

outh Plainfield Municipal Building.
ainfield Avenue.

nnounced approximately Saturday 6 p.m.

man Vincent Buttiglieri said. "It worked so well we didn't change much."

The council plans to do what the voters wish no matter what the outcome of the vote.

It was a promise they kept last year with senior housing and most

the courtroom to answer questions. Like last year, high school students and members of the Taxpayers Advisory Group will administer and count the ballots.

Seniors who need a ride to the polls can call 754-1047 for a ride until 2 p.m. Saturday.

Krame deal rejected

Council will fight in court over ASARCO land

By **PATRICK PATULLO**
THE REPORTER

The Borough Council told Paramus developer Bill Krame "We'll see you in court" Thursday by voting unanimously against a settlement proposal.

The decision — perhaps the most controversial decision the Democratic council has made this year — means the borough will go to court over the disputed ASARCO property.

Mr. Krame, president of Krame Development, filed suit against the borough last May because he was not granted a zoning change by the council. The change would have allowed him to build a shopping center on the corner of Oak Tree Road and Park Avenue.

"We don't need more housing and stores," one resident said.

Another resident said the neighborhood already has problems with shoplifters coming into the area and said a shopping center would only make things worse.

"I can't tell you how many shoplifters we have," Mayor Gallagher said. "Crime is with us and I'm sure it will stay with us."

Most of all, residents were upset about environmental contamination

tion at the site.

• Resident Ray Johnson told the council ASARCO tanks are still in the ground and arsenic and lead levels in the drinking water have been increasing.

Mayor Dan Gallagher said he had received initial reports from the state Department of Environmental Protection that the site had been cleaned.

The mayor's comments met with jeers from the audience but the mayor assured the public no action will be taken until environmental questions were cleared up.

Because Deputy Fire Chief Joe Abbruzzese threatened to close the meeting down because the 162 people in attendance posed a fire threat, the debate was cut short.

Councilman Ed Kubala read a prepared statement. "There have been very few things in my life that I have struggled with as much as this decision," he said.

Mr. Kubala then listed the following positives associated with accepting the deal:

• If accepted, the litigation would be resolved and the council could petition the Council on Affordable Housing for recertification which is holding up the Morris Avenue Senior Citizens housing project.

• The buffers to the site have been increased to between 300-500 feet, and the overall project was scaled down to 150,000 square feet.

• South Plainfield would get a \$15 million ratable that would generate about \$500,000 tax dollars per year.

• The developer would donate \$400,000 to help the borough meet its Mount Laurel obligation, and \$900,000 in traffic and road improvements would be made to the area.

He outlined the negatives as follows:

• The residents bordering the site are strongly opposed to it because of increased traffic in the area.

• There are significant concerns about the environmental condition of the site.

The councilman said he thought no decision should be made about the site until a definitive environmental report is given.

He asked that Health Officer Michael Bonk and Environmental Specialist Alice Tempel produce a report. If necessary, South Plainfield should hire an independent environment expert to make a report, Mr. Kubala said.

Mr. Kubala then asked for a motion to reject the proposal and discontinue the litigation.
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