

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2024**

PRESENT: Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Domingo Almonte, Ora Kornbluth, and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio and Council President Hernando Rivera

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

Councilperson Lodato called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 Councilperson Lodato.

Councilperson Lodato noted the passing of former Councilperson Dolores Butler and Richard Bohan who served as Mayor. They served a number of years on Council and did it with great effort and dignity.

AGENDA CHANGES

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth to add to Correspondence Bergenfield Dominoes Club's request to Reserve Hickory Field for Family BBQ on Monday, September 2, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Resolution 24-241 to Amend the Veteran's Committee Membership. Councilperson Pascual seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Pascual to approve minutes of the July 16, 2024 Regular Public Meeting and July 16, 2024 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). Councilperson Kornbluth seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS I

Councilperson Lodato 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 else who wishes to be heard, Councilperson Lodato closed Verbal Communications I.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a.) Kindergan/Resident | RE: Request to Reserve Memorial Park for Company BBQ/Friday, August 30, 2024/3:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| b.) Gamss/Resident | RE: Request to Reserve John Pall Park for Family Fun Day Event/Sunday, September 1, 2024/12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. |
| c.) Gamss/Resident | RE: Request for Road Closure for Family Fun Day Event/Thames Blvd. from Westminster Ave to Regent Street/Sunday, September 1, 2024/11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. |
| d.) Peters/Resident | RE: Request for Road Closure for Annual Block Party/Ford Court and South First Street/Saturday, September 7, 2024/3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m./ Rain Date: Sunday, September 14, 2024 |
| e.) Ronen/Yeshivat He'Atid | RE: Request to Reserve Memorial Park Pavilion for School Trip/Tuesday, September 10, 2024/10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. |
| f.) Fr. Sean/St. John's the Evangelist Catholic Church | RE: Request for a Road Closure for a Parish Bazaar/N. William Street between Bradley Avenue and E. Main Street/Saturday, September 14 th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 15 th from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. |
| g.) Delacruz/Professional Filipino American Youth & the Filipino School | RE: Request to Reserve Memorial Park for Festival Celebrating Filipino American History Month/Saturday, September 28, 2024/6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. – event to run from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. |
| h.) Martinez/Bergenfield Dominoes Club | RE: Request to Reserve Hickory Field for Family BBQ/Monday, September 2, 2024/8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. |

Motion by Councilperson Pascual to accept Correspondence items A through H. Councilperson Almonte seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

ORDINANCES

None.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 24-223. 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. **24-224/**To Approve Bill List
- b. **24-225/**To Certify 2023 Audit
- c. **24-226/**To Cancel Trust Fund Reserves to the Borough's Current Fund – Fund Balance
- d. **24-227/**To Authorize Membership and Approve Agreement – Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- e. **24-228/**To Approve 2024-2026 Snow Plowing Agreement – County of Bergen
- f. **24-229/**To Authorize Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder for TLL #23-00003
- g. **24-230/**To Approve Veterans Tax Exemption – 3 Cedar Street
- h. **24-231/**To Approve Veterans Tax Exemption – 50 Hallberg Avenue
- i. **24-232/**To Authorize Tax Refund – 1 S Paula Drive
- j. **24-233/**To Authorize the Sale of Surplus Property
- k. **24-234/**To Approve Proposal – Memorial Park Basketball Courts – T&M Associates

- l. **24-235**/To Approve Change Order No. 1 – 2023 Road Improvement Program – Remington & Vernick Engineers
- m. **24-236**/To Approve the Purchase of Two (2) Tippers for the Department of Public Works - Sanitation Equipment Corp.
- n. **24-237**/To Award Contract – Acquisition of a 2025 Ford Interceptor for the Police Department – Chas. S. Winner, Inc.
- o. **24-238**/To Approve Contract Amendment – Municipal Building Parking Lot Redesign and Construction Support Services – T&M Associates
- p. **24-239**/To Approve Proposal – Metzler Brook Stream Cleaning Additional Services – T&M Associates

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

B. Resolutions

24-240/To Approve Hiring Intern – Laura Suriel

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #24-240 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>absent</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

24-241/To Amend the Veteran’s Committee Membership

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Almonte, that Resolution #24-241 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>absent</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinances for Consideration

1. Ordinance to Prohibit On-Street Commercial Parking

Borough Administrator Gallo asked the Construction Official, Mike Ravenda, to address the Council as these ordinances address some issues occurring in town.

