

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JULY 18, 2023**

PRESENT: Councilmembers Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Ora Kornbluth, and Hernando Rivera

ABSENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Marc Pascual, and Councilman Almonte

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

Councilperson Kornbluth called the meeting to order at 7:22 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 July 14, 2023 was sent to the Record, the Star Ledger, Twin Boro News, and Cablevision, placed on two Municipal Bulletin Boards and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk."

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 23-211/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Personnel
 - 1. Police Department Personnel Matters

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #23-211 be approved to enter in closed session at 7:23 p.m. All in favor, none opposed.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Deauna, to return to open session at 8:00 p.m. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Ora Kornbluth, and Hernando Rivera

ABSENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Marc Pascual, and Councilman Almonte

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Lodato.

AGENDA CHANGES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilperson Lodato requested that the June 20, 2023 Regular Public Meeting minutes be amended with the following changes: On page 4, paragraph 11, the sentence should read "designed at 3 stories and 35 feet," the final paragraph on page 4 should read "consider instead of considerate," and the last sentence should read "everywhere you look in Hackensack." On the top of page 5, the sentence should read "there is a residential building," and the paragraph on page 6 should read "using this plan and stating governing body had endorsed it."

Motion by Councilperson Deauna to approve minutes of the June 20, 2023 Regular Public Meeting as amended, June 20, 2023 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released), and the July 6, 2023 Special Public Meeting. Councilperson Lodato seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS I

Councilperson Kornbluth opened the meeting and invited the public for comments on agenda items only, limited to five minutes per speaker.

Barry Doll, resident, stated that with regards to the resolution pertaining to the PAL field lighting, he stated that he knows this has been spoken about before and the million-dollar contract. He has been told that there are no games played on the field. He stated he doesn't understand since this is a lot of money. He stated that on the same field the rain garden is being built, but will drain into Metzler's Brook. Mr. Doll commented that the run-off into the brook can cause more of a flooding issue. He further commented that the DPW report indicates that Code Enforcement had no gasoline charges to their account. He inquired if they were very efficient and economic and walking around, or are they not doing their job. Mr. Doll stated on the estimated tax bills, he thought he would receive the minutes of the meeting, because he would like the worksheet on how we came up with the estimated tax bill. He inquired the reason for the estimated tax bills.

John Smith, resident, stated that with regards to the PAL complex, there are new landscape plantings. He stated that this was supposed to be taken care of when the twenty something trees were cut down. Mr. Smith stated that new seedlings were supposed to be planted, but that never happened. He also stated that with regards to the rain garden, he read that it will drain to an outfall. He inquired whether the report meant to say the outfield, because there are pipes in the infield that drain into Metzler's Brook, but have been banned by the DEP. He inquired if the pipes will be removed. If the pipes continue to pump clay into Metzler's Brook, it'll be an issue. He stated that when he ran the PAL, they fundraised to put the lights on two of the fields. He stated that the grants will cover three fields, but there is a fourth field. Mr. Smith commented that no one is playing baseball on the weekends, the field is being used as an individual's private garage. All the fields should be updated, and the Recreation Department should take it over. He commented that the engineer's report doesn't reference the setbacks, which the borough has previously had issues with the setbacks for Metzler's Brook. He inquired where are the plans to show the type of trees and seedlings. He further inquired what happened to the \$275,000 that was left over from the PAL complex. Mr. Smith stated he was previously told the funding would be used to purchase the trees. He would like to know what is an outfall, because the storm drains under the pony field go right into Metzler's Brook, and still floods out the people who live on Willow and all the side streets. He also inquired if the retention basins that were recommended by the engineers will be put in.

Diana Flagg, resident, stated that since economic development is being discussed in closed session, she inquired if this is another way the taxpayers will be paying for the development. She would like to know whether the answer is yes or no, no need to go into the details. She asked if the residents are expected to pay for the fixing of the apartments on Washington Avenue and the buildings. She stated that she received her estimated tax bill, which always makes her day. She further stated that the new officers shouldn't have to suffer her dribble that they are not interested in. She stated that they should have been sworn in already.

