

BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
8:00 p.m.
December 17, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Norman Schmelz and Council President Ora Kornbluth, Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Arvin Amatorio, Hernando Rivera, and Rafael Marte

ABSENT: No one.

ALSO, PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo
Borough Attorney John Schettino
Borough Clerk Marie Quinones

Mayor Schmelz called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Notice is sent to the Record, Star Ledger, Twin Boro News, and Cablevision, placed on two Municipal Bulletin Boards and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Lodato.

AGENDA CHANGES

Council President Kornbluth requested the following changes:

- Remove the poster contest presentation and presentation on Greenway project
- Add Resolution 19-359
- Change the re-organization meeting to January 5, 2020 at 1:00pm in Resolution 19-345

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion offered by Council President Kornbluth, Second by Councilperson Marte, to approve minutes of the October 15, 2019 Regular Meeting, October 15, 2019 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released), November 7, 2019 Work Session Meeting and November 7, 2019 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released), December 3, 2019 Work Session Meeting, and December 3, 2019 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). All present voting in favor, no one opposed.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation in honor of Irthu Pillai for her Meditation Garden

Mayor Schmelz stated Ms. Pillai's silver project for the girl scouts was to create a meditation garden. He had told her to speak with Phil Neville. There is a beautiful meditation garden at Cooper's Pond you can sit at. Mayor Schmelz read the citation and congratulated Irthu Pillai.

Ms. Irthu Pillai thanked Mayor Schmelz, Phil Neville, DPW and everyone who helped her with the project.

B. Department Hires & Appointments

19-341/To Appoint Building Inspector – Joseph "Scott" Jezequel

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #19-341 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Marte:	<i>aye</i>

19-342/To Hire Part-time Laborer – Eric McKenzie

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #19-342 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Marte:	<i>aye</i>

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS I

Mayor Schmelz opened the meeting and invited the public for comments on agenda items only, limited to five minutes per speaker.

Fred Sahlberg, resident, inquired if the police chief negotiates with the union or by himself. Mr. Sahlberg inquired if it is a one-year contract, has been already negotiated, and if there is a pay increase. Mr. Sahlberg inquired if the deputy chief is included in the pay raise. Mr. Sahlberg inquired if the salary increase is more than the past police chief's salary and what happens to the others when you give an increase to one.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated he negotiates by himself. The contract is on the agenda for approval tonight. There is a slight increase in salary of \$7,000 and an increase in the medical contribution. The deputy chief has a different contract and can negotiate it when his contract is up. Yes, the salary increase is more than the past chiefs. There are increases on both sides. It is a good negotiation and the council was comfortable with it. Mr. Gallo stated every negotiation is different with different factors. They have the option to negotiate with an attorney if they choose to.

John Smith, resident, inquired which one of tax appeal attorneys represents the borough pertaining to consent resolution H. He stated that the person that won the tax appeal was paying \$1,344,000. He won the tax appeal and taxes went down to \$912,000 and they are appealing again. Mr. Smith inquired if the tax appeal attorney is doing the right thing as the residents have to make up the loss in tax assessments. He remembers the application brought to the zoning board for review. They had lost their tax appeal. Mr. Smith inquired if the tax appeal attorney is going to see the house and look at the records. The taxpayers have to make up the lost revenue. They are losing a lot of money with the refund checks and requested the governing body to find out why the borough is losing the tax appeals.

Councilperson Lodato stated the tax appeal attorney negotiates within limitations by the tax assessor. He doesn't intervene unless the tax assessor deems it.

There being no one else who wishes to be heard, Mayor Schmelz closed Verbal Communications I.

Correspondence

A. Eaches/Bergenfield Garden Club **RE:** Request to Reserve Cooper's Pond for Meetings and Events in 2020

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Marte, to approve Correspondence Item A. All present voting in favor, no one opposed.

ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Ordinances

The following ordinance published herewith was first read by title only on June 18, 2019 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center. **(TABLED 8-20-19)**

ORDINANCE 19-2552 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 186 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “LAND DEVELOPMENT”

Public Comments on Ordinance 19-2552.

