

BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
8:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Hernando Rivera (arrived at 8:12 p.m.) and Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Domingo Almonte, Ora Kornbluth (arrived at 8:20 p.m.), and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: Councilperson Deauna

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

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 Friday, February 16, 2024 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."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Lodato.

AGENDA CHANGES

Councilperson Pascual motioned to add Resolution #24-097 approving a proposal from T&M Associates for Metzler Brook Stream Cleaning Additional Services at 186 East Church Street to the consent agenda, and the Board of Fire Officers personnel action letter dated February 12, 2024 to the correspondence. Councilperson Almonte seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Pascual to approve minutes of the January 16, 2024 Regular Public Meeting and January 24, 2024 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released), February 6, 2024 Work Session Meeting and February 6, 2024 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). Councilperson Almonte 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.

No one came forward.

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

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a.) Alfano/Senior Citizen’s Committee RE: Request to Reserve Memorial Park Pavilion for the Senior Picnic/Tuesday, June 18, 2024
- b.) Naylis/Board of Fire Officers RE: Personnel Action Letter dated February 12, 2024

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

ORDINANCES

None.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 23-084. 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. **24-085**/To Approve Bill List
- b. **24-086**/To Approve Raffle Applications RA 1414, RA1415 and RA1416
- c. **24-087**/To Approve Shared Services Agreement – Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission
- d. **24-088**/To Approve Proposal – Green Acres Grant Application for Phase III Improvements at Twin Boro Park – Millennium Strategies
- e. **24-089**/To Approve Change Order No. 1 Final – Sidewalk Replacement Program (Phase 2) – Remington & Vernick Engineers
- f. **24-090**/To Approve Change Order No. 2 Final – Marcotte Lane Roadway Improvements – Remington & Vernick Engineers
- g. **24-091**/To Approve Pay Certificate No. 3 – Marcotte Lane Roadway Improvements – Remington & Vernick Engineers
- h. **24-092**/To Approve Proposal – Professional Surveying Services for a FEMA Elevation Certificate for the New Municipal Building – T&M Associates
- i. **24-093**/To Approve Service Agreement – Annual Mobile and Portable Maintenance for the Department of Public Works– Goosetown Communications
- j. **24-094**/To Approve Service Agreement – Mobile and Portable Equipment Service for the Police Department – Goosetown Communications
- k. **24-095**/To Amend Veteran’s Advisory Committee Resolution
- l. **24-096**/To Approve 2023 LOSAP List
- m. **24-097**/To Approve Proposal – Metzler Brook Stream Cleaning Additional Services 186 East Church Street – T&M Associates

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

B. Resolutions

24-098/To Promote to Full-Time Laborer – Eric Belfield

Motion by Councilperson Almonte, seconded by Councilperson Pascual, that Resolution #24-098 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>absent</i> | Council President Rivera: | <i>absent</i> |
| Councilperson Almonte: | <i>aye</i> | Councilperson Pascual: | <i>aye</i> |

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Councilperson Pascual that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Councilperson Almonte seconded the motion. All 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.

Neil Williamson, resident, stated that he would like to open a retail cannabis business in Bergenfield. He stated that he and his colleagues have a proposal that covers all safety and inclusionary issues. He stated that Isaiah's Basement is a way to offer a tax revenue in a safe environment. He would like to meet with the governing body to share his ideas.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that no retail cannabis is permitted in the borough.

Diana Flagg, resident, inquired the status of the plantation. She commented that a couple of months ago, the council voted to give DPW the day after July 4th off, instead of Lincoln's birthday. She further commented that many people in town have barbecues on July 4th, and inquired whether there will be an extra pick-up in July. She questioned if there will be an additional pick up on Saturday. She stated that the dates are not on the calendar. Ms. Flagg asked if there will be an additional pick-up as the Jewish community receives during their holidays. She also expressed that Washington Avenue is a nightmare with people making U-turns and the handicapped parking spots are limited and those spots are filled with cars without placards. She also stated that there are limited handicapped spots on the avenue.

Mary Sullivan, resident, inquired whether the drive-up mailbox will remain near borough hall after the construction of the new building and demolition of the old borough hall. She expressed her concern because many residents utilize the drive-up box.

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

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that upon review of the tonnage report, the DPW tried to work through the holidays, because more than half the time, some areas only need pick-up once a week.

The change in the schedule was due to negotiations with the unions that represent workers at the borough. Mr. Gallo stated that if the amended schedule doesn't work, it will be reconsidered next year. He stated that there isn't an additional pick-up, a dump truck is left at Memorial Park for the residents.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council President Rivera clarified there is no plantation in the borough.

The governing body thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a good night.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 24-099/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

A. Attorney-Client Privilege

1. Knickerbocker Country Club v. Bergenfield
2. Revaluation Updates

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 8:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Council President Rivera, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Marie Quiñones-Wilson
Borough Clerk