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

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that the borough received \$855,000 for the projects with no match. He explained the monies could not be allocated to other projects, such as Memorial, because the grant writer didn't think we would be a strong enough candidate. They also didn't think we would be strong enough candidates for other fields such as Vivyen, because of all the monies allocated there. The PAL lighting is abysmal. The fields there, which the girls' softball team uses, cannot be used in the evening due to the lack of lighting, because it isn't safe. Furthermore, the lights near home plate aren't fully lit. As such, the borough felt this was a competitive opportunity, and it isn't costing the borough a dime. He stated that the borough is receiving \$855,000 for the lights. Mr. Gallo stated that was a good business decision made by himself and the Mayor and Council. If you think that is a bad decision to take the funding for a borough facility that is owned by the borough, leased to the PAL, then he apologizes. He stated that with regards to the rain garden, it was supposed to have the trees replenished. He stated that is capital monies were put aside, the funds should still exist. He commented that he is unsure if the funding cancelled out. He further stated that the rain garden will drain into Metzler's Brook, because all the run off from the field will run off into the brook. The rain garden is made to help absorb some of the rain water that runs off naturally. He commented that this was another grant opportunity we were awarded. He stated these are more monies other people are paying to fix our things. He stated that as far as the streambank, it's been an ongoing process. He commented that the borough has been working with the DEP since 2017 in hopes to get to this point. We are at the point that we are able to take certain areas of the brook, which are on our borough property, where walls are broken down, and in-kind replace them. Mr. Gallo stated that monies have been previously allocated in capital funding for this project. This is a proposal, the first steps, in rendering designs before they are approved by the DEP, and then the borough can proceed to bid. He stated that this is a long and complicated process, but we will continue working on this. He commented that the reason for the estimated tax bill is because the county has not passed their budget in a timely fashion, so we needed to get our tax bill out. He commented that the borough does not like doing this. Both the Board of Education and the Borough passed their budgets timely, but the County ran into some issues. He stated that economic development is being discussed in closed session because the borough is in talks with various different developers that are interested in various different areas. Mr. Gallo stated the borough isn't paying anything, taxpayers aren't paying a dime. He stated that the good news is that the borough has developers that are interested in areas that the borough has identified, such as Washington Avenue, and are looking to invest capital. They are looking to invest millions of dollars, entrusting that they are comfortable making an investment, into this community, because they like what they see from the school side, operations, and the local government. Mr. Gallo stated the borough is not spending the money.

Councilperson Rivera clarified that this only pertains to the business district, not the residential areas.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Police Department Presentations

Police Chief Rabboh thanked the governing body for extending their regards for our new officers, thank you the Police, DPW, Fire families for coming out to support our new officers. Thank you to the Dominos' Club and the friends and family for showing up tonight in support.

1. Hiring of Kyle Henry to the Rank of Police Officer

- ❖ Biography of Kyle Henry read into the record by Police Chief Rabboh.
- ❖ Resolution **23-212**/To Hire Kyle Henry to the Rank of Police Officer in the Bergenfield Police Department.

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #23-212 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>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

Oath of Office to be administered by Councilperson Rivera.

2. Hiring of Cristian Susana to the Rank of Police Officer

- ❖ Biography of Cristian Susana read into the record by Police Chief Rabboh.
- ❖ Resolution **23-213**/To Hire Cristian Susana to the Rank of Police Officer in the Bergenfield Police Department.

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #23-213 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>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

Oath of Office to be administered by Councilperson Rivera.

3. Hiring of Craig Von der Osten, II to the Rank of Police Officer

- ❖ Biography of Craig Von der Osten, II read into the record by Police Chief Rabboh.
- ❖ Resolution **23-214**/To Hire Craig Von der Osten, II to the Rank of Police Officer in the Bergenfield Police Department.

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #23-214 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>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

Oath of Office to be administered by Councilperson Rivera.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Lodato wished the officers the best of luck.

Councilperson Deauna congratulated Chief on hiring three new officers. He commented that the officers have grown up in this community and will be a great asset to this town.

Councilperson Kornbluth commented that they usually welcome the officers to the Bergenfield, but in this case, they are Bergenfield! Mrs. Kornbluth congratulated the officers and wished them a healthy and long career on the force.

