

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 3, 2023**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio and Council President Marc Pascual, Council members Thomas A. Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Domingo Almonte, Ora Kornbluth, and Hernando Rivera

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo
Borough Attorney John Schettino
Deputy Borough Clerk Hilda Tavitian

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:03 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. Notice of this meeting dated September 29, 2023 was sent to the Record, the Star Ledger, Twin Boro News, and Cablevision, placed on two Municipal Bulletin Boards and posted on the website, and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Lodato.

AGENDA CHANGES

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth to add to Consent Agenda Resolution 23-320 - To Approve Repaving Program – Maple Street and Shelby Ct. up to New Jersey Ave. – Bergen County Co-Op, Resolution 23-321 - To Approve Sustainable New Jersey Land Use Declaration 2023 and to Resolutions Resolution 23-326 -To Approve Hiring School Crossing Guards for School Year 2023-2024. Seconded by Councilperson Rivera. All present, voting in favor.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/BOROUGH ENGINEER

A. Engineering & Inspection Status Report

Robert Klein, engineer from Remington & Vernick, stated Phase II of the Sidewalk Replacement program was awarded to Vector Corporation, who was previously awarded the Phase I program, will commence work next week. The work on North Taylor St., a CBDG funded road, will begin at the end of this week or next week. Mr. Klein stated Roosevelt Ave, a mutual project, has been awarded and is scheduled to commence next week. The road work on Smith Ave., Edward St., O'Neil St., and MacKay Dr. was awarded to the same contractor as North Taylor Street. Those streets will start when the work on North Taylor Street is completed. The parking lot improvements for Twin Boro and Memorial Field will be finalized shortly and will go out to bid soon. Mr. Klein stated these projects should be completed by Thanksgiving or earlier weather permitting. He stated Delford St. is part of next year's DOT Repaving program.

ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Amatorio read into the record:

The following ordinances published herewith were first read by title on September 19, 2023 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

ORDINANCE 23-2612 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 268 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “STORMWATER MANAGEMENT”

Public Comments on Ordinance 23-2612.

Barry Doll, resident, stated a pool is considered part of improved lot coverage, if it exceeds the impervious coverage it requires a variance.

John Smith, resident, stated a pool holds water. It should not be considered coverage and previously it wasn't in the ordinance. He stated the code official says it is part of the coverage. Now, that pool coverage is in the ordinance, it must be taken into consideration when determining coverage.

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Councilperson Kornbluth to close public comments on Ordinance 23-2612. All present, voting in favor.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Council President Pascual, to pass Ordinance 23-2612 on second and final reading and is hereby adopted and notice of same shall be published according to law as amended.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board administrator Gallo stated the building is almost 90% complete. The glass is being installed and will be completely closed in. He explained once that happens the HVAC system will be installed and all carpentry work will be finalized. The expected move in date for the building will be mid to end November. Mr. Gallo stated the hope for Vivyen Field is to have the lights on by the end of the week. There should be a proposal shortly for the lighting of the PAL project. The Halloween Trunk or Treat, the Haunted House at Cooper's Pond, and all other Halloween activities are planned and ready to be implemented. The Pickleball and Tennis Courts are completed, open to the public, and are being utilized.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT

Councilperson Lodato

No Report.

Councilperson Deauna	stated the Health Department and the Walgreens partnered for a Flu Shot and Covid Booster Clinic that was well attended. In June, the Barrier Free Committee held a Antique Car show at the High School.
Councilperson Almonte	No Report.
Councilperson Kornbluth	No Report.
Councilperson Rivera	No Report
Council President Pascual	stated the Rent Leveling Board landlords are now in full compliance. There is an open seat on the Rent Leveling Board for a super. The Zoning Board approved an application for a thrift shop at the former Payless Shoe Store. The Veteran's Committee Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 11 th at Borough Hall. The Veteran's holiday dinner is being planned in conjunction with the Paramus Veterans Home. The Veteran's signs and monuments need to be cleaned and polished. The veterans inquired where at the new Borough Hall the plaques and flags will be placed and if are there any available grants to assist veterans. The veterans are requesting nominees for Police, Fire, and EMT National Awards for 2024.
Mayor Amatorio	stated there is now a Purple Heart Award parking spot at Borough Hall. The redevelopment ordinance was discussed at the Planning Board meeting and was endorsed. The ordinance will be on the agenda for adoption at the next Mayor and Council meeting. The Barrio Fest was held at Memorial Field this past weekend and the Dominoes Club held a Dominoes Tournament at the VFW.

CORRESPONDENCE

a.) Naylis/Board of Fire Officers

RE: Personnel Action Letter Dated September 27, 2023

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barry Doll, resident, stated the two ambulances parked at the Temple on Prospect Ave are still parked in tandem. There have been a lot of trees removed but they haven't been replaced. He thanked the Council for updating the closed session with more information. Mr. Doll inquired if the borough is protected if someone gets hurt on the turf fields.

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated she is concerned with the increase of tornadoes in the area. She inquired if the shared service agreement for the lighting alert system will include tornado warnings.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the ambulances being parked in tandem is not a problem as they have multiple ways to get out of those spots. Mr. Gallo stated there are many studies that turf is just as safe and the borough insurance covers any type of injury, turf or grass.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE ACTED UPON:

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 23-311. 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. **23-312/**To Approve Bill List
- b. **23-313/**To Approve Renewal of Agreement – Professional Services as Administrative Agent for Settlement Agreement with Fair Share Housing – Community Grants, Planning and Housing, LLC CGP&H
- c. **23-314/**To Award Bid and Authorize Contract – Ford F550 Mason Dump Truck – United Ford, LLC
- d. **23-315/**To Approve Additional Structural Construction Services for Bergenfield Municipal Building - T&M Associates
- e. **23-316/**To Approve Tax Refund – 141 Harcourt Avenue
- f. **23-317/**To Approve Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2023 Budget – Clean Communities Grant – Chapter 159
- g. **23-318/**To Approve Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2023 Budget – Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant – Chapter 159
- h. **23-319/**To Approve Shared Services Agreement - Lightning Detector System – Bergenfield Board of Education
- i. **23-320/**To Approve Repaving Program – Maple Street and Shelby Ct. up to New Jersey Ave. – Bergen County Co-Op
- j. **23-321/**To Approve Sustainable New Jersey Land Use Declaration 2023

Motion by Councilperson Council President Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, to approve Consent Resolution #23-311 as amended.

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

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

B. RESOLUTIONS

23-322/To Approve Stipend – Deputy Borough Clerk – Hilda Tavitian

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Rivera to approve Resolution #23-322.

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

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

23-323/To Approve Hire – Full-Time Laborer – Marcus Oliver

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Kornbluth to approve Resolution #23-323.

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

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

23-324/To Approve Hire Part-Time Laborer – Christian Ramos

Motion by Councilperson Almonte, seconded by Councilperson Deauna to approve Resolution #23-324.

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

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

23-325/To Approve Hire – Part-Time Laborer – Shane Stapleton

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Lodato to approve Resolution #23-325.

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

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

23-326/To Approve Hiring School Crossing Guards for School Year 2023-2024

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Councilperson Deauna to approve Resolution #23-326.

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

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Mayor and Council thanked all for coming to the meeting and wished all a good night.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 23-327/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege
 - 1. Massey v. Borough of Bergenfield Litigation Update
 - 2. Hunter v. Borough of Bergenfield Litigation Update
- B. Contracts/Agreements

1. Borough Administrator Contract

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 Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 8:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Lodato and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hilda Tavitian
Deputy Borough Clerk