Council President Kornbluth inquired if all the changes that were recommended were made and if they can be discussed tonight.

Borough Attorney John Schettino stated all the changes the council wanted were changed. Mr. Schettino stated that due to all the changes, the ordinance needs to be re-introduced and re-advertised. It will die on its own because action wasn't taken by the end of the year. It will have to be introduced again in the beginning of January. The council can discuss the changes tonight if they want to. All of the definitions were added. After the last meeting, Marie had sent him an email confirming the changes. The other ordinance is not finalized because they are still waiting a response to Marie's email for clarification.

Councilperson Amatorio inquired if this will die naturally. Councilperson Amatorio inquired if all of the required definitions were put in the ordinance. Councilperson Amatorio stated the ordinance can be introduced once the definitions are added.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated Mike Ravenda worked with John.

Mayor Schmelz stated the definitions weren't added in the ordinance.

No action taken.

B. Introduction of Ordinances

Motion that the following ordinance be introduced and passed on first reading and setting _____ 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard as the date and time and the Executive Council Chambers of the Bergenfield Borough Hall as the place for a hearing on said ordinance. **(TABLED 8-20-19)**

ORDINANCE 19-2555 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REGULATIONS FOR OUTDOOR DINING

Mayor Schmelz stated that no action can be taken with this ordinance, since there are not enough days, unless you have another meeting before the end of the year.

Council President Kornbluth stated they should let this ordinance die and introduce it at the first meeting in January.

Borough Attorney Schettino stated it needs to die as the changes made are too significant not to re-advertise it.

No action taken.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 19-343. All matters listed below are considered by the Governing Body to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is

desired by the Governing Body, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- a. **19-344**/To Pay Bills
- b. **19-345**/To Schedule the 2019 Sine Die Meeting and 2020 Reorganization Meeting as amended
- c. **19-346**/To Approve Transfer of Appropriations
- d. **19-347**/To Approve Contract – Animal Control Services – Tyco Animal Control Service
- e. **19-348**/To Approve Shared Services Agreement – Local Public Health Services – Mid-Bergen Regional Commission
- f. **19-349**/To Approve Contract – Health Educator – Health Awareness Regional Program, Hackensack Meridian Health, Hackensack University Medical Center
- g. **19-350**/To Approve Proposal – Environmental Engineering Services – Site Investigation Per Green Acres Directive – T&M Associates
- h. **19-351**/To Approve Tax Refund – 34 Thames Boulevard
- i. **19-352**/To Approve Agreement – Alcohol and Drug Abuse Testing – Valley Medical Group
- j. **19-353**/To Approve Agreement – Alcohol and Drug Abuse Testing for non-CDL employees – Valley Medical Group
- k. **19-354**/To Amend Fixed Assets Threshold
- l. **19-355**/To Approve Proposal – 2019 Fixed Asset Inventory

Motion by Councilperson Amatorio, second by Councilperson Deauna, that the Consent Resolution be approved.

On a roll call, the vote on the Consent Resolution was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Marte:	<i>aye</i>

B. Resolutions

19-356/To Approve Contract – Deputy Borough Clerk

Motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #19-356 be approved.

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Marte:	<i>aye</i>

19-357/To Approve Contract – Chief of Police

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, second by Councilperson Marte, that Resolution #19-357 be approved.

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Marte:	<i>aye</i>

19-358/To Approve Contract – DPW Supervisors Contract

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, second by Councilperson Lodato, that Resolution #19-358 be approved.

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>

Councilperson Amatorio: *aye* Councilperson Marte: *aye*

19-359/To Approve Transfer of 1997 Ford Super Duty utility box truck from Bergenfield Fire Department to the Bergenfield Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

Motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #19-359 be approved.