Councilperson Rivera stated that first and foremost, he congratulates the families of the officers, because they are the rock of their success. He stated that the officers will belong to one of the best departments, serving the second safest community with similar population. The officers are a product of the community, and will now serve as leaders for our children. He commented that one day, one of the officers will have the opportunity to serve as Chief. The fact that the borough had the opportunity to select them was a result of winning the case in Court to hire Bergenfield residents. Mr. Rivera further commented the councilmembers are big supporters of the department approving the purchase of five new police vehicles and body cameras. He stated this is a great time for the officers to join the force because they will be one of the first to work in the new municipal building with all new equipment, and almost a full house of 47 officers. Councilman Rivera congratulated the officers, and thanked them in advance for the good job they will do in the department.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth for a five-minute recess. Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed. The meeting reopened at 8:43 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Ora Kornbluth, and Hernando Rivera

ABSENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Marc Pascual, and Councilman Almonte

B. Maria Florendo - Wellness and Pain Presentation

Maria Florendo stated Select Wellness promotes work-place wellness. They do free work place wellness and evaluations in towns so Borough Employees can get in front of healthcare professionals this evaluation will be held on August 17th with 40 spots open to employees of the Borough. They will provide eco-cardio exam and massage services. The practice is not affiliated with a hospital, they are private.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a). Almonte/Resident **RE:** Request for a Street Closure for Block Party/Porter Avenue from Orchard Street to View Street/Thursday, August 3, 2023/12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Councilperson Lodato to accept Correspondence. Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

ORDINANCES

A. Tabled Ordinance

The following ordinance published herewith was first read by title only on March 21, 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” (TABLED 5-2-23)

No action taken.

B. Introduction of Ordinance

Motion by Councilperson Lodato that the following ordinance be introduced and passed on first reading and setting August 8, 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 Deauna seconded the motion.

Councilperson Kornbluth read the title of the ordinance into the record:

ORDINANCE 23-2618 PRIVATELY-OWNED SALT STORAGE

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>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 23-215. 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. **23-216**/To Approve Bill List
- b. **23-217**/To Amend the Mayor and Council Public Meeting Location in August to be held Remotely via Zoom
- c. **23-218**/To Approve Raffle Application – RA1398
- d. **23-219**/To Approve Liquor License Renewals
- e. **23-220**/To Approve Liquor License Renewal – Front Street Tavern Inc.
- f. **23-221**/To Approve Liquor License Renewal – Lulas Latin Cuisine LLC
- g. **23-222**/To Authorize Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder for TTL #20-00010
- h. **23-223**/To Approve Retirement – Health Registrar
- i. **23-224**/To Approve Leave of Absence –DPW Laborer
- j. **23-225**/To Award Bid and Approve Contract – CDBG FY’ 2023 North Taylor Street Improvements – D&L Paving Contractors
- k. **23-226**/To Award Bid and Approve Contract – 2023 Roosevelt Avenue Improvement Project – DLS Contracting Inc.
- l. **23-227**/To Approve Proposal – PAL Fields Rain Garden – T&M Associates
- m. **23-228**/To Approve Proposal – PAL Field Lighting Improvement – T&M Associates
- n. **23-229**/To Approve Proposal – Metzler Brook Streambank Stabilization– T&M Associates
- o. **23-230**/To Approve Addendum – Infinite Future Tennis, LLC
- p. **23-231**/To Approve Change Order No. 1 – Sidewalk Replacement Program – Vektor Corporation
- q. **23-232**/To Approve Pay Certificate No. 3 Final – Sidewalk Replacement Program – Vektor Corporation
- r. **23-233**/To Support Bergen County Fire Mutual Aid Plan
- s. **23-234**/To Authorize Bid – 2023 Road Improvement Program Phase II
- t. **23-235**/To Authorize Bid – 2023 Road Improvement Program Phase III

Motion by Councilperson Deauna to approve the Consent Resolution. Councilperson Lodato 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>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

B. Resolutions

23-236/To Hire Recreation Department Employees

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #23-236 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>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

23-237/To Hire Part-Time Laborer – Pericles Gatanas

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #23-237 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>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

23-238/To Hire Part-Time Laborer – Austin Mattessich

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #23-238 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>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

23-239/To Hire Summer Help Laborer – Shane Stapletonn

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #23-239 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>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>absent</i>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Councilperson Lodato that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS II

Councilperson Kornbluth opened the meeting to Verbal Communications II and invited the public to comment on any subject, limited to five minutes per speaker.

Efrayim Clair, resident, congratulated the new officers. He stated that he is a resident of Hallberg Avenue, which has Wayne Golon Park at the end of the street. He stated that the park is well maintained with all new equipment. Unfortunately, the park is not used as much as it should be because the park is too hot to play in. He stated that the park has to trees or shade, making the playground too hot for the kids to enjoy. Mr. Clair distributed photographs of playgrounds with a shade over them. He also provided the governing body a petition with 250 signatures from neighbors that have agreed that the park needs shade to maximize its use and make sure that the kids have a safe park to play in.

