

**Borough of Paramus
Mayor and Council Public Meeting
Council Chambers
March 28, 2023, 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

The Public May Participate in The Mayor and Council Meeting by Telephone:

Phone Number 866-390-1828

Participation Access Code: 8902290

Resolution No: 23-03-238: Notification of meetings as required by "The Open Public Meetings Act." Read by Borough Clerk at 6:34 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Alan Brunridge at 6:35 PM

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber, Mayor DiPiazza

Also Present: Borough Clerk Annemarie Krusznis, Borough Attorney Brian Giblin

Absent: Borough Administrator Hector Olmo

Mayor DiPiazza thanks everyone for coming and for putting this together. Then begins the distribution of awards for the teams.

Recognition:

5th Grade Boys BTBL- Coach thanks assistant Coach for coming out and distributes awards.

8th Grade Boys BTBL- Mayor DiPiazza says they won their league and says to stay involved with the Recreation. Coach presents awards.

3rd Grade Boys BTBL- Mayor DiPiazza say these boys are a good group to watch. Coach says it was great that both the girls and boys 3rd graders did so well this year. Coach present awards.

4th Grade Girls Basketball BTBL- Mayor DiPiazza thanks the coaches for volunteering. Coach presents awards.

3rd Grade Girls BTBL Division Army DIV-Mayor DiPiazza says this team has won many awards. Coach present awards.

7th Grade Girls BTBL- Mayor DiPiazza congratulates the girls. Coach says a few words about the girls and presents awards.

4th Grade BTBL Girls Navy Division- Coach excepts awards on behalf of girls

2nd Grade NWBP Peewee DIV- Coach presents awards

2023 USAW-NJ State Wrestling Tournament – Mayor DiPiazza says wrestling is in Paramus' blood and asks the coach to come up to say a few words. Coach presents awards.

Mayor DiPiazza thanks all the volunteer coaches and says these programs can't run without them.

BOROUGH CLERK'S REPORT:

- a. Request received from MegaBite Events to hold a food and music festival October 14th, 2023 at the Garden State Plaza from 11am to 6pm. **Approved**
- b. Request received from St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church to hold their annual Greek Festival from May 18th to May 21st in the churches parking lot. **Approved**

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COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:

Councilman Antonio- No Report

Councilwoman Bellinger- Informs everyone that the library is meeting tonight. Asks Mr. Giblin if the questions she asked will be discussed in closed and is told yes. Councilwoman Bellinger asks about getting the zoom option for the Council meetings and says maybe we can receive a grant if the financial aspect was a problem. A member of the Board of Education in the audience says that they utilize zoom calls. Mayor DiPiazza says that the zoom sounds controlled and that we will be able to run the meeting. Councilman Nadera asks if there is a screen and is told yes. Councilman Antonio says that he is concerned with the cyber issues and wants to make sure we will be able to handle that. Councilwoman Bellinger would like to get a number for the cost and see if then we can maybe get a grant.

Councilman Nadera Reports that he spoke to Chief Ehrenburg about injured officer and said officer is back on duty as of the day before.

Councilman Quintana Would like a resolution made to control the speed on Highland Avenue. He would like the speed limits changed to 25 and would like to add a bike lane to deter speeding. Councilman Quintana says that he has the support of Pete Caminiti. Borough Attorney Brian Giblin says that since it's a County road the County would need to act upon it but we can make a resolution to ask the County. and he will look into it for the council.

Councilwoman Weber- DPW has been approved to pave various streets such as century road, midland, and parkway and will begin paving at the end of April beginning of May. Additionally, they also have a meeting April 11th at Garden State Plaza to discuss drainage issues. They are also continuing to pave pot holes in that area. Shade Tree has begun fixing up the field and started the spring tree planting. The Health Department is mourning the death of Borough employee Debbie Druskin.

Councilman Kaiser- Reports that tomorrow night will be the first Recreation meeting. The Golf Course had their lottery at the course and the restaurant was open and everything appeared to be running very well there.

MAYOR'S REPORT: wants to thank the Borough Clerks office and Patti Smith for getting everything ready for the teams for the meeting and the coaches once again for their volunteer work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizens are welcome to address the Mayor and Council on any governmental item of concern to them, whether or not it is scheduled on the agenda. Comments will be made at the public portion of tonight's Public Meeting in the Council Chambers.

Mayor DiPiazza opens to the public for comment at 7:33PM

Melissa Caminiti- Feels that Zoom would be a great option for the Mayor and Council meetings based off her personal experience and its ability to allow more participation. She continues that she's thankful that Councilman Quintana brought up the speed limit on Highland Ave and agrees that it has been a problem.

Nick Manahan- Wishes everyone a happy Ramadan. Asks about the cut through on Hayes and asks if we can make that a 25-mph speed limit. Mayor DiPiazza says they will speak to the Police Department.

