

BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
8:00 p.m.
January 21, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio and Council President Rafael Marte, Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Hernando Rivera, and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: Councilmembers Ora Kornbluth and Buddy Deauna

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

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:04 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 Council President Marte.

AGENDA CHANGES

Council President Marte stated John Smith will be reassigned to the Veterans Committee, Johnny Opatovsky will be appointed to the Veterans Committee, Steven Sciancalepore will be appointed as Alternate Public Defender, and amend the Millennium Strategies contract to be \$3,300 per month at an annual rate of \$39,600.

Motion by Councilman Lodato, second by Councilman Pascual to approve agenda changes. All present voting in favor. None opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion offered by Council President Marte, Second by Councilman Rivera, to approve minutes of the 2020 Reorganization Meeting. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Fire Department – National Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest Winners

Robert Byrnes stated every year the poster contest is done with all of the schools in Bergenfield to highlight National Prevention Week. Mr. Byrnes stated he is here tonight to honor the first-place winners from kindergarten through sixth grade. The winners included the following students:

1st grade. Declan Raghnauth from Transfiguration Academy
2nd grade. Patricia Barba from Jefferson School
3rd grade. Is hi Vats from Lincoln School
4th grade. Samuel Basil from Transfiguration Academy
5th grade. Keena Obrique from Lincoln School

B. Administrative Hires & Appointments

20-032/To Approve Promotion – Supervisor – Robert Giacomelli

Motion by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Lodato, that Resolution #20-032 be approved.

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

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

20-033/To Approve Promotion – Assistant Supervisor – Ryan Brophy

Motion by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Rivera, that Resolution #20-033 be approved.

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

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

20-034/To Approve Promotion – Assistant Supervisor – Nicholas Watkins

Motion by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Lodato, that Resolution #20-034 be approved.

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

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

20-035/To Hire Per Diem Crossing Guard – Rafael Lopez

Motion by Councilman Lodato, second by Council President Marte, that Resolution #20-035 be approved.

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

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

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS I

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

John Smith, resident, stated that an engineer came in front of the Zoning Board, and presented the hand out that has been passed around to the governing body regarding pavers. Mr. Smith stated that the engineer explained that the handout was part of the requirements in Teaneck. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Ravenda also included the information in his letter to the Zoning Board, Planning Board, and to the governing body. Mr. Smith stated there is no mention in the new ordinance regarding silica sand. He commented that people will look for shortcuts to save money and will use silica sand. He expressed that the information present should be included in the land ordinance. Mr. Smith stated that the attorney, engineer, and the town will make money if this ordinance is enforced. He further stated that the resident at 38 Hallberg Avenue did not pay their taxes for several years and then appealed their taxes, and now they are frozen. Mr. Smith stated that someone should look into the work of the Tax Appeal attorney and Tax Assessor. Mr. Smith also stated that Gerard Naylis was appointed on the Planning Board as a Class II agent, but is not an official of the borough, since he is not a Fire Inspector anymore.

Councilman Lodato inquired if Mr. Smith is referring to the freeze act. He stated the assessment is frozen, not the taxes. He further explained the attorney is advised by the guidance of the tax assessor. The attorney will go to trial if the tax assessor tells him to. If the tax assessor feels the settlement is reasonable, the attorney will move forward with a settlement.

Borough Attorney John Schettino stated a Class II agent appointed to the Planning Board has to be an official of the borough. Mr. Schettino stated there is no case law on it. Cox, the authority for land use attorneys, mentions examples of what could be considered an official, which would be anyone appointed to a statutory board created in the borough. Mr. Schettino stated there isn't an environmental commission, but there's environmental committee and inquired if it was created by ordinance. Mr. Schettino stated there would an issue if he was fighting a fire while on disability. There wouldn't be any issues with serving on a board while on disability.

Mayor Amatorio stated there are no commissions, only committees.

Diana Flagg, resident, stated she is confused on agenda item #12. Ms. Flagg commented how there could be unfinished business and inquired whether the auction of the fire truck was reintroduced at the January 1st meeting. Ms. Flagg stated the matter should have died since it was not done by December 31st, 2019. Ms. Flagg inquired who put the article about the pumper in the Twin Boro newspaper. Ms. Flagg stated the article mentioned the pumper only had 4,000 miles, and questioned the reason it will be junked. Ms. Flagg stated there is no information on the salaries of the promotions of the DPW employees.

Borough Administrator Corey Gallo stated it was out to bid, and the new governing body has the right to accept or reject the bid. He further stated that the author of the article put it in the paper, and explained there is more to the engine. He also explained that the salaries are part of the collective bargaining agreement.