Councilperson Lodato: *aye* Council President Kornbluth: *aye*
Councilperson Deauna: *aye* Councilperson Rivera: *aye*
Councilperson Amatorio: *aye* Councilperson Marte: *aye*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Eagle Scout Request for Surplus Firefighting Equipment for Donations (**Tabled 10-15-19**)

Mayor Schmelz inquired if Councilperson Lodato ever heard back from them. Mayor Schmelz stated he thought the donation was for Sweden and will double check.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the state department does not provide a letter, but informed him to go on the website for documentation that shows they have diplomatic relations with various different countries. The United States has good relations with the Dominican Republic and the Philippines.

B. Tabled Resolutions

1. **19-277**/To Authorize Disposition of Property – 1976 American LaFrance Aerial and 1988 Hahn Pumper Fire Trucks (**Tabled 10-3-19**)

Councilperson Amatorio stated the matter remains the same. Councilperson Amatorio stated they should do some research before doing a resolution. Councilperson Amatorio stated he wants to make sure they have the ability to bid it out.

Council President Kornbluth stated they received some emails today and the trucks can be sold for anywhere between \$14,000 and \$35,000. If that is the case, list it for auction and see what we can get. Council President Kornbluth stated the Borough is not required to sell them if they get a bid. Council President Kornbluth stated they should put in a minimum bid of \$7,500. If there is a bid for \$2,000 and the council decides to give it away instead they can as long as there is clause. The trucks should be donated if it's under \$5,000.

Councilperson Lodato stated there isn't any documentation to support those numbers.

Borough Attorney Schettino stated there needs to be a motion and a second if the council makes the decision to advertise the fire apparatus for bid. Mr. Schettino stated the council can put in that they have the right to reject any low bids if they want to reject a bid. The council can reject the bids if they find them to be unacceptable. The majority of the council determines if a bid is accepted or not. Mr. Schettino suggested the council should come up with a number that they decide the trucks are not worth selling for \$1,000 and would rather give it an entity that is going to use it for its purpose.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated they will do it on Gov Deals. Mr. Gallo inquired if the council is seeking a minimum bid.

Mayor Schmelz stated if you put it for \$7,500, and the resident wants to buy it for \$2,000, then he won't be able to put a bid on it. Mayor Schmelz stated the minimum bid can be \$500 and if it goes up to \$10,000, then the council can decide to go it away for free.

Councilperson Lodato stated that an appraisal was done, and the vehicle due to its age and need for repairs is virtually worthless. He would make the minimum bid \$2,000.

Borough Clerk Marie Quinones stated the resolution on the table is authorizing the borough to advertise for the sale of the trucks on Gov Deals.

Councilperson Rivera stated that it is his position, that it would be better if the trucks go to a community that needs the trucks and can use it, instead of a private person uses the trucks who can pay \$20,000-\$25,000.

Motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Deauna that Resolution #19-277 be removed from the table.

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Marte:	<i>aye</i>

Motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Marte, that Resolution #19-277 be approved as amended.

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>nay</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Marte:	<i>aye</i>

NEW BUSINESS

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Kornbluth that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Second by Councilperson Lodato. All present voting in favor, no one opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS II

Mayor Schmelz opened the meeting to Verbal Communications II and invited the public to comment on any subject, limited to five minutes per speaker.

John Smith, resident, inquired if all tabled items have to be re-introduced.

Borough Attorney Schettino's response to Mr. Smith's question was yes.

Fred Sahlberg, resident, wished Council President Kornbluth a happy and enjoyable Hanukah and the rest of the council a very happy and enjoyable Merry Christmas.

Cindy Naylis, resident, stated the Holiday Lights Parade is going to be this Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 6:00PM. There are currently 31 trucks registered from Hillcrest, NY to Franklin, New Jersey and in between towns. There are 6 categories in which awards will be given out for. There will be a staging area in the front and rear parking lot of the high school. All are welcome. The ambulances from Teaneck, Englewood, Tenafly, Bergenfield, and Haworth are coming. The Wandering Que will be there during the staging time and a portion of their proceeds will be donated to the fire department. The BSID is doing a \$400 sponsorship providing the hot chocolate and donuts. If it goes over that, the BAV will take care of it. Ms. Naylis thanked the governing body.