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RESOLUTION No. 23-03-239: Closing the meeting of the Mayor and Council to the public. 7:37pm

c. **Litigation**

Motion: Councilwoman Weber

Second: Councilman Kaiser

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE 2023-20: ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW TITLE "FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE" AND SETTING FORTH THE JOB DESCRIPTION AND SALARY SCALE

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilwoman Weber

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

ORDINANCE ON FINAL:

ORDINANCE 2023-14: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 259 OF THE PARAMUS BOROUGH CODE RELATED TO THE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Antonio

Explanation by Council President

Open to Public for Comment on Ordinance 2023-14: None

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

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ORDINANCE 2023-16: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING SEVERAL SECTIONS OF ORDINANCE 401 TITLED "TOWERS AND TOWING" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Antonio

Explanation by Council President

Open to Public for Comment on Ordinance 2023-16:

Michael Salemi 80 Grisbee street Hackensack – Mr. Salemi is representing Bergen Brookside towing and would like to first thank the Mayor and Council for updating the Ordinance. However, he believes there are still some issues with the Ordinance and he would like to sit down with the administrator or attorney to discuss. Mayor DiPiazza says the Ordinance will be voted on and he can set up a meeting with the Administrator as well as advises Mr. Salemi that if changes are made to the Ordinance it will need to be re-introduced. Mr. Salemi asks if he would be able to present the issues he has found within the ordinance to the council and begins by addressing free towing for the Borough and how it concerns him due to their shared service agreements with other boroughs and how they fall under it out of a technicality. He also discusses the radius being made to two miles and he feels this will be a problem and it shouldn't be changed from the original mile and half as this could lead to bad players getting involved in towing in Paramus, he fears that the Borough is being to lax about who applies to be a tower in Paramus. Mayor DiPiazza explains that the Ordinance was worked on by the Borough Administrator and the Police Department and he believes that they looked into this. Mr. Salemi says that he had hoped to meet with them in person to discuss said issues. He continues to say the decal fee went up to \$100 a truck among other issues. The Council says that the applications aren't due until November with ample time to amend if necessary. Mr. Salemi wants to ensure that there is a meeting made with the Administrator to discuss. Mayor DiPiazza reiterates that all towers are aware of the codes and requirements in place to tow in Paramus and to apply is of their own free will and it is the council's responsibility to ensure that additional taxes are not imposed on residents when determining procedures and fee in ordinances such as this.

Tom Locicero- Says that the amount of business they receive from the Borough has declined by one third since he began business here. Mayor DiPiazza asks if the council is willing to charge the residents of the Borough more to accommodate for the ordinance. Mr. Locicero believes that the free towing of Borough vehicles isn't right as they have so many shared service agreements and would also like a sit-down meeting. Mr. Locicero discusses the application fees and continues on to say that in spite of these issues he would like the ordinance to go through as they have been waiting on change for a while. Councilman Kaiser suggests Mr. Salemi compose an email so that they could better understand the scope of the issues he is expressing and with a joint effort from the police they could spearhead said issues.

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

ORDINANCE 2023-17: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2021-52 CHAPTER 121 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TITLED "SALARIES AND COMPENSATION"

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Antonio

Explanation by Council President

Open to Public for Comment on Ordinance 2023-17: None

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

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ORDINANCE 2023-18: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2021-52 CHAPTER 121 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TITLED "SALARIES AND COMPENSATION" AS WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT 2020-2022

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Antonio

Explanation by Council President

Open to Public for Comment on Ordinance 2023-18: None

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

ORDINANCE 2023-19: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT AREA 4 ON COLUMBUS WAY (BLOCK 204, Lot 1, AND A PORTION OF BLOCK 204, LOT 2.01) IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilwoman Weber

Explanation by Council President

Open to Public for Comment on Ordinance 2023-19:

Tom Locicero- Asks where this redevelopment project is located and Mr. Giblin says it is located by the Garden State Plaza. Mr. Locicero asks if this is all for affordable housing. Mr. Giblin explains this was a part of an agreement from years ago with the fair share housing center that called for the building of 90 units however w the developer had previously bought out of their affordable housing obligation which forced the Borough to find 44 units in a new location, after negotiation with the developer they came to an agreement to add an additional floor so this would be 100% affordable housing. Mr. Locicero asks if the developer can still buy out of their obligations Mr. Giblin informs him the mayor and council changed this recently. Councilwoman Weber asks is all concerns regarding this development has been addressed, Mr. Giblin says at this stage they are contractual obligated to go through with the project any problems from before will still remain and the only thing that can be done from here on out is negotiate.