Mayor Amatorio stated the pumper was appraised and evaluated, and was considered no value.

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

Correspondence

a) Gupta/Zindagi

RE: Request to host 5K Run/South on Prospect Road to New Bridge Road and back north to the High School/Saturday, May 30, 2020

b) Berkowitz/Republican Club

RE: Request to Reserve Coopers Pond/first Wednesday of each month in 2020/7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

~~e) Smith/Resident~~

~~**RE:** Resignation Letter – Veteran's Advisory Committee~~

Motion offered by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Rivera, to approve Correspondence Items A and B, as amended. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

ORDINANCES

A. Introduction of Ordinances

Motion by Council President Marte that the following ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading and setting Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 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. Second by Councilman Rivera.

Mayor Amatorio read the title of the ordinance into the record:

ORDINANCE 20-2559 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 186 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “LAND DEVELOPMENT”

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

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 20-036. 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.

- 20-037/**To Approve Bill List
- 20-038/**To Approve Raffle Application RA1360
- 20-039/**To Approve Carnival Application
- 20-040/**To Authorize RFQ for Alternate Prosecutor
- 20-041/**To Authorize RFP for Public Relations Services
- 20-042/**To Approve Service Agreement – Certified Recycling Professional (“CRP”) – Bergen County Utilities Authority
- 20-043/**To Approve Service Agreement – New Wave Car Wash
- 20-044/**To Approve Tax Appeal Settlement Agreement– 81 Maiden Lane
- 20-045/**To Approve Tax Appeal Settlement Agreement– 24 Sunrise Terrace
- 20-046/**To Approve Tax Appeal Settlement Agreement – 38 Hallberg Avenue
- 20-047/**To Approve Application for Freeze Act Relief in connection with tax appeal filed by 3BC Bergenfield, LLC
- 20-048/**To Authorize Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder for TTL #17-00004
- 20-049/**To Approve Borough Auditor Agreement – Lerch, Vinci, & Higgins LLP
- 20-050/**To Approve Risk Consultant Agreement – GJEM – Otterstedt Insurance
- 20-051/**To Approve Borough Appraiser Agreement – Associated Appraisal Group
- 20-052/**To Approve Bond Counsel Agreement – Rogut McCarthy LLC
- 20-053/**To Approve Borough Prosecutor Agreement – Marc A. Calello, Esq.
- 20-054/**To Approve Borough Attorney Agreement – John Schettino, Esq.
- 20-055/**To Approve Borough Engineer Agreement – Remington & Vernick Engineers
- 20-056/**To Approve Special Projects Engineer Agreement – T&M Associates
- 20-057/**To Approve Grants Consultants Agreement – Millennium Strategies LLC
- 20-058/**To Approve Municipal Advisor Services Agreement – Phoenix Advisors LLC
- 20-059/**To Approve Tax Appeal Attorney Agreement – Boggia Boggia Betesh & Voytus LLC
- 20-060/**To Approve Tax Appeal Attorney Agreement – Gloria Oh Law Group, LLC
- 20-061/**To Approve Special Tax Appeal Attorney and Approve Contract – William Rupp, Esq.
- 20-062/**To Approve Change Order No. 1 – FY’ 2017 & 2018 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program – West Central Avenue – A Takton Concrete Corp.
- 20-063/**To Approve Pay Certificate No. 4 - FY’ 2017 & 2018 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program – West Central Avenue – A Takton Concrete Corp.

Councilperson Lodato stated that since an Alternate Public Defender was appointed, Resolution #20-040 should be approved as amended.

Mayor Amatorio noted that Resolution #20-057 is amended to \$3,300 per month at an annual rate of \$39,600.

Motion by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Rivera, that Resolution #20-040 and #20-057 be approved, as amended.

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

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

Motion by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Rivera, that the Consent Resolution be approved as amended.

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

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

B. Resolutions

20-064/To Approve Agreement – Municipal Court Judge – Franklin Montero, Esq.

Motion by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Rivera, that Resolution #20-064 be approved.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Auction of Fire Truck

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that a bid for the fire truck was received. He explained that the person who bid on the truck approached him after he learned that it is common practice for municipalities to donate their trucks to other countries or communities and decided to forgo their bid, to not get in away of another town that may be in need of the truck. He explained that it is up to the Council to decide to accept or reject the bid and proceed with donating the fire truck to another community.

Mayor Amatorio stated that since a minimum bid of \$5,000 was put in, it should be looked into whether the community in need is willing to match the bid, or get a voucher instead of donating with zero value. He stated that it is worth to reach out to communities and organizations and see if they are willing to raise at least \$5,000.