Council President Kornbluth stated that it is the first night of Hanukah and every rabbi she spoke with is busy, but she is still working on it.

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated the Holiday Lights Parade should be added to the Bergenfield website. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and thanked everyone for their service to the borough.

There being no one else who wishes to be heard, Mayor Schmelz closed Verbal Communications II.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Lodato thanked everyone for coming. He stated it was a pleasure working with Mayor Schmelz for the past six years and thanked him for his service to the borough and his friendship.

Councilperson Deauna thanked everyone for coming, wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and everyone who voted for him.

Councilperson Amatorio thanked everyone who voted for him and thanked Mayor Schmelz for his service to Bergenfield. He wished him good luck in his next endeavor. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Council President Kornbluth thanked Mayor Schmelz for his service over the past six years. She stated as much as they have had their political differences, she knows he has always put Bergenfield first and doing what he felt was best for Bergenfield. His enthusiasm and energy set the tone for Bergenfield as the friendly. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Councilperson Rivera thanked Mayor Schmelz for his great service to the town and put all his effort and heart in representing the town and creating a better Bergenfield. He wished everyone a Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Kwanzaa.

Councilperson Marte thanked Mayor Schmelz for his years of service to the town and wished him all the best. He wished everyone a Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Schmelz' statement:

I had a great run of six years and six weeks leaving me the longest running Mayor since Mayor O'Dowd served from 1980-1987. It was a world wind when I started as I was sworn in on a Monday afternoon by our then Borough Administrator who had just started under the previous Mayor. I was sworn in at 4:00 pm and then served on my first Planning Board meeting at 8:00 pm where we approved Bergenfield Discount Furniture. The next day I left for the League of Municipalities for the first time. Kind of scary being there all by yourself for the first time. It was that trip that I started making many friends in Politics over the next 6 years. I've always said I wasn't a Politician but rather an Elected Official. All I ever wanted to do was look out for the people of Bergenfield to give them a voice. I started with office hours on Monday nights and one Saturday and one Sunday to make sure that anybody would have a chance to see or talk with me. I soon realized it was easier to talk to people on the phone, email and Facebook and my goal was to be as visible as possible so people felt they could talk to me. Having no book to read on how to be a Mayor I relied on other Mayors to help me out. I spoke with Mayor Cosgrove and Mayor Subrizzi in the beginning, but I learned quickly it is just easier to be yourself.

From the very start I wanted to get people involved and the Turkey 5K and the Mayors Weight loss Challenge was a great start. From that year on we tried to add more and more to the Mayors Wellness Campaign. I want to thank so many of our local businesses that became involved year after year to make this a great success along with our Health Department and our many volunteers. This year we won the prestigious award of Healthy Community for 2018. From the Mayors wellness I was invited to be on the Board for Conversation of your Life and we added programs at the Library to talk about dying and getting yourself prepared to make decisions so your loved ones don't have to. I was also appointed to be on the Life Science Board as well. Thank you once again to Pat August, Kasaha, Karianne, Trisha and the Health Department for helping make these events a great success.

Being a part of the Library Board as a trustee took me to over 50+ Trustee meetings. We had some great events at the Library and celebrated their 100th Anniversary. I must thank Allison Moonitz, Tom Neats and the rest of that Board for building such a positive and diverse culture that echo's our community. Our Picnic, concerts, book giveaways and many special shows including my chance to meet up with a wolf was fun and exciting to the Community.

