

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio and Council President Buddy Deauna, Council members Thomas A. Lodato, Rafael Marte, Ora Kornbluth, Hernando Rivera (8:15 p.m.), and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: No one.

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

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:08 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 Marte.

AGENDA CHANGES

Councilperson Kornbluth motioned to add Resolution #22-313 to authorize the advertisement of an RFQ to select a re-developer for the development of the Main Street property. Councilperson Marte seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/BOROUGH ENGINEER

A. Engineering & Inspection Status Report

Bob Klein, borough engineer, stated the road program this year is broken up into four separate contracts. The first one is Marcotte Lane. The construction has been ongoing and they have been progressing nicely. Most of the curb work has been completed. Mr. Klein stated there is some pipe work that needs to be done. The mill and pave should be completed sometime this month. The second road is Hickory Avenue. The contractor began work and did some utility work. Mr. Klein stated they have to start concrete curb work that was supposed to start already. The crew that was supposed to start had some delays. The contractor will start by the end of the week. The third contract is a number of roads, including portions of Dick Street, Blauvelt Avenue, Carnation Street, Tulip Street, a portion of Bergen Avenue and First Street, and Lee Place. The rain held off beginning the construction of Tulip Street. The last contract is for W. Broad Street which is on the agenda for approval tonight.

ORDINANCES

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Residential Parking Ordinance Requirements

No discussion.

B. Lighting Ordinance Requirements

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Borough Administrator Gallo stated there are a lot of projects going on in town. The construction on the building is progressing nicely. Mr. Gallo explained they started some of the plumbing and will start building the elevator shaft depending on the weather. The goal is to have the building buttoned up by winter. He stated the HVAC and the heating system is onsite. The ground breaking ceremony for Vivyen Field will be next week. The contractor is ready to proceed. Mr. Gallo stated the area will be developed for the kids soon. The Marcotte Lane road project is almost finished. Hickory Avenue is also going on in doing the sidewalks. Mr. Gallo stated there have been some retirements and they are filling those positions, which brings ups and downs of operations. People are transitioning into new positions. There were a lot of contract work done. The FMBA contract will be done by the next meeting.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT

Councilperson Deauna

stated the health department is in the process of hiring a nurse.

Councilperson Marte

stated the Zoning Board met on August 29th, 2022 for the Dunkin Donuts Drive Thru application. At the meeting witnesses were heard, cross examination done, and discussion. The application was adjourned until October 3, 2022. The Veterans Committee had a meeting on August 20th, 2022. There was a presentation for veterans on how to obtain home loans. There is a newsletter named Army Echo that provides this information and other resources. They are going to have a pig roast on September 10th, 2022 at noon at the VFW. The 9/11 ceremony will be at 11:00am.

Councilperson Kornbluth

stated the BVAC has gone on 1,580 calls this year to date. They ordered a new ambulance they paid for. The current average response time is 3 minutes and 7 seconds, being the fastest agency in Bergen County. OEM had no report. All the Thursday night parties at Coopers Pond are completed and were well attended. The last movie night was brought inside to Conlon Hall due to the weather and threat of lightning. Summer sports are completed and now moving to the fall sports season.

Councilperson Pascual

stated the Rent Leveling Board requested a lawyer attend their meetings. They've had a couple of issues recently and would appreciate a lawyer present.

Mayor Amatorio

stated if they have legal issues, they can always speak with the borough attorney. He also stated they have been cleaning up some areas at Metzler's Brook while waiting for the permits from DEP. They have applied for grants for different equipment for operations and have been addressing a lot of residential concerns. The DPW and different departments have been busy addressing the residential requests including the use of the facilities.

CORRESPONDENCE

a.) Peters/Resident

RE: Road Closure Request for Annual Block Party/Ford Court and South First Street/Saturday, September 10, 2022/3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Rain Date: September 17, 2022)

Motion by Councilperson Marte, seconded by Council President Deauna, and all members present voting in favor, to approve Correspondence Item A. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barry Doll, resident, stated he is happy to hear the building is moving along. He would like to know how it's going cost wise with the budget and how much interest is being paid for the bond. Mr. Doll inquired if the pot factory has still not been approved. He felt it was the wrong type of business in Bergenfield and not the place for it.

