

**BERGENFIELD PLANNING BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM  
April 25, 2022**

Chairman Robert Rivas called the meeting to order at 8:01 P.M.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

In compliances with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notice of this meeting was provided to the Record, Star Ledger, and Cablevision, posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards and published on the borough website. Notice of this meeting via the April 14, 2022 Sunshine Notice has been sent to the Record, Star Ledger, and Cablevision, posted on two municipal bulletin boards and the Borough website.

Any board member having a conflict of interest involving any matter to come before the board this evening is reminded they must recuse himself/herself from participating in any discussion on this matter.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mayor Amatorio (joined at 8:08 pm), Robert Byrnes, Jr., Councilman Lodato (joined at 8:16 pm), Robert Rivas, Romeo Abenoja, Ernesto Acosta, Jason Bergman, Ben Cabrera

**Absent:** Miguel Vasquez, and Councilman Rivera

**Also Present:** Gloria Oh, Planning Board Attorney and Hilda Tavitian, Planning Board Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Mr. Acosta.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – March 21, 2022**

**Motion By:** Mr. Bergman

**Second By:** Mr. Cabrera

**All ayes. None opposed.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Any resident may comment or question any subject not on the agenda.

Barry Doll, resident, stated there are a lot of changes going on in the town and different plans are being made for properties. He inquired if the Planning Board has a three or five year plan and how the plans being proposed at the council level fit in with the overall Planning Board's plan. It's fine if that's the way the Planning Board operates. Mr. Doll stated it would be easier to determine the overall plan of the town if the board had a three year or five year plan. Mr. Doll stated perhaps the master plan is the overall plan.

Chairman Rivas stated if there is an application for any property and comes within the perview of the Planning Board, it will be placed on the agenda to be heard. The Planning Board does not have a three or five year plan. The board takes the application as they come. Chairman Rivas explained an application is made and if there are no issues relative to the master plan, then it gets approved. If there is an issue with

the use of the property, then it goes to the Zoning Board. If it's a subdivision matter, it comes to the Planning Board. These are already set. It is the governing body that decides what plans the borough will have. Everything here is decided by the governing body. The function of the Planning Board, once the master plan is in place, rule whether it's being violated or complied with.

**Motion to Close Verbal Communication**

**Motion By:** Mr. Bergman

**Second By:** Mr. Cabrera

**All ayes. None opposed.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Site Plan – Chairman Rivas stated there was a meeting on April 11, 2022 regarding 220 S. Washington Avenue for an addition to the auto service facility. The auto service facility is already there and they want to expand it by a few feet. It is going to be approved.
2. Parking Legal – Mayor Amatorio stated at the last council meeting the governing body formed a committee to study whether there will changes on the requirements of parking spaces for residential house. It is still up for discussion. He stated he will report back to the Planning Board where there is an update.
3. Capital Improvements – Mayor Amatorio stated they are in the process of rebidding for the Twin Borough Field. The bid for the soccer field was too high and are preparing to redo the bidding. The construction of borough hall has already begun.
4. Master Plan – No report
5. Liaison to Board of Adjustment – Councilman Lodato stated he attended the Zoning Board meeting on April 4, 2022. There were two residential applications passed with minimal lot coverage variances. The application for Dunkin Donuts commenced but was not completed. It will be carried to the next meeting next Monday.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Resolutions: Area G – Area in Need of Redevelopment Study

All ayes. None opposed.

Area H – Area in Need of Redevelopment Study

All ayes. None opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ordinance No. 22-2599 Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Making of Various Public Improvements and the Acquisition of New Additional or Replacement Equipment and Machinery, New Communication and Signal Systems Equipment, New Information Technology Equipment and New Automatic Vehicles, including Original Apparatus and Equipment, in, by and for the Borough of Bergenfield, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to Appropriate the Sum of \$2,100,000 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to Make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such

Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bond

Board attorney Oh stated this ordinance was introduced at the last Mayor and Council meeting to authorize various improvements and acquisition of equipment, machinery, signal systems, and along with other things. The bond ordinance is to appropriate the sum of \$2.1 million.

Mayor Amatorio stated whenever there is a bond ordinance, it is referred to the Planning Board. Some of the capital improvements has to do with road projects, which is why the bond ordinance is being referred to the Planning Board.

Chairman Rivas stated the Planning Board really has nothing to say about improvements to roads, curbs, sidewalks, handicap access improvements, etc. That’s the job of every governing body. Storm and sanitary sewer improvements are needed. Chairman Rivas stated the perimeter and netting at Hickory Park probably has to do with balls going into people’s properties. Chairman Rivas inquired the about the purchase and need of SUV’s for various departments and what is done with the old ones.

Councilman Lodato stated the building department uses the Ford Escape. The police and fire departments use the larger vehicles like the Tahoe.

Mayor Amatorio stated when they retire one of the fire department vehicles, they pass it to different agencies that may need a lesser requirement for it. For example, when a police department SUV is retired, it is passed onto the auxiliary department. Mayor Amatorio stated SUV’s are needed because they haul equipment. The SUV’s contain cones and equipment when there are parades and other events. The police department has medical equipment in their vehicles. Most of the fire department vehicles have communication equipment and become a command center. Some of the vehicles are traded, and some are auctioned online, and some are passed down. Mayor Amatorio stated they are very strict who gets in a new vehicle. Every year they replace a aging vehicle in the police department.

Board member Acosta stated the SUV can do more than a regular car. A SUV can go through flooded areas.

Board member Brynes Jr. stated sometimes there’s only certain vehicles available on state contract. He stated for a while there were no cars available for police. The Explorer or the Tahoe were your only options.

**Motion That Bond Ordinance No. 22-2599 Meets with the Requirements of the Planning Board**

**Motion By:** Mr. Bergman

**Second By:** Mr. Byrnes, Jr.

Mayor Amatorio	<i>yes</i>	Mr. Romeo Abenoja	<i>yes</i>
Mr. Robert Byrnes Jr.	<i>yes</i>	Mr. Jason Bergman	<i>yes</i>
Councilman Lodato	<i>yes</i>	Mr. Ben Cabrera	<i>yes</i>
Chairman Rivas	<i>yes</i>		
Mr. Ernesto Acosta	<i>yes</i>		

Chairman Rivas stated they will be meeting in-person at the next meeting on Monday, May 16, 2022.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

**Motion By:** Mayor Amatorio

**Second By:** Mr. Byrnes, Jr.

**All ayes. None opposed.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda Tavitian".

Hilda Tavitian, Clerk  
Planning Board