Councilman Lodato stated the Council based their decision to donate the truck on a certified evaluation of the apparatus, which stated that it was worthless and would fail to meet the environmental standards, which will not be beneficial to any other United States community. However, if there is a bidder is willing to pay \$5,000 and is willing to waive his bid, the Council should donate the apparatus to a community that would pay \$5,000 for it.

Councilman Rivera inquired if the Council does not accept the bid, can the Borough be sued if it is higher than when they started.

Borough Attorney John Schettino stated there are several exemptions to the bidding law that does not require the Borough to advertise or secure the highest bidder. If they fall into one of those categories, the answer is no. If you rejected one bidder and then sold it to someone in the same class, then it would be a problem.

Barry Doll, resident, stated he was the one who bid on the fire truck. Mr. Doll stated when he first heard about the truck being given away, he thought it had some value. He felt that if the Borough can be given \$1,000 or more, it was a fair value for a fire truck. Mr. Doll stated that when the Council placed the truck on GovDeals for \$5,000, he was hoping to obtain more money for the Borough by placing a bid, in hopes there would be more bids, but he ended up as the only bidder. Mr. Doll explained that if the Council was interested in giving the truck away to another country or community, he would not stand in the way. He expressed that it sounded like a great idea at the time.

Mayor Amatorio stated they can reach out to the communities and see if they are willing to do that and the Council can make a decision in the future.

B. Board and Committee Appointments

TOWN HISTORIAN

Mayor recommends and nominates Eva Galione as Historian for a 1-year term, term expiring December 31, 2020.

Motion offered by Councilman Lodato, second by Council President Marte, that the nomination be confirmed. All present voting in favor. None opposed.

Mayor recommends and nominates Steven Sciancalepore as Alternate Public Defender

Motion by Councilman Lodato, second by Council President Marte, that the nomination be confirmed.

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

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

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Local Emergency Planning Council for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2020.

Ryan Shell	L.E.P.C. Chairman, Emergency Management Coordinator
Richard Goddin Jr.	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, Auxiliary Police Chief
Arvin Amatorio	Mayor
Ora Kornbluth	Council Liaison
Corey Gallo	Borough Administrator
Mustafa Rabbob	Police Chief
Christopher Naylis	Fire Chief
Ryan Shell	EMS Chief
Robert Byrnes Jr.	Safety Coordinator
Philip Neville	DPW Superintendent
Michael Ravenda	Construction Code Official
Christopher Tully	Board of Education Liaison

Motion offered by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Lodato, that the nomination be

confirmed. All present voting in favor. None opposed.

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Veterans Advisory Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2020.

Amos White
Edward C. Andreus IV
Fred Sahlberg
Kevin Clancy
Mike Mattesich
Ralph Ritter
Thomas Lang, Commander
Warren Williams
Johnny Opatovsky
John Smith

Motion offered by Council President Marte, second by Councilman Lodato, that the nomination be confirmed. All present voting in favor. None opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Lost Time Accident Frequency Report

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the year end was an improvement from where the Borough was in the past. The rates were significantly down over the past two-year averages. Some of the accidents that occur are with emergency staff, due to on the job injuries that are not always avoidable. He stated that the borough is moving in the right direction.

B. Social Media Policy

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the borough has a very disjointed social media. He stated that there is a social media policy in place representing the policy for the police department and all the employees, but there are volunteer committees that utilize the borough logos and seals and do not adhere to the policy. He expressed that the committees put up any information without any controls. Mr. Gallo stated he has had discussions with other towns on their social media policies, and presented the information collected with the Council. He explained that some of them direct and define social media differently in their communities. He gave the example that one community in Pennsylvania, defined social media, the purpose of why and how social media interacts and who's covered by the policy. The policy provides a breakdown of the definitions of employees, volunteers, and public officials and how they use public content. Mr. Gallo stated that there are many organizations in town that use Facebook for their own communities and groups. However, when they post something, the post should include simple disclaimer like "the views imposed are my own and do not represent the position or the opinion of my employer or the borough". He expressed that is not done here and there is a lot of content out there that may not be what this governing body wants and there are no controls over it. He explained that if the committee is using the Borough seal, the governing body should have control over it.

Mayor Amatorio stated that the policy covers a lot of ground. He expressed that the concerns he raises are the rights of the employees and volunteers. He also inquired how this can be done if the Borough were to proceed to amend the policy, and inquired whether it would be through resolution or the policy itself. He is trying to avoid any issues with people voicing their own opinion, and make sure the information that is shared is personal, and not the opinion of the Borough.

