

BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING

June 24, 2020

4:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Council members Ora Kornbluth and Hernando Rivera

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

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been provided as soon as possible and have been satisfied. Notice of this Emergency Meeting via Sunshine Notice dated June 24, 2020 was 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 Mayor Amatorio.

DISCUSSION ON STREET CLOSURE AND OUTDOOR DINING

Mayor Amatorio thanked everyone for the quick notice to discuss the closure of Washington Avenue from Clinton Avenue to Main Street this Saturday, June 27, 2020 from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm to help businesses in town. He stated they can discuss any concerns there may be. Mr. Gallo will finalize with the police department and the DPW. Mayor Amatorio stated he will need help from the council to promote the businesses. There might not be enough time for the businesses to get approval from the building department if this is done on Saturday. Some businesses already have outside seating. Mayor Amatorio inquired what will happen to those businesses who set up outdoor dining today or tomorrow and do not have permits yet.

Borough Administrator Gallo read the resolution into the record. Mr. Gallo stated Washington Avenue will be closed from W. Main Street to Clinton Avenue. The businesses will be allowed to have more flexibility. The plans need to be reviewed and approved by the Building Department to make sure it is safe. Mr. Gallo stated businesses on the avenue will be allowed to do what they need to do. They need to register with the borough in the next week or two. Mr. Gallo stated they would be allowed to operate, but have to go to the building department to register. Mr. Gallo stated whatever businesses on the avenue and on the side streets in Bergenfield can open up and expand. The borough needs to ensure that it is safe.

Council President Marte inquired if a message can be sent to the businesses to avoid opening without a permit. Council President Marte inquired how long will this last and during what time it will be during the day.

Mr. Gallo stated that is the goal. Mr. Gallo explained that is why Mayor Amatorio asked everyone for help. Once it is approved, the Council should go to the businesses and explain to them what they need to do to expand at this time. Washington Avenue will just be closed on Saturday, June 27, 2020 from 4:00pm to 11:00pm. After that, the businesses will be allowed to operate based on the executive order given by the Governor. Mr. Gallo stated as the Governor loosens up restrictions, they will be in a position to help the businesses continue the process.

Mayor Amatorio stated there are two issues to be discussed. The first one is the closing of Washington Avenue from 4:00pm to 11:00pm on Saturday. The other issue is for restaurants and other businesses to go outside and put tables out. Mayor Amatorio stated they need to let the

businesses know of the street closure on Saturday from 8:00pm until 11:00pm. There is going to be a reverse 911 call, and notice will be posted on the website and on Facebook with the information. Mayor Amatorio stated it would be effective if the council walked the avenue and spoke with the business owners.

Councilperson Pascual stated he can walk up and down the street tomorrow.

Mr. Schettino suggested the Council send the business owners an email by contacting the BSID to get an email list of all the businesses, and also mail the notice to businesses by obtaining the mailing addresses from the tax assessor. The Borough can do all three. Mr. Schettino stated his concern is if a few businesses were missed, then they will want to know why they did not get the notice if it was hand delivered to them. The important thing is to get the information out and use every form of media there is.

Council President Marte stated they need to inform the businesses so they are able to prepare ahead of Saturday.

Councilperson Pascual inquired if this pertains to businesses that are not on Washington Avenue, like the Wagon Wheel. The reverse 911 and social media is the best way. He inquired if there will be barricades put up for one-way traffic.

Mr. Gallo stated business that are not on Washington Ave or a side street of Washington Avenue have parking lots will be able to expand their businesses too. They need to get approved by submitting an application. The police department had to submit a reroute plan with the County. All of the road ways will be blocked off.

Mayor Amatorio stated if Main Street is closed, the buses will be rerouted. The buses will make a right turn at Church Street and use Portland and Woodbine Avenue. Mr. Gallo will finalize it with the police department. The police department will then finalize it with the county. It will be posted on the website and on social media. The council can walk on the avenue tomorrow to get the information out. Mayor Amatorio stated they need to make a decision now because they are pressed for time. The borough will start publicizing between today and tomorrow.

RESOLUTION 20-214/To Approve Road Closure from West Main Street to West Clinton Avenue on Saturday, June 27, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. to allow businesses to expand out onto the sidewalk and conduct their business.

Motion by Council President Marte, seconded by Councilperson Pascual, that Resolution #20-214 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>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Marte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one came forward.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council President Marte inquired if the council's presence will be necessary on Saturday from 4:00pm to 11:00pm.

Mayor Amatorio stated it would be great if the council is there to greet the residents and support the businesses. It would be a good opportunity to get the information about the grant out.

Councilperson Lodato stated he will be there for dinner. He is looking forward to a good beginning.

Council President Marte stated he will be there.

Councilperson Pascual stated he will be there. Hopefully, it will be a fresh start for the businesses.

Councilperson Deauna suggested making some flyers for Saturday to distribute with instructions to make it easier for the businesses.

Mayor Amatorio stated he will work with the public relations firm to get the information out. He apologized for the short notice and thanked the public for joining the meeting. Mayor Amatorio stated he will see everyone Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Marte, second by Councilperson Pascual, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones
Borough Clerk