Construction Official Ravenda stated he has been having issues with car carriers, tow trucks, flat beds, and landscaping trucks parking in residential areas, where they do not belong. They should not be allowed there and should be ticketed. Mr. Ravenda stated they should either park on their own properties or in front of their businesses. He explained that residents come home and do not have anywhere to park because there is a truck parked. A contractor or landscaper doing work may be allowed. His concern is trucks being parked part-time during the day. Mr. Ravenda stated the second part of the ordinance addresses trucks being left on the streets overnight.

Councilperson Kornbluth inquired what will happen with landscapers or plumbers doing work at a resident's home. She understands the need for the ordinance, but is concerned with having the right wording and being able to differentiate with contractors who are doing work at the home.

Mr. Gallo stated the ordinance will be introduced at a September meeting. Complaints are being received on a daily basis stating that vehicles are being left on the streets for days at a time and there is no recourse. He stated that on one occasion, there was a construction truck parked on the street for two weeks.

2. Ordinance to Re-Establish Parking for Commercial and Industrial Buildings

Construction Official Ravenda stated he received a telephone call regarding the number of parking spaces required in the type of building uses.

Mr. Gallo explained within the borough ordinance, there used to be a table that identified the required number of parking spaces for the following: hotel and private residences, medical and dental buildings, mortuary and funeral homes, retail businesses, restaurants, used vehicle sales and motor vehicle places, skating rinks, theaters, and miscellaneous commercial buildings. He stated the table used to show that for medical and dental buildings, 1 space would have to be provided for every employee and 4 spaces for every one doctor.

Mr. Ravenda stated this information is included in his Zoning book, but is missing from the ordinance. Mr. Ravenda explained if businesses do not have the required parking, are required to go to the Planning Board for a variance.

Borough Attorney Schettino stated this type of ordinance needs to be shared with the planner for his comments. He explained that if introduced, it will then be referred to the Planning Board. His concern is that when parking regulations are created, it does not address parking spaces for employees, which makes it difficult to enforce.

Mr. Gallo stated all that is being done with the ordinance is making it consistent with what the Planning Board currently has.

Mr. Ravenda stated one business added 1 space for every 1 employee. The employees weren't ever taken into consideration. He stated you would need 1 parking space for every 3 seats. You need a parking space for the employee to avoid having them park in the street.

Mr. Gallo stated certain businesses in the borough are taking over local residential streets with employee parking. There are whole streets, with 15-20 cars, being occupied by employees.

Mr. Schettino stated it can be enforced now. If a business owner's parking lot is only for 20 vehicles and there are 30 vehicles, they are violating their parking requirement. It's going to be an enforcement issue. People are going to lie about the number of employees they have because they know they don't have the requirement.

Committee/Department Reports

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

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS II

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

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated suggested for the ordinance, it can be stated they can only park in front of a business or house where they are working.

John Smith, resident, stated in the draft ordinance he didn't hear anything about RV vehicles. They should also be considered. Mr. Smith inquired who will be enforcing the ordinance. There are four towns in which someone from the police department is assigned to enforce parking violations. Mr. Smith stated they should consider hiring someone just to do parking enforcement to resolve parking issues.

Katherine Dolan, resident, stated she had sent to Mayor Amatorio documentation in April 2023 with a list of 6 items she felt should be discussed. She was told by the Mayor that it was forwarded to the borough administrator and the chief. Her concerns include John Lafferty Park, signs down on Murray Hill Terrace and East Englewood Avenue, broken barricades for the school, and garbage cans that look like decorations. She physically met with the Mayor and has been in contact with Councilman Pascual the past year and a half regarding her concerns. Ms. Dolan stated about two weeks ago, an 8-year-old boy was walking his dog on Murray Hill Terrace crossing E. Englewood Avenue when a car hit his dog and died. It could have been anybody as kids are not looking. People run through the street signs all the time. There should be a speed hump in that area. The barricades at the school are broken with everyone going around it and not doing anything about it. The John Lafferty Park is a disgrace with broken swings and is not ADA compliant. There's a lot of children and senior citizens who reside at Foster Village that should be able to enjoy the park. She requested the council members look at the area.

Mr. Gallo stated placement of speed humps is discussed extensively with the police department, traffic division, and DPW. There was a speed hump placed on Murray Hill Terrace to slow traffic down. They will consider implementing one next year in front of Hoover School. Mr. Gallo stated he will look into Lafferty Park.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The council members thanked all for coming to the meeting and wished all a good night.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **24-242**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

A. Attorney-Client Privilege

1. Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual
2. Borough Hall Building Contract

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 Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Lodato, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 8:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Marie Quiñones-Wilson
Borough Clerk