Monica, Highland Avenue resident, commented that she wanted to bring to the attention of the governing body a pressing issue that has been significantly impacting Highland Avenue, from the corner of Seminary to the dead end. She stated there is a reoccurring problem with people parking on both sides of the street, which hampers safety, accessibility, and quality of life. She explained that when cars are parked on both sides of the street, the available space is limited and barely allows a single vehicle to pass through, also restricting access for emergency vehicles causing a health safety risk. Monica stated that on at least six different occasions in last few months, parked cars have blocked her driveway, restricting access out of her own home. Monica stated that she has photos and videos, and confirmed that two of her other neighbors have experienced the same issues. She further stated that it's the same individuals causing this issue, especially after their late-night parties. She commented that this has become a recurring problem that has also added to damage of her property after parking over the curb and ruining her grass. Monica stated that she has emailed Councilmembers and called the Police Department several times, and was advised to speak to the governing body at a public meeting. She stated that she would like to have an ordinance passed to prohibit parking on the street.

Borough Administrator Gallo asked if she was told to come to a meeting when she called the police desk and whether the parking issues were a result of parties on the block. Mr. Gallo advised the resident to provide the Police Chief her contact information, and he will look into it. He stated this is a police issue before it's an ordinance issue.

John Smith, resident, stated that he too lives on Hallberg Avenue, and the park did have shades over the playground, like Franklin School, but they were removed when the park was redone. He commented that there were also a lot of trees, but the individuals that built the home on the end of the road cut down about six trees. He reminded the governing body of the information he shared from Ridgewood regarding their policy for people cutting trees. Mr. Smith shared an article from Franklin Lakes on their proposed ordinance that if someone cuts a tree on their private tree, they need to replace it or receive up to a \$5,000 fine. He commented that trees have a direct relationship to storm water management, because people cutting them down leads to more flooding. He stated that the borough has to do something to stop what is happening in this town with over

development. He distributed and read a statement into the record from an article titled "*The growth of urban sprawl on redevelopment.*" Mr. Smith commented with regards to smog due to over development that's happening in Bergen County due to builder's remedy. He also stated that each development requires parking for more cars, when there has already been a parking issue in town for years. He further commented that double driveways are against the borough ordinance, and the code enforcement should be violating these homes. He advised residents to look at homes on Demarest Avenue by the park. He commented that the governing body can address the parking issue by adding more to the requirement. He stated that ambulances and emergency vehicles will not be able to pass through streets because of the parking problems. These issues happen day and night. There are single family homes with cars parked in the grass because they have illegal apartments, leading to overpopulation. He stated that the borough needs to focus on the empty stores on Washington Avenue, instead of talking about Main Street and Church Street. He further stated that the proposed restaurant at the movie theatre will create additional parking problems.

Barry Doll, resident, stated that on the DPW report, it states that the borough removed 25 trees, but there no update on planting trees. He stated that the trees are removed but never replaced, and the seedlings that are distributed by the borough do not last. He commented that the borough needs to offer a different type of tree and plant them, because we need them. He commented that with all the violations and parking issues, he still cannot believe that the code enforcement office used zero gasoline. Mr. Doll stated that when he previously served on council, he learned that once a council person is aware of situation, they are responsible for it. He stated that if individually, they hear about an issue, and they don't do something about it, they can be held responsible. Mr. Doll stated that he currently has a matter in superior court fighting over development, for an application that approved building two family houses on a plot that is designed for a one family house. He stated that he believes this is illegal, and he doesn't receive any comments from the council about it. He referenced that in Old Tappan, the Mayor and Council can override the decisions of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that is a mistake with the code enforcement report.

Diana Flagg, resident, stated that handicapped spots are limited, which forced her to park across the street. She stated there were broken tree limbs laying in the parking spot blocking anyone from parking, and no one cleaned it. Ms. Flagg stated she couldn't believe that no one from the Library or the DPW could clean the parking lot, nor does she know who is responsible for it. She commented that between the new marijuana plantation and the new edifice of Borough Hall, the residents are paying for all of it and they are not being satisfied. She further commented that millions of dollars are being spent on a park and she keeps hearing that girls' softball cannot play on the new field. She cannot believe that she spent a million dollars, pay 1.5 million, to build a monumental field, and girls cannot play on it. She inquired if there is any baseball being placed on the field. She inquired if baseball and softball were included when the grant was written. Ms. Flagg stated that she never knew soccer was so important, and commented that there has never been a Pele in town. Ms. Flagg commented that there is something wrong in the way money is thrown away left and right, people are allowed to build a house and cut down twenty trees, blaming Republican and Democrats for the issue, when it's your fault as an individual for not saying stop. She said that they need to improve the basic things, instead of building these edifices, and its mind boggling. She commented that it's time to start being responsible and stop saying yes to everything Corey wants. She expressed that they need to think as adults and make your mothers proud again.