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated there have been an overwhelming number of pigeons in town this summer. She spotted a large pigeon coop on the roof Giles's Auto Body at 14 Hill Place by McDonald's. She requested action be taken in getting it removed as other complaints have been ignored by code enforcement. Residents need to be notified that pigeon coops are illegal on Facebook page or borough website. The website njactb.org contains a record search link to the New Jersey state database of all property tax files going back three years. She uses it frequently. Ms. Sullivan stated due to the passage of Daniel's law, the link is going to be discontinued 12/31/22. The property tax information should be available to the public. She explained current users who use the link will have no choice but to submit OPRA requests going forward. She suggested reaching out to state government contacts and legislators to offer a resolution by year end.

Kathy Sahlberg, resident, stated a home on (42 or 46) Phelps Avenue was reported more than once to the Board of Health. The Board of Health was out there two to three months ago. She was going to volunteer to have someone cut the grass, but she learned the person had passed away.

Sergeant Major Williams, resident, stated there is a serious problem for veterans getting home loans. He stated 1% of all loans are being processed. Buyers or sellers are turning down the loans which they are not supposed to do. This is a problem across the country. September 16th is national recognition day for POW/MIA. There will be a table ceremony at the VFW Post on September 16th, 2022 at 7:00pm. The entire governing body is invited. They will honor resident Floyd James Thompson. The governor passed a law that all police officers need to be licensed and inquired how

current officers going to be licensed. Sergeant Major Williams stated there is a spotlight at Veterans Field by the first base line that residents have been asking him what will happen.

John Smith, resident, stated the Zoning Board hired a new engineering firm which is the same firm the borough uses for special projects. The pig roast will be this Saturday starting at noon. Everyone is welcome. Mr. Smith stated the Veterans Committee is receiving two banners, one will be given to the school to put behind the scoreboard. Mr. Smith stated he sits by the VFW every morning and noticed there are a lot of pigeons behind McDonald's to the right and by Peter's Insurance. People are raising them.

Fred Sahlberg, resident, stated he is leary about licensing police officers. Mr. Sahlberg stated when he had become a police officer, he had gone to a boarding academy for six weeks. Police officers now have to go to the academy for six months. The licensing of a police officer is nothing. A close look should be taken at what they want to do with the license. There should be a police officer present at the meetings as it did get loud at the last meeting. Mr. Sahlberg inquired if he is ever going to be able to make a left-hand turn.

Jerry Naylis, resident, stated the railroad crossing on Main Street is deteriorating. He suggested the borough contact CSX to get it remediated prior to the onset of freezing weather. Mr. Naylis stated he noticed the weeds are 7 feet high by the railroad tracks on Clinton Avenue. He'd appreciate it if the congressional representative or the Federal Rail Administration be contacted to ask them to intervene, on behalf of the borough, to get the railroad to cut the weeds down.

Norman Schmelz, resident, inquired if there is any update about the crossing at Portland Avenue and Main Street. He inquired if there were any areas of the brook that were cleaned out. Mr. Schmelz inquired who is doing the 9/11 ceremony. He asked if a resolution was added to the agenda regarding Main Street. Mr. Schmelz stated the Audubon Society reported there is rat poisoning that are killing hawks. He requested a resolution be passed in support of the Hackensack River Keeper and Audubon Society to help ban the rat poison. The new fence at Hickory Gardens seems to have been put in backwards and should be turned around.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the budget for the new building is going well. There is \$600,000 in contingency costs for the planning of the building. They haven't even spent \$40,000 to date. The only change order was for creating additional water lines to never lose water. It was decided as an after fact, as an upgrade. The bond was issued back in July for a rate of 3.1% or 3.2%. Mr. Gallo stated a premium of \$200,000 was received. There has been no action with the pot factory. He stated if there is an issue with the building department email address, they should also copy him on the email. The borough has changed the email addresses from .com to nj.gov. He will follow up and make sure they received it. Mr. Gallo stated the borough cannot control the NJACTB database, but they will look into it. If the state shuts something down, the borough cannot turn that around. Residents have the ability to come to borough hall and look at the local tax book. Mr. Gallo stated he agrees with Sergeant Major Williams about National Recognition Day for the veterans and POW's. He personally cannot attend the pig roast, but if anything is needed the borough can do, they are committed to helping the veterans. Mr. Gallo stated he will inform the DPW to adjust the light at Veterans Field. T & M Associates took over as the engineers for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The borough has been an accredited police department for a number of years. There are certain standards that need to be met. Mr. Gallo stated he is confident the police department is looking into the licensing and are implementing the body cameras. CSX was notified a couple of weeks ago about the tracks and the weeds. The borough has been doing their part in maintaining the weeds along the street side. He will send an email to the congressman's office tomorrow to see if can push some buttons. Mr. Gallo stated he spoke with RVE, regarding the Portland Avenue crossing, to get it done under the road program project. He will have the fence at Hickory Gardens looked at tomorrow. DEP gave approval to clean parts of Hirschfield Brook. They need to be careful as it could impact other areas downstream.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE ACTED UPON:

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 22-288. 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. **22-289**/To Pay Bills
- b. **22-290**/To Amend Membership – Veteran’s Advisory Committee
- c. **22-291**/To Approve Letter of Agreement – DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant – Bergen County Department of Health Services
- d. **22-292**/To Approve Tax Refund – 12 Momar Drive
- e. **22-293**/To Approve Tax Court Judgement – 19 Dover Court
- f. **22-294**/To Approve Retirement – Susan Muller
- g. **22-295**/To Amend Resolution #22-286 Hiring the Technical Assistant to the Construction Code Official in the Building Department – Lisa Sereno
- h. **22-296**/To Approve Contract – Purchase and Installation of Synthetic Field – Field Turf USA Inc.
- i. **22-297**/To Approve Proposal – Boundary Survey and Minor Subdivision at 198 N. Washington Avenue – T&M Associates
- j. **22-298**/To Approve Contract – Purchase of Turnout Gear for Fire Department – New Jersey Fire Equipment Co.
- k. **22-299**/To Award Bid and Approve Lease Agreement – Design, Construction, Management & Maintenance of a 160-Foot Monopole Cell Tower and Related Facilities – Wireless Edge Towers II, LLC
- l. **22-300**/To Approve Proposal – Construction Phase Services for the 2022 Road Improvements – Remington & Vernick Engineers
- m. **22-301**/To Award Bid and Approve Contract – West Broad Street Road Improvements – American Asphalt

Motion by Councilperson Marte, second by Councilperson Rivera, to approve the Consent Resolution.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

B. RESOLUTIONS

22-302/To Hire Part-Time Laborer - Gerard Ridings

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, to approve Resolution #22-302.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-303/To Hire Part-Time Laborer - Ryan Ennis

Motion by Council President Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Marte, to approve Resolution #22-303.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-304/To Approve Contract – Superintendent of Public Works

Motion by Councilperson Marte, seconded by Council President Deauna, to approve Resolution #22-304.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-305/To Approve Agreement – Borough Clerk

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, to approve Resolution #22-305.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-306/To Approve Agreement – Deputy Borough Clerk

Motion by Council President Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Marte, to approve Resolution #22-306.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-307/To Approve Agreement- Deputy CFO

Motion by Councilperson Marte, seconded by Council President Deauna, to approve Resolution #22-307.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-308/To Approve Pay Increase – Qualified Purchasing Agent

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, to approve Resolution #22-308.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-309/To Approve Contract – Confidential Assistant to the Administrator

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Pascual, to approve Resolution #22-309.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-310/To Approve Pay Increase – Construction Code Official

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Kornbluth, to approve Resolution #22-310.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-311/To Approve Pay Increase – Building Inspector

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, to approve Resolution #22-311.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-312/To Amend Resolution #22-277 Hiring Crossing Guards for the 2022-2023 School Year

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Marte, to approve Resolution #22-312.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

22-313/To authorize the advertisement of an RFQ to select a re-developer for the development of the Main Street property

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Marte, to approve Resolution #22-313.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	abstain	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Council President Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Marte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Mayor and Council thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a good night.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **22-314**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege
 - 1. PBA Local #309
 - 2. Bergenfield Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.

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 Councilperson 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 Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Marie Quinones
Borough Clerk