Getting our youth involved was a main goal of mine and I started off quickly doing that when I applied to the Mayors Book Club and was awarded the opportunity to read with the students of Washington School as they had a goal to read 1000 books. They received \$1000 and a pizza party after reaching that goal. That was just a start as I would return every year to "Read Across America" on Dr Seuss day. I was very involved in the schools attending graduations, field days, serving Thanksgiving Dinner, Multicultural day, attending Life Changer of the year Award, Veterans Day Ceremony, Helping hand out Teacher of the Year Awards and Following the High School Sports team. My wife Carolyn and I had a great time traveling with the Team as they went on to win the State Championship in Basketball in 2015. Prom Night review will be an event I will always attend getting to see our young adults all dressed and ready to go. I've always had a fantastic relationship with all the Elementary School Teachers and Principals as they always opened their doors to me to be with the Children. Nothing makes me feel better when almost every kid in town knows who the Mayor is and always come up to say hello. I also want to thank Principal Jim Fasano and Superintendent Dr Tully for their support throughout my term. I want to Thank all the Parents Associations in town as well who I always try to support as they support all the kids in town. I've also always supported many of the Clubs in towns including the Lions who raise money for scholarships and other things and who hosted the Brotherhood Dinner Meeting of all clubs. I've been a member of the Elks supporting their Flag Day, Army of Hope, Walk out on Drugs and various other sport shoots, VFW Auxiliary and the yearly Pig Roast, The Garden Club attending all their sales and meetings, Bocce Club and Little League where I've had the honor of throwing out the first pitch the last two years. I will continue to support all the great clubs in town.

Bergenfield is such a great town and I was always Proud to represent us throughout the County attending numerous Flag Raisings at One Bergen Plaza, Columbian Independence Day, Filipino Independence Day, Korean, Indian and Pacific Islanders to name just a few. I've rode with Meals on Wheels delivering food to our shut ins, protested many times with the Coalition against Oil Trains and drafted the Resolution against the Power Plant in North Bergen where our Council was the Second one to pass this resolution only following behind Ridgefield as we were trail blazers. Thank you to our Recreation Committee for holding such great events in which I've attended all; such as our Easter Egg hunt, movies in the park, Halloween Parade at Coopers, Family Fun Day and serve and set up for Holiday in the Park. Rob Gillman and now Ed Volmer have done a great job in getting everyone involved in these and many other events and always recruiting others to help Volunteer. Thank You to all those that have helped over the years.

Our First Responders are simply the best as our Bergenfield Police Department has been accredited once again and helped in designing the new Police Department in our newly designed building. Their work with the kids at Police academy, Dare Programs and community Policing is amazing. Bergenfield Volunteer Ambulance available at any time 24 hours a day and always with happy faces. Each year they hold their Blood Drive and it has always been a fun time playing softball with them against Dumont's Ambulance Corps. Our Fire Department has been growing each year with more recruits as Volunteering has been on the rise. Young adults learn from observing others and being out in the community helps foster new volunteers. I've been lucky enough to be able to climb to the top of the 110-foot ladder, dress in full SCUBA gear and go into a live fire in the Fire Training Center. I've rode with them as they have done their Santa Run, attended all their Beefsteak dinner fundraisers and this year had the privilege at being at the Wet Down of two new Trucks purchased by the Borough last year. I also attended two table top drills they had with CSX. Thank you to all these First Responders.

Our Department of Public Works has continued to get better each year since I've been Mayor. They take care of not only leaves and snow but are available with a phone call to check out a resident concern. Thank you so much to Ned Kneisler and now Phil Neville for all they did and do for Bergenfield. Thank you to Dixie Rainey and all the great work she does with Clean Communities as

I have attended clean ups of our parks at Twin Borough, Memorial and Coopers Pond on a few occasions.

Thank you as well to the Building Department, Tax Collector and Community Services. One of the many accomplishments we have had is creating a Stigma Free Committee in town. We are trying to educate everyone on not only Mental Health issues, but addictions and bullying. We have to many issues with young adults taking their own lives and we need to continue to get the message out. The Committee has held events at Roy W Brown, Bergenfield High School and the Library on these topics as well as held Mental Health First Aid training for adults and First Aid for youths.

I must Thank all our Change leaders, Irina Tesoriero and Wendy Loszynski for expanding our Little League Challenger Program to Soccer and Basketball and throwing special events such as Valentines Dance, Trunk or Treat Soccer, Gingerbread House making, and many other fun summer classes held in the Library for kids of all abilities.

