayer in his heart and mind at all times."



ORGANIZATION TEAM... Assemblymen George Hudak (far right) and Tom Deverin (second from right) joined Union County Freeholder/Rahway Councilman Walter McLeod (left) in endorsing Mayor Daniel L. Martin for re-election at a press conference on March 7.