

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Arvin Amatorio and Council President Marc Pascual (arrived at 8:39 p.m.), Council members Buddy Deauna, Domingo Almonte, Ora Kornbluth, and Hernando Rivera

**ABSENT:** Council member Thomas Lodato

**ALSO PRESENT:** Borough Administrator Corey Gallo  
Borough Attorney John Schettino (arrived at 8:10 p.m.)  
Borough Labor Attorney John Shahdanian  
Deputy Borough Clerk Hilda Tavitian

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. Notice of this meeting dated October 27, 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 Deauna.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth to add to Consent Agenda Resolution 23-342 To Cancel Grant – Fiscal Year 2023 Municipal Alliance Grant and Resolution 23-343 To Authorize RFQ – Municipal Planner for Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. Seconded by Councilperson Rivera. All present, voting in favor. None opposed.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Proclamation – In Recognition of Recycling Coordinator

Mayor Amatorio presented Ms. Jaime Luppino with a citation and read the citation into the record.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/BOROUGH ENGINEER**

- A. Engineering & Inspection Status Report

Robert Klein, Borough Engineer, stated the ongoing sidewalk program is moving along and should be completed by the end of the year. Roosevelt Avenue is moving along and should be ready to pave soon. He stated the project that is stalled is North Taylor Street, Edward Street, Smith Avenue, MacKay Drive, and O'Neil Street. The work on N. Taylor Street has not started yet and is expected to start Monday. He will receive an updated schedule at the meeting next week. He stated the work should be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting. Mr. Klein stated the time period is up for the first contract, the second contract is moving along and should be completed this year.

**ORDINANCES**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the past week the Borough held its Halloween festivities, Haunted Walk at Cooper's Pond and Trunk or Treat on the Avenue. These events were spearheaded through the Recreation Department, the DPW, and the volunteers and were a big success. The Veteran's Day ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am at Borough Hall. Mr. Gallo stated the Holiday in the Park will be Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. The Fire Department is doing the Hanukkah Run on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. In addition, they will have the Santa Run on December 16<sup>th</sup> and the Holiday Light Parade is December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mr. Gallo stated a robocall went out this evening stating that effective Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be no over night parking. The DPW, operationally, cannot function with garbage and street cleaning with cars parked on the street through the winter months. They will continue to inform residents on the website, social media, and via telephone. The Council will have to reevaluate this for other times of the year and how to proceed.

## MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT

Councilperson Deauna

stated the Board of Health held a meeting. There were four cases of West Nile Virus reported in Bergen County. There was a single digit count for Covid in Bergenfield. Animal control did a presentation as there has been concern about the increase of the cat colony in Bergenfield. He mentioned the retirement of Felicia Williams and commented her for a job well done for the past 25 years. The Health Department held a vaccine clinic at Conlon Hall on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Councilperson Almonte

No report.

Councilperson Kornbluth

stated the Bergenfield Volunteer Ambulance Corps. has responded to 1671 calls year to date. Their average response time is 3 minutes, 43 seconds. They received another LUCAS resuscitation machine. She stated the fall sports are winding down with cheer competitions continuing. Pickleball and dominoes are going well at Conlon Hall. She thanked the Recreation Committee, DPW and the volunteers for the successful Halloween Festivities.

Councilperson Rivera

stated The Halloween festivities were a great success that benefitted the community. He thanked the Recreation Committee, DPW, and volunteers.

Council President Pascual

No report.

Mayor Amatorio

stated the Planning Board approved three applications at the meeting. The applications were for a bathroom at the Knickerbocker Country Club, a minor subdivision of a property on Homestead Place, and an addition to a business on McDermott Avenue for additional storage.

CORRESPONDENCE

a.) Bergman/Democratic Club

**RE:** Request to Reserve Cooper’s Pond/  
Saturday, November 4, 2023 – Tuesday, November 7, 2023

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Smith, resident, thanked the Borough Administrator and the DPW for fixing the flag. He stated the issue of overnight parking will be fixed when people use their garages. It will be on the town to follow up. Mr. Smith stated people are not using their garages for what they are meant to be and the town should allow people to expand their drive ways and will help in finding illegal apartments.

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated in regards to overnight parking, people are lazy and do not want to move their cars. She stated the leaves cannot be picked up, nor can the snow be plowed, and agrees it is time to clamp down on the cars parking on the street.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE ACTED UPON:

A. CONSENT AGENDA

**CONSENT RESOLUTION 23-336.** 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. **23-337**/To Approve Bill List
- b. **23-338**/To Approve Tax Appeal Settlement – 80 New Bridge Road
- c. **23-339**/To Approve Transfer of Appropriations
- d. **23-340**/To Approve Procedures for Administration and Inspection of Federal Aid Highway Projects - NJDOT 2023 TA Set Aside Program Twin Boro Park Improvements Phase 2 Project
- e. **23-341**/To Approve Proposal – Stormwater Management MS4 Mapping – T&M Associates
- f. **23-342**/To Cancel Grant – Fiscal Year 2023 Municipal Alliance Grant
- g. **23-343**/To Authorize RFQ – Municipal Planner for Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Council President Pascual, to approve Consent Resolution #23-336 as amended.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>

Councilperson Almonte: *aye* Council President Pascual: *aye*

B. RESOLUTION

**23-344/To Approve Agreement – Borough Administrator**

Motion by Council President Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera to approve Resolution #23-344.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>absent</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

Councilperson Deauna agrees with Mr. Smith's suggestion of widening the driveways. They are proud to have these Halloween Festivities in town.

Councilperson Kornbluth and Councilperson Rivera thanked all for coming and wished all a good night.

Councilperson Pascual congratulated Jaime Luppino. He thanked all for attending the meeting.

Mayor Amatorio thanked all for coming and wished all a good weekend.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **23-345/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:**

A. Attorney-Client Privilege

1. Massey v. Borough of Bergenfield Litigation Update

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, seconded by Council President Pascual and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Council person Rivera, second by Councilperson Kornbluth and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hilda Tavitian  
Deputy Borough Clerk