Thank you to the Barrier Free Committee for being persistence in getting a playground for kids of all abilities and a sensory park.

The Mayors Senior Citizen Advisory Committee has done a fantastic job in entertaining our Seniors. Each year they have great parties and events for our Seniors. My wife and I have attended all the Spring and Holiday parties and we love sitting and chatting with our seniors. Each summer they also have a barbeque which I have attended, and I have even gone an out of town trip with them to Villa Roma. This is a great program we offer our Seniors and they really appreciate it. We also have had many events at 293 Murray Hill that I have attended including the BBQ put on by the BPD. This year I helped facilitate Little League donating the Hamburgers. Thank you to all on the Committee and thank you to all the love the Seniors have shown me.

Part of Bergenfield's logo is Religion and I have always tried to get out and show everyone we have one community no matter what religions we worship. Attending St. John's I have been volunteering at their Carnival each year and was privileged by giving the Commencement speech last June for the Graduating Class of Transfiguration Academy. I've attended many celebrations their as we have had two Priests with 40 years and last year Transfiguration became a Blue-Ribbon School. I've been a part of services at St Mary's, Clinton Ave Reform, Good Shepard and Mercy Church of God, always feeling at home as if it was my own parish. All these churches come together each year when I attend our Sunrise Service at Coopers Pond at Easter time. I also attend the synagogue dinners each year and have attended many picnics that our Shuls throw. I have also attended the SARAH breakfast each year that focuses on Stopping abusive relationships at home. It was a wonderful day when the 125 committee had all these churches get together and sing. Thank you to Lisa Marciano for setting most of that up. Thank you to all these congregations for opening their doors to me and the community! Thank you

Being Mayor I had a seat as a board member on the Special Improvement District. My first couple of years we had some great car shows that the community loved creating more foot traffic and eventually was able to close Portland Avenue where we filled the entire street with cars and people from out of town. One of the groups greatest accomplishments was closing off the street for Trunk or Treat and the annual food crawl. Special Thank you to Cindy Naylis for bringing this idea to the board as the Mayors appointment to the board. This has turned into a giant success as we expected! Closing off the street brings back the hometown feel of Sidewalk Sales from the past. Cindy also introduced the first ever Fireman's light show that will take place on December 22nd. Thank you for all you have done for these projects.

Cindy also served on the Planning Board of which the mayor appoints and is a part of. Over my term we created the Master Plan for the town, and heard many applications including approving two new synagogues, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Laundromat expansion and just last year Lidl. Thank you to all the members that served on the Board with me, and special thanks to Lou Castellucci who served on this board for many years as the chair but served his last meeting last night as he is moving out of town.

Tomorrow will be my last ribbon cutting as we cut the Ribbon for the new Lidl Supermarket. So many Ribbon cuttings over the years where I made Lifetimes friends specially Rony Alvarado from Rony's Rockin' Grill, NAMASCAR, Dello Russo Surgical Center, World Traders, Chase Bank, Washington Dental for their Free Day of Dentistry each year and so many others.

Over the years I've attended and helped so many groups, The Riverkeepers Reservoir Challenge, Charity Softball game against the Wizards for the Parent Associations, MLK Day, Meeting with Concerned Mom's at Coopers Pond, Ground Breaking for Homes for Humanity, Class of 1957 softball game, Fiesta in America, numerous Boy and Girls scout events including many Eagle Court of Honors. Many thanks to them all as well for inviting me to be a part of these events. All these groups, committees, clubs and other organizations all run on Volunteers. I am proud to say that we have opened the Volunteer diner up to all our Committees where as before it was only open to First Responders and Recreation. As it has been said everyone Volunteers in a different way and it's great that we recognize all of them.

I want to thank Barry Doll and all the volunteers who helped restore the Marchbank historic buildings. The Borough is contractually required to maintain those houses and Barry Doll took this project on. Thank you to all those that help in the Museum as well keeping the history of Bergenfield alive and well.