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated that parking is out of hand. She stated that she visits the library every day, and right across the street there is no parking. She stated that every day, people violate the rules no parking and they do it. She commented that even tonight, people are parked there illegally. Ms. Sullivan stated that these individuals should be given a warning. Ms. Sullivan also stated that when people park on her block, she cannot travel down the road in her Subaru. She inquired what is going to happen when a fire truck needs to travel down the road. Ms. Sullivan further commented that she's familiar with the cars in her neighborhood, but these aren't known.

She would like to see more enforcement on the parking, and she agrees with the concern about trees. She stated the problems are creating stormwater issues and creating a heat island. She inquired if a permit is required to cut down trees on private property. She also inquired if it's the weekend, and she sees a code enforcement, who is she supposed to call? There should be someone, a number, a person, that residents can contact.

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

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that in terms of the park on Hallberg Avenue, we are looking into it. He stated that he received the email and has been in discussion with the Superintendent to see what can be done there and ordering the materials. Mr. Gallo stated that parking issues in general should be addressed by Police, and he is disturbed to hear that residents who are calling the police desk are being referred to come to a council meeting. He stated that he wants to hear the tape because the response is unacceptable. The matter will be addressed. Mr. Gallo stated that the trees being cut by the town, are trees that are impacting the sidewalks. He stated that the trees are being removed from the right of ways because they are impacting the sidewalks and damaging things. He explained that part of the process of the work that is being done is that the borough is grinding stumps, to remove all of that mulch, replenish the mulch, and replace the trees with mature trees. Mr. Gallo stated there is a plan, but there is a process and we have only completed phase I of the project. The resolution that was recently passed is to go out to bid for the second half of the project for the other one of half quadrants, because private homeowners also had the opportunity to replace their own sidewalk using the borough's competitive pricing. This is a value added to the community and the borough will be replenishing trees. He is also aware that people are illegally taking down trees, and the Shade Tree Committee has been issuing violations. Mr. Gallo stated that the Franklin Lakes program is a start, but has problems as well because its open. It is not perfect. He stated that it is within the purview of the Zoning Board of Adjustment to avoid having certain things removed. He also expressed that the article shared seems more like an editorial. He stated that in one regard he is trying to fix the fields and improve the PAL fields for softball, and part of the process is to replenish trees. Mr. Gallo commented that both decisions the council made tonight are the right decisions, because the rain garden will take some of the water and the PAL lighting will improve fields. He explained that the Twin Boro Field is designated as a multi-purpose field. He stated that baseball can played on the field, soccer on both fields, and football on one field. Men's softball can also be played on the field because the mound can be pulled out. He commented that with regards to softball, the goal is to fix the PAL complex, so that there is a quality area for softball to be played on four fields. He stated that there are sixteen teams that utilize the field for soccer. Once they are moved to a different field, Roy Brown's field will also be open for softball, which should alleviate that stress. As such, there is a good plan in place to improve the Recreation program because it will allow more kids the opportunity to play. Mr. Gallo stated if there is an issue on the weekend, document the complaint, call the Police Desk, and then let Code Enforcement know on Monday. He stated that there are instances, twice a month, that Code Enforcement officers are available on the weekend.

Borough Attorney Schettino stated that if there is code violation issue and no code enforcement officer is available, the police department should enforce it.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Lodato thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Councilperson Deauna stated congratulations to the Chief for hiring three great officers with an impressive record, who will be a great asset to the town. He also thanked the audience for coming to the meeting and participating in the meeting, and educating the council with their comments.

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

Councilperson Rivera thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and sharing their concerns. The concerns will be looked into.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **23-240**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege
 - 1. Police Department Personnel Matters
 - 2. Administration Contract
 - 3. DPW Supervisor Contract
 - 4. Building Department Contract
 - 5. Economic Development – Contract Proposal

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 Rivera, second by Councilperson Deauna, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 9:41 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Deauna, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Marie Quiñones-Wilson
Borough Clerk