

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 18, 2024
8:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Hernando Rivera and Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Ora Kornbluth, and Marc Pascual (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)

ABSENT: Council member Domingo Almonte

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo
Borough Attorney John Schettino
Borough Clerk Marie Quiñones-Wilson

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:01 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 a Municipal Bulletin Board and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Amatorio.

AGENDA CHANGES

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth to add to Correspondence request from Colon to reserve Hickory Field for a birthday party on Saturday, June 22, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and personnel action letter dated June 16, 2024 received from the Board of Fire Officers, and to Resolutions, Resolution 24-195 to Approve Purchase – Two (2) 2025 Ford Utility Interceptor for the Bergenfield Police Department – Chas S. Winner Inc. DBA Winner Ford, Resolution 24-196 to Approve Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2024 Budget – Two Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grants – Chapter 159, and Resolution 24-197 to Amend the Veterans Advisory Committee Membership. Council President Rivera seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Deauna to approve minutes of the May 21, 2024 Regular Public Meeting and May 21, 2024 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). Council President Rivera seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

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 as the current parking ordinance reads, hypothetically, all he is required to have if he builds a home with 16 bedrooms, is three parking spaces. If the amended parking ordinance is not passed, this is what is going to happen. Mr. Smith inquired how there can be half a parking space.

Borough Attorney Schettino stated the board attorney can be instructed, by law, to round up to the higher number.

Mary Sullivan, resident, suggested it should just be a whole number for the parking spaces, not half or 0.10 of a space. She stated she is confused regarding the required spaces for the Garden Apartments and townhouses. She inquired if the ordinance includes auditoriums, assembly halls, and religious halls. Some have no parking spaces and others have insufficient spaces.

Edward Borg, resident, stated currently the state code has spaces rounded down.

Borough Attorney Schettino stated that's not correct. The courts have argued that you round up. He stated less parking is an issue in almost every community. The idea is to provide more parking. NJ RSIS standard is to round up.

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

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| a.) F. Bilto/Resident | RE: Request to Reserve Cooper's Pond for Wedding Pictures/Thursday, June 20, 2024/1:00 p.m. |
| b.) B. Gallione/Resident | RE: Request to Reserve Memorial Park for Family Picnic/Saturday, June 29, 2024/10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. |
| c.) S. Cruz/Resident | RE: Request to Reserve Hickory Field for Birthday Party/Saturday, June 29, 2024/12:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. |
| d.) N. Reynoso/Resident | RE: Request to Reserve Memorial Park for Association Picnic/Sunday, July 7, 2024/12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. |
| e.) D. Rodriguez/Resident | RE: Request for Road Closure/Stillman Avenue, cross streets Dick and Blackwell/Saturday, July 20, 2024/12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. |
| f.) J. Colon/Resident | RE: Request to Reserve Hickory Field for Birthday Party/Saturday, June 22, 2024/3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
| g.) N. Naylis/Board of Fire Officers | RE: Personnel Action Letter dated June 16, 2024 |

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth to accept Correspondence. Council President Rivera seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Amatorio read the following into the Record:

The following ordinances published herewith were first read by title only on May 7, 2024 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

24-2626 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND CHAPTER 186 TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

Public Comments on Ordinance 24-2626.

John Smith, resident, stated homes with over five bedrooms should be required to have a two-car garage. The majority of people building in town do not use their garages to park their cars. There would be one less bedroom if a larger garage is required.

Council President Rivera stated that would increase the lot coverage.

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated she is confused what 0.1 requirement is for the Garden Apartments.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that is the existing statute. The ordinance will be adding to the proportions.

Mayor Amatorio stated for every unit, there is a requirement of 1.5 spaces.

Mr. Gallo stated a four-bedroom townhouse would require two parking spaces.

Mr. Smith stated the proposal tonight is only for residential, not for townhouses and questioned why it is 0.1 spaces for townhouses.

Mr. Gallo stated they need to put the ordinance in place to avoid any other zoning applications with homes with more than five bedrooms.

Councilperson Lodato stated they can adopt the ordinance and then immediately amend.

Mayor Amatorio stated they can't resolve all the issues at once. He suggested passing the ordinance and then amend it.

Mr. Gallo stated they have to address the parking ordinance on a collective measure, whether it's street parking, overnight parking, etc. They are just trying to close one window tonight. Everything else is open to be amended, adopted, changed as addressed.

Councilperson Kornbluth stated they should keep in mind the issues with 0.1 is only for townhouses and they should consider less pervious coverage consideration for pavers in extending a driveway.

Mr. Borg stated the rounding of 0.1 is only for over three-bedroom townhouses.

Mr. Schettino stated it is at the discretion of the town and that most towns "may" round higher. If there is an application being considered, justification would be required to round down rather than up.

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Deauna, to pass Ordinance 24-2626 on second and final reading and are hereby adopted and notice of same shall be published according to law.

