

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION
APRIL 4, 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: No one.

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

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:06 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 Deauna.

AGENDA CHANGES

Councilperson Kornbluth motioned to add Resolution #23-103 appointing Jaime Luppino as Rent Leveling Board Secretary to the agenda. Mayor Amatorio stated that the Mayor and Council committee and liaison appointments also need to be added to the agenda. Council President Pascual will serve as Chairman of Public Works, on the Finance and Fire Committee, and will serve as Liaison to the Veterans Advisory Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Councilperson Almonte will serve as Chairman of Community Affairs, as a member on Building and Grounds and Police Committee, and will be the liaison to the Board of Education, Shade Tree Committee, and Community Response team. Councilperson Rivera seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Fire Department Presentation

- ❖ **Resolution 23-119**/To Hire Nicholas Garofano to the Rank of Fire Captain in the Bergenfield Fire Department.

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, seconded by Councilperson Kornbluth, to approve Resolution #23-119.

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

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

- ❖ Oath of Office – Fire Captain Nicholas Garofano

The Oath of Office was administered by Mayor Amatorio.

Captain Garofano stated that it has been a pleasure to serve on the Bergenfield Fire Department and he thanked the Mayor and Council for this opportunity.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Lodato congratulated and wished Captain Garofano the best.

Councilperson Deauna looks forward to working with Captain Garofano and congratulated him.

Councilperson Almonte thanked Captain Garofano for his service and pledged to work together in the future.

Councilperson Kornbluth thanked Captain Garofano for his past five years of service, and she congratulated him on his promotion.

Councilperson Rivera congratulated Captain Garofano and praised his patience with his promotion and he congratulated his family.

Council President Pascual congratulated Captain Garofano and prayed for his and all of the safety our fireman.

Mayor Amatorio praised Captain Garofano and pledged support to him.

Councilperson Kornbluth motioned for a one-minute recess. Councilperson Rivera seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

The meeting recessed at 8:14 p.m. and reopened at 8:15 p.m. R. C. All members present, no one absent.

B. Proclamation – In Support of *2023 UDrive. UText. UPay. Distracted Driving Crackdown* from April 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023

Mayor Amatorio read the proclamation into the record.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/BOROUGH ENGINEER

A. Engineering & Inspection Status Report

Bob Klein of Remington Vernick & Engineers, stated that the sidewalk replacement project starting shortly. He stated that the road program for 2023 is underway, two roads are both grant funded, one is funded by NJDOT and another was funded by CDBG. The plans will be submitted for review and upon approval, they will go out to bid.

Mayor Amatorio asked how many sidewalks have been identified for the sidewalk replacement program.

Mr. Klein stated that about 300 spots have been identified to be fixed because the sidewalks have been uprooted by trees.

Councilperson Deauna inquired who was marking the sidewalks with 00 in white paint.

Mr. Klein stated that those markings are on the sidewalks the borough will fix.

ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Amatorio read into the record:

The following ordinance published herewith was first read by title on March 21, 2023 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

ORDINANCE 23-2613 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 299 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”

Public comments on Ordinance 26-2613.

No one came forward.

Motion by Council President Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, to pass Ordinance 23-2613 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:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Councilperson Almonte:	aye	Council President Pascual:	aye

B. Introduction of Ordinances

Motion by Councilperson Deauna that the following ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading and setting Tuesday, April 18, 2023 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. Councilperson Kornbluth seconded the motion.

Mayor Amatorio read the titles of the ordinance into the record:

ORDINANCE 23-2614 - AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY RANGES OF EMPLOYEES NOT SUBJECTED TO UNIONIZED CONTRACTUAL UNITS OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD

ORDINANCE 23-2615 – AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Tabled Resolution 23-113

23-113/To Approve Proposal – Redevelopment Plan for Church Street, Tyson Place, Front Street, and North Demarest Avenue (Tabled 3-21-23)

Motion by Council President Pascual to remove Resolution #23-113 from the table. Councilperson Rivera seconded the motion.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye

Councilperson Almonte: aye Council President Pascual: aye

Councilperson Lodato inquired what is the subject of this resolution and whether it pertains to Area D.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that the proposal calls for the study of Church Street, Tyson Place, Front Street, and North Demarest Avenue.

23-113/ To Approve Proposal – Redevelopment Plan for Church Street, Tyson Place, Front Street, and North Demarest Avenue

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Council President Pascual, that Resolution #23-113 be approved.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that the new municipal building project is moving forward with good progress. He stated the windows are in, which means the sheetrock and interior work will start shortly. He stated that the Vivyen Field project is coming together nicely as they have laid down the barrier material and lights have been installed. He stated it will be an incredible facility for the kids in the community. Mr. Gallo stated that the first publication of the Borough's newsletter will be distributed between now and Thursday and will be posted online. It gives updates of the happenings in town, information on committees, and key dates going on now through June 30th. Mr. Gallo stated that he is proud of the work that went into this publication by the committees and the governing body.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilperson Lodato	No report.
Councilperson Deauna	the Newsletter is very informative. The Health Department requests salary increases for employees; he believes they are deserving of the increase.
Councilperson Almonte	No Report.
Councilperson Kornbluth	BVAC has gone on 635 calls year to date. March alone was 225 calls the busiest March ever for BVAC. The average response time is 3 minutes 16 seconds. Three new members joined the BVAC this last month. They had two CPR saves in the last 30 days. OEM secured \$50k in additional Covid Reimbursements. The Recreation Committee