Mr. Gallo advised that the policy can be amended through the policy and procedures manual, or place in an ordinance to reflect how the Borough wants to handle social media going forward. He further stated that personal opinions can be voiced on personal pages, but should not be expressed on the Borough Recreation's page, the Borough Fire Department's page, or the Borough's Environmental page. Mr. Gallo stated that the borough committee pages should have content related to the committees and topics, not opinions on the things people are doing.

Councilperson Lodato stated that this is something that needs to be considered, but must ensure that an employee or volunteer has their right to voice their opinion, and make comments and expressions based on free speech, however, on the Borough committee pages, it should be solely the committee information and topics, and not personal speech.

Councilperson Rivera stated that there needs to be assurance that the policy is not berating to free speech.

Council President Marte stated he agrees that social media is a growing industry, becoming a part of society more and more, and there is no way around it. He commented that the policy will create more transparency.

Mayor Amatorio urged the Council to read the information and digest the policy, and provide feedback.

Mr. Gallo stated that he is trying to ensure that the information that is on the committee's page is related to them and Borough business. He stated that it should not be a forum for members to express their view on an ordinance. He further stated that personal opinions should be expressed on personal pages. Mr. Gallo stated that if it has a Borough tag to it, it must follow the rules of the Borough. The policy will not limit freedom of speech, as they will be able to voice their own opinions on their personal pages.

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Marte that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Second by Councilman Rivera. All present voting in favor. None opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS II

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

Carolyn Schmelz, resident, inquired why she was removed from the Recreation Committee. Mrs. Schmelz stated there were openings to add more committee members. She was removed from the committee even though she was an active member in PAL, Little League, attended all of the meetings, and spent a lot of time volunteering to the entire recreation program. She was told by the liaison that everyone who wanted to come back, would be able to come back to the Committee. Mrs. Schmelz stated that the Mayor removed her from the Recreation Committee as a result of his prerogative and it does not make it a "better Bergenfield" by removing her when she grew up in the town and still volunteers in town. She stated the Mayor removed everyone from Little League and PAL. Councilwoman Kornbluth had to tell the Recreation Director there was no representation.

Mayor Amatorio stated he nominated the names for the Recreation Committee of those individuals he felt would work well with him and the Council, after having a discussion with the Recreation director. Mayor Amatorio stated he had also spoken with the liaison about the nominations. Mayor Amatorio stated he nominated her to the Stigma Free committee. Mayor Amatorio stated he had a discussion with the Recreation Director about the nominations.

Fred Sahlberg, resident, congratulated Councilman Pascual on his appointment. Mr. Sahlberg agrees with the discussion on social media. He stated that the only way a citizen should go on the

veterans committee to make comments, is if the committee is open to the public. Mr. Sahlberg further stated the optics are, there is a vendetta between the Mayor and the former Mayor's wife. Mr. Sahlberg stated the current Mayor would have to say there is not, because if you confirm there is, it might be an ethics violation. He commented that it was said at the meeting in December, by a council member, that those who used dirty politics, it did not work. Mr. Sahlberg stated the former Mayor received a nice plaque in the mail delivered by a Police Officer, and did not get the accolades he deserved by coming down to the Borough Hall to receive it. Mr. Sahlberg stated the optics are horrible and the Council should reconsider appointing the Mayor's wife to the Recreation Committee.

Joan Gelb, resident, stated she is appalled by what happened to Carolyn. She has been involved in every sports activity there is. Ms. Gelb commented there was no reason for her to be removed and she is upset and disappointed with the town council.

Betsy Desoto, resident, stated she has been a resident of Bergenfield for over 25 years. She stated that she is a mother and has children, and has volunteered and raised money for different organizations for which Norman, Carolyn, and Wendy have been a part of. She stated there were concerns even before the Mayor was elected when comments he did not agree with on his Facebook page were blocked. Ms. DeSoto stated this is not acceptable. She explained that as an educator, when she has done something, she needs to have her reasons and explain to her students. She expressed that it is disgusting behavior if this is the way the Mayor is exemplifying Bergenfield. Ms. Desoto stated that Norman and Carolyn have been in attendance at every school program. She explained that when her kids ask her who the new Mayor is. Ms. DeSoto stated she is a single mother with three kids that works, tutors afterwards, takes college classes and still has her face out there. She expressed that Carolyn has put herself out there and she is owed an explanation. Ms. DeSoto stated something has to change. Norman has been her Mayor and he will continue being her Mayor because he and Carolyn are examples of what Bergenfield is about.