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

Mayor DiPiazza asks for a motion to add Resolution 23-03-261 and 23-03 262 to consent agenda- All in favor

A CONSENT AGENDA WILL BE ADOPTED FOR ITEM NUMBERS 13 AND 14

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-240: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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RESOLUTION NO 23-03-241: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMERCIAL TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY TO SETTLE 2021 THROUGH 2022 TAX APPEALS CAPTIONED: BLINDS TO GO US INC. V. BOROUGH OF PARAMUS- DOCKET #S: 006945-2021 & 006807-2022

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-242: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMERCIAL TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY TO SETTLE 2021 THROUGH 2022 TAX APPEALS CAPTIONED: Blinds to Go (US) Inc. v. Borough of Paramus- Docket #s: 006950-2021 & 007190-2022

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-243: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE FOR BLOCK 1411 LOT 6 USBANK CUST/PC8 FIRSTTRUST BANK

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-244: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF TREE PRESERVATION DEPOSIT FROM SHADE TREE ESCROW ACCOUNT T-22-56-286-850-802 TO THE FOLLOWING AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION (GELIN CONCORD)

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-245: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF TREE PRESERVATION DEPOSIT FROM SHADE TREE ESCROW ACCOUNT T-22-56-286-850-802 TO THE FOLLOWING AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION (KHALID CHAK)

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-246: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OVERTIME PAY TO CHRISTOPHER KANE, ESQ. FOR PARAMUS COVERING PROSECUTOR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-247: DETERMINING THAT THE COLUMBUS CROSSING, LLC PROJECT PROPOSED ON LOTS 1 AND 2.01 IN BLOCK 204 IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS MEETS OR WILL MEET AN EXISTING HOUSING NEED IN THE BOROUGH AND IS A PART OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO WITH FAIR SHARE HOUSING CORP DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2020

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-248: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TO AMEND THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE VALLEY HOSPITAL, INC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TWO LIGHT POLES ON WINTERS AVENUE

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-249: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VACATION TIME PAYOUT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,465.00 TO NICOLETTE RIGGI

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-250: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FROM MURRAY PAVING AND CONCRETE LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$561,200.00 FOR DPW VARIOUS ROAD PAVING

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-251: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS AND LA GUARDIA & ASSOCIATES ENTERTAINMENT AND PRODUCTIONS FOR PERFORMANCES AT THE 2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-252: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMAL D. RANDOLPH TO THE POSITION OF EMT FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$20.40 HOURLY

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RESOLUTION NO 23-03-253: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS DEVINKO TO THE POSITION OF LABORER I FOR THE PARAMUS SHADE TREE & PARKS DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$34,070.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-254: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY VEROVSKY TO THE POSITION OF LABORER I FOR THE PARAMUS SHADE TREE & PARKS DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$34,070.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-255: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JUAN C MARTE STEP 0 TO THE POSITION OF EMT FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AT A SALARY OF \$20.40 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-256: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF CHELSEA I. AMARENA TO EMT STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$21.76 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-257: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROMOTION OF JONATHAN CONDINA TO THE POSITION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR FOR THE PARAMUS SHADE TREE & PARKS DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$51,980.00 PER YEAR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-258: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRANSFER OF CHRIS HULAHAN FROM THE POSITION OF FULL TIME POLICE TELECOMMUNICATOR GRADE 2 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT -COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION TO THE POSITION OF PART TIME 911 TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATOR 3 GRADE 2 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT – TRAFFIC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION AT A SALARY OF \$18.95 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-259: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATION OF MARC RAMUNDO, ESQ. FROM THE POSITION OF PROSECUTOR FOR THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL COURT

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-260: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE PARAMUS FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-261: TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATION RESERVES

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-262: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAW OFFICES OF JOHN SCHETTINO, ESQ. TO SETTLE THE MATTER OF CAPIZZI VS. THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS ON THE TERMS CONTAINED IN THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AS RECOMMENDED BY JOHN SCHETTINO, ESQ.

APPLICATIONS:

RAFFLE

Parkway Elementary School PTA

File # 920

Parkway Elementary School PTA

File # 921

Paramus Scholarship Fund Inc

File # 922

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary

File # 923

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Paramus Fire Department Co # 1	File # 924
Bergen Catholic Athletic Association	File # 925
Paramus Sunrise Rotary	File # 926
The Valley Hospital Foundation	File # 927

SOLICITOR

Ryan Hubbard	2023-SL-2
Mark Shulman	2023-SL-3
Joseph Zingone	2023-SL-4
Bastien Sebastien	2023-SL-5
Kameel Elia	2023-SL-6

Motion: Councilman Antonio

Second: Councilwoman Weber

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Nadera, Councilman Quintana, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

ADJOURNMENT: 8:37 PM

APPROVED: APRIL 25, 2023

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
**ANNEMARIE KRUSZNIS RMC
BOROUGH CLERK**