One last Committee I want to recognize is the 125 committee that helped us with numerous events this past year celebrating our 125th Anniversary of being a borough. I want to Thank the co -Chairs of this Committee Joe Verga and Tom Neats who we couldn't have done this without. Allison Moonitz from the library and so many others came out each meeting to help make this a great success. It was great to have Olympian Joetta Clark from the Mayors Wellness Campaign come out and work out with our youth on the 125th Anniversary of Bergenfield.

Other Honors I have had have been over 15 weddings and one of them was a Wounded Warrior who lost his entire battalion in Iraq. I was honored to be in a phot shoot for Humans of Bergen County and received an award from the Kerela Cultural Forum of New Jersey for Outstanding Community Service.

I would be remised if I didn't thank all the Mayors in Bergen County that I have had the pleasure of serving with over the past 6 years. As our newly elected Mayor will find out you don't know what it's like till you sit in the Mayors Chair. Thank you to all the Mayors who I've also have gone on trips with to West Point, the Federal Reserve, Ground Zero, Top of the George Washington bridge, our County Meetings as well as our North Jersey Mayors Meetings. Thank you to you all. I want to Thank Former Councilman Steinel for introducing the new garbage pickup, which enables us to save labor and proved to be safer. Former Councilman and Assemblyman Chris Tully for increasing our reserves; which allowed us to use that to have a zero tax increase the last two years. And a big Thank You to the Current Council as you know how many things, we have done in the past 6 years.

Thank you to the Borough Clerks I worked with especially Anne and Marie who always had the answer for me at any time.

Thank you to Rick McGarrill for stepping back in for me when we needed a Borough Administrator for a short time.

Thank you to Hilda and Sue in our office for always being there and helping with anything that was needed!

Thank you to our Borough Administrator who was instrumental in having over 60 roads paved in the past 6 years, assuring vendors did the correct job when our Basketball courts were wrong and continuing to push to make Twin Boro Park a priority with soccer fields and lights for our youth.

Thank you, John Schettino, for getting the consent decree changed to narrow our scope of Civil Service jobs to increase the odds of a Bergenfield Resident being hired as a Police or Fireman. It was something I was hoping would get done from the first day I was Mayor.

Thank you to the only other Republican we have had on the Council in my tenure Kathy Sahlberg. Kathy tried to push getting meetings televised as she saw and heard the need of residents to show what was going on at meetings. Hopefully with the new building that will be very easy to perform. I think it shows true transparency. It is not always easy for people to get out to a meeting and reading the minutes is not the same.

I want to Thank the rest of the Republican Club, specially Ira Treuhaft, Fred Sahlberg, George Williams, Joan, Kathy, Joel and John. So many others helped me out in my Campaigns as well as the club, Karrie and Devon Peters, Kasha and Sughu Buddiman, Tom Boyce and Mike Schnoll. Thank you to Vernon Cox as well may he rest in peace. I want to Thank all those that ran with me in the Past, Wendy, Mandy, John, Joan, Cindy, Pat, Kathy, Wojciech and RIP Jack Long.

My wife Carolyn who told me I should run when the question came up 7 years ago and then again 6 years ago. I couldn't have done it without her. Carolyn also was the first one I had to gavel down at a meeting. She has been by my side in good times and bad. I want to thank her for always being there. The community loves Carolyn as much of not more than me!

The Future is bright for Bergenfield with Bids going out on a new municipal building that we designed over the last year, Twin Boro Park with the addition of turf, two soccer fields and lights, a second supermarket Aldi's and look for a new Borough Website that has been in testing. We also have other builders that have inquired on property, but they've asked me not to talk about that. I'm sure I've missed someone, so I apologize in advance if I missed you. SO many people have touched my heart in the past 6 years. And lastly the People of Bergenfield who have nothing but nice things to say to me when they see me, always encouraging me. It's been a great 6 years but I will still be around, and I will still be there for the kids and anyone I can help.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 19-360/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege
 - 1. PBA Local 309 Agreement

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Executive Chambers to adjourn this public meeting.

On a motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 9:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Marte, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones
Borough Clerk