Diana Flagg, resident, stated she received a tweet from the Bergenfield Police Department saying they have joined the Ring neighborhood act. She inquired if there is going to be a policeman on their cell phone looking to see if there is a strange car driving by her house. She stated that officers do not belong on Twitter. Ms. Flagg stated only a handful of residents are getting this and was shocked to receive it today and feels it is spying on her. Ms. Flagg stated it has always been the policy of Bergenfield that when an elected official leaves office, he or she is brought back publicly to get their plaque and accolades.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated it is the ring program is a tool. He explained that there are many things resolved, identified, and found through social media. He further explained that it is an investigative tool in the event a crime takes place, police officers can go on the app and get access to be able to figure out what happened and ask if anyone saw the crime.

Councilperson Lodato stated that retiring Councilmembers normally get their plaques and accolades at the day of the Reorganization meeting. Unfortunately, the sine die meeting was not held on the reorganization day because he was unable to attend. If it was the same day, the former Mayor would have been here at the meeting.

Barry Doll, resident, stated that the Bergenfield Museum was able to get a \$1,300 grant to do a video of the museum. He stated that he is going to use the audio/visual department at the High School to have the students involved. Mr. Doll stated he has been discussing with residents and different organizations to try to get some information about the water wheel. He has an appointment to meet with the Hackensack Academy to see if they would will be able to get involved. The museum is participating with an eagle scout project.

Mary Hernandez, resident, inquired why there are no public meetings of the safety committee. Ms. Hernandez inquired where she can get the agenda for the meeting and was looking for the attachments on social media. Ms. Hernandez inquired who will be monitoring the social media. She stated that Carolyn has had a huge impact in her daughter's life. She explained that if there are

openings, it would really look good, since they need to keep as many people as possible involved. She stated the council should do what's best for Bergenfield.

Borough Attorney John Schettino stated whether committee meetings are held in private or public is the prerogative of the committee. There is no legal obligation.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that residents can email him if they have any concerns to be shared with the traffic safety committee. Mr. Gallo also stated that the social media will be monitored by the administration office.

John Smith, resident, inquired whether there is any money in the budget for safety lights. He stated that the safety lights at the crosswalks are terrible and somebody is going to get killed. Mr. Smith stated the Council should have the County get the lights for their streets. He commented that if public service is unable to fix the lights, then the Borough should not pay their gas and electric bill. Mr. Smith stated that he told the republicans this is not the place to attack the Council. He stated that everyone knows what the former Mayor did to him with the Recreation Director position, and he never complained. He further stated that volunteering does not mean you are going to be on the committee. He expressed that the remarks made here tonight is not the place for it. Mr. Smith stated that he picks on everyone when they screw up and has been coming to the meetings for the past 18 years, and has never seen the people who are complaining tonight.

Matthew Doyle, resident, stated during the election season, by the high school, the Bergen County democratic club were offering kids \$60 to go door to door. He stated that unfortunately, there are criminals and sex offenders that live in Bergenfield and to offer kids to go door to door scared him. He hopes both democrats and republicans can come together and set ground rules that no one will offer kids money to go door to door. Mr. Doyle stated he is one of the people the Mayor blocked on Facebook. He stated that he posted valid questions about the parking deck, what the plan is when surplus runs out, and about the Little League. He stated that the post the Mayor left up disparaged the Police Department and someone had posted doing away with the library and expressed the optics are terrible. Mr. Doyle suggested they all go back and check what is left posted. Mr. Doyle stated he wanted to clarify his comment on the mom's and dad's page about not knowing Councilman Pascual. Mr. Doyle felt Councilman Pascual should have gone around the town with Arvin Amatorio when campaigning.

Mayor Amatorio stated his campaign did not involve the kids, and concerned that the Bergenfield Democrats never solicited kids to work during the election.

Catherine Freeman, resident, stated her daughter is 13 years old and she was approached by the democratic committee right across the field from the school. She was handed a flyer for \$60 and to get people to vote for the democrats. Ms. Freeman stated someone should have been monitoring them, letting them know it is inexcusable and unacceptable.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Lodato thanked everyone for coming and for those who made comments have been heard and will be taken into consideration. He also noted that Closed Session should be Closed Session I, not II, under #17 on the agenda.

Council President Marte thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a good night.

Councilperson Rivera wished everyone a good night.

Councilperson Pascual wished everyone a good night. He hopes that everyone is able to work together to move Bergenfield forward.

Mayor Amatorio thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished all a good night.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **20-065**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Agreements/Contracts
 - 1. Shared Services Agreement for Human Services
- B. Attorney-Client Privilege
 - 1. PBA Local 309 Update
 - 2. Police Department Personnel Updates

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 Councilman Lodato, second by Councilman Rivera, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Council President Marte, second by Councilperson Rivera, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones
Borough Clerk