spring/summer sports have started. The Mayor's Wellness Campaign kicks off on April 15th with all activities starting on April 17th. Registration will be at the Conlon Hall Recreation Center. The Easter Egg Hunt was held on the rain date Sunday, April 2nd. Thank you all that helped out it was a wonderful turnout. The Friday Night Pickleball will be moved to Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. starting on April 15th. PAL Girls Basketball 4th and 5th grade travel team won their Championship Game against Ridgewood. The Recreation Cheerleading squad finished their 2nd season and placed 2nd and 4th in their last three competitions. Four of the participants of the Junior Wrestling Program placed at the USA Wrestling Tournament. Joseph Scala received 2nd place, Calvin Young received 7th place, and David Dilello received 8th place. Keira Burns finished 4th in the USA Wrestling Girls State Tournament.

Councilperson Rivera

we worked on the budget over the last week and met with the departments one on one, he is proud of the work that has been done.

Council President Pascual

the Zoning Board of Adjustment adopted two resolutions, one for 77 Sussex Rd to convert a garage to a living space and an extension of previously approved granted variance application from 2021 to construct a seven-unit residential development. No new applications were submitted for review. Shade Tree inspections for tree removal will be revisited. Arbor Day application was approved and the borough will receive 220 seedlings which will be distributed on Arbor Day on April 28th at Cooper's Pond 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A grant from Tree City USA was approved. Thank you to Javier Nunez for applying.

Mayor Amatorio

the Mayor's Wellness Challenge will be launching on April 15th, and will include many great programs such as Zumba, Taekwondo, bar exercise, yoga, line dancing, a fun run and a bike ride. The Planning Board met last week and memorialized through resolution an application of noncompliance of the applicant in regards to his permit. The Easter Egg Hunt was well attended with over 400 children present. I extend my thanks to the Recreation Department, volunteers, the Elks Lodge, the Department of Public Works and Big

Warehouse Discount's for their time and donations.

Mayor Amatorio respectfully requested that the Council vote on the committee and liaison appointments mentioned during the agenda changes.

Councilperson Kornbluth motioned that the aforementioned appointments be approved. Council President Pascual seconded the motion.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barry Doll, resident, suggested that the Borough work with the Twin Boro News and have an article in the paper along with the newsletter. He also inquired if we can have a quarterly report to compare how we are doing with our budget. He stated this should be published, so that residents can know how much we have.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the budget is fluid as it never stops, and as such, the report cannot be published on a quarterly basis.

Mayor Amatorio thanked Mr. Doll for the museum's donation to the Food Pantry.

John Smith, resident, inquired whether the apartment complex that received an extension for the past two years falls under the Fair Share Housing agreement. On April 22nd, there are 60 applicants that will receive a Vietnam War Pin. Mr. Smith requested a citation for each person instead of a proclamation, as he understands there are many of them. He also requested a meeting with regards to the moving mall prior to the Board of Education meeting next Wednesday. Mr. Smith notified the Council that the flag at Memorial Park needs to be mended. He also noted that the St. Patrick's Day banners in front of the VFW need to be taken down. He also noted that there are still dumpsters on the road.

Warren Williams, resident, stated that he inquired the status of the licensing of officers. He also stated that he often hears there are no reports from the Veteran's Advisory Committee. He advised that the committee should have stronger reports as there are new laws that affect veteran's benefits, and it is critical that this information be provided to our veterans and senior citizens to support their needs.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that the Police Department is fully accredited, and as such, the department has been ahead of the curve when it comes to the guidelines. The department will look into the status of the licensing program.

Council President Pascual pledged as the new liaison to help improving these initiatives and provide up to date reports on the Veteran's Advisory Committee.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE ACTED UPON:

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 23-120. 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. **23-121/**To Pay Bills
- b. **23-122/**To Approve Temporary Emergency Appropriation
- c. **23-123/**To Approve Raffle Applications RA1393 and RA1394
- d. **23-124/**To Appoint CDBG Municipal Representative
- e. **23-125/**To Approve Proposal – Professional Services as Administrative Agent for Settlement Agreement with Fair Share Housing – Community Grants, Planning and Housing, LLC “CGP&H”
- f. **23-126/**To Approve Proposal – Preparation of a New Zoning Map – T&M Associates
- g. **23-127/**To Approve Contract Extension – Collection of Grass Clippings, Yard Waste, Stumps and Logs, Leaves and Christmas Trees – Nature’s Choice Corporation
- h. **23-128/**To Approve Retirement – John Maggi

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, to approve the Consent Resolution.

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

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

B. Resolutions

23-129/To Introduce the Municipal Budget for Calendar Year 2023 and Advertise the Public Hearing to be held on May 2, 2023

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #23-129 be approved.

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

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

23-130/To Appoint Rent Leveling Board Secretary – Jaime Luppino

Motion by Council President Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #23-130 be approved.

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

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Deauna thanked all first responders who took care of his wife when she had an emergency this past week, she is recovering nicely.

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

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **23-131**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

A. Attorney-Client Privilege

1. Police Department Personnel Matters (*Borough Administrator*)

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 8:57 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Lodato, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Marie Quiñones-Wilson
Borough Clerk