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>	Council President Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Mayor Amatorio read the following into the Record:

The following ordinances published herewith were first read by title only on May 21, 2024 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

ORDINANCE 24-2627 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$770,000 TO FUND THE PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF A COMPLETE PROGRAM OF REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE BOROUGH

ORDINANCE 24-2628 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 165 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “GAMES OF CHANCE”

Public Comments on Ordinances 24-2627 and 24-2628.

John Smith, resident, stated Ordinance 24-2628 is a smart move. He stated getting a raffle license will be done quicker as the Borough Clerk will be the approving authority.

Motion by Council President Rivera, second by Councilperson Pascual, to pass Ordinance 24-2627 and Ordinance 24-2628 on second and final reading and are hereby adopted and notice of same shall be published according to law.

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>	Council President Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

B. Introduction of Ordinance

Motion by Councilperson Deauna that the following ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading and setting Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard as the date and time and the Council Chambers of the Bergenfield Borough Hall as the place for a hearing on said ordinance. Seconded by Council President Rivera.

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

ORDINANCE 24-2629 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 232 ENTITLED “PROPERTY MAINTENANCE” OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD

ORDINANCE 24-2630 – AN ORDINANCE TITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL”

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>	Council President Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 24-176. 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. **24-177**/To Approve Bill List
- b. **24-178**/To Approve Liquor License Renewals for 2024-2025 License Term
- c. **24-179**/To Appoint Municipal Representatives to the Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee
- d. **24-180**/To Approve the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2024 Budget – Clean Communities Grant – Chapter 159
- e. **24-181**/To Authorize Tax Refund – 51 E. Main Street
- f. **24-182**/To Approve Veteran’s Tax Exemption – 45 Momar Drive
- g. **24-183**/To Approve Grant Application and Execute Contract – NJDOT Municipal Aid for the Resurfacing of New Jersey Avenue
- h. **24-184**/To Authorize Bid for Bedford Avenue, Delford Avenue, and N. First Street Improvement Project
- i. **24-185**/To Authorize Bid for the 2024 Road Improvement Program Phase II
- j. **24-186**/To Authorize Purchase – 5,500 Gallon Brine Tank for the Department of Public Works – Reed Systems LTD
- k. **24-187**/To Authorize Purchase – Chest Compression System for the Bergenfield Volunteer Ambulance Corps – Stryker Sales Corporation
- l. **24-188**/To Approve Annual Subscription for Software – GovPilot
- m. **24-189**/To Approve Change Order No. 1 – Asbestos Abatement and Monitoring Services for the Demolition of the Old Municipal Building – Pennoni Associates Inc.
- n. **24-190**/To Approve Change Order No. 1 – Hickory Avenue Improvement Project – DLS Contracting Inc.
- o. **24-191**/To Approve Pay Certificate No. 3 (Final) – Hickory Avenue Improvement Project – DLS Contracting Inc.
- p. **24-192**/To Award Bid and Approve Contract – 2024 Road Improvement Project Phase I – Vektor Corporation

Motion by Council President Rivera to approve the Consent Resolution. Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion.

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

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

B. Resolutions

24-193/To Hire Part-Time Summer Laborer – Aiden Mader

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Council President Rivera that Resolution #24-193 be approved.

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>	Council President Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

24-194/To Hire Summer Intern – Alisa Varughese

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Council President Rivera that Resolution #24-194 be approved.

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>	Council President Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

24-195/To Approve Purchase – Two (2) 2025 Ford Utility Interceptor for the Bergenfield Police Department – Chas S. Winner Inc. DBA Winner Ford

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Deauna that Resolution #24-195 be approved.

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>	Council President Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

24-196/To Approve Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2024 Budget – Two Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grants – Chapter 159

Motion by Council President Rivera, seconded by Councilperson Kornbluth that Resolution #24-196 be approved.

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>	Council President Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

24-197/To Amend the Veterans Advisory Committee Membership

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Deauna that Resolution #24-197 be approved.

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>	Council President Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Rivera that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Councilperson Lodato seconded the motion. 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.

Scott Hiller, resident, stated he had emailed the Fire Committee two times in May and did not get a response regarding excessive smoke in the neighborhood. He inquired if there is an ordinance that enforces excessive smoke, if not requested one to be created. It's not good for the environment and is a quality-of-life issue.

Mary Sullivan, resident, inquired who EPIC Management is.

Mr. Gallo stated EPIC is the contractor for the construction of the new municipal building.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Mayor and Council thanked all for coming to the meeting. They acknowledged the passing of Bobby Kirsch and expressed their condolences to his family. Councilperson Pascual congratulated the new members of the Veterans Advisory Committee.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 24-198/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

A. Personnel

1. Police Department Personnel Matters
2. Department of Public Works Personnel Matters

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 Pascual, second by Council President 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 Pascual, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Marie Quiñones-Wilson
Borough Clerk