

**Borough of Paramus
Mayor and Council Public Meeting
Council Chambers
May 9, 2023, 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

6:00 P.M. SPECIAL PRESENTATION– Outside Borough Hall -STREET NAMING STIGMA FREE WAY

Mayor DiPiazza performs street naming to Stigma Free Way and reads Mental Health Awareness Proclamation at 6:10 PM. Maryann Uzzi says a few words and thanks everyone for coming.

PROCLAMATION:

- a. Mental Health Awareness Month – Read by Mayor DiPiazza at 6:10 PM

Recess to Council Chambers – Borough Hall 6:30 P.M.

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

Phone Number 866-390-1828

Participation Access Code: 8902290

Resolution No: 23-05-313: Notification of meetings as required by “The Open Public Meetings Act.” Read by Borough Clerk at 6:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mark Distler

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Borough Administrator Hector Olmo, Borough Clerk Annemarie Krusznis, Borough Attorney Brian Giblin, Deputy Borough Clerk Kristin Rohner

Absent: None

PROCLAMATION:

- a. Juniper Village at Paramus- Read by Mayor DiPiazza at 6:31 PM

BOROUGH CLERK’S REPORT:

- a. Bruno Associates Grant report April 2023
- b. Request received from Faust Harrison Pianos to hold a piano recital on Sunday June 4th, 2023, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. **Approved**
- c. Request received from Camp Trunk Delivery for permission to operate on Sundays at Frisch School, 100 W Century Road, loading and unloading luggage for campers June 18th, 2023 through August 20th, 2023. **Approved**

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COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:

Councilman Antonio - Reports the pool is on schedule to open on Memorial Day.

Councilwoman Bellinger- Reports the Library has been approved for the children's garden area and parking lot improvement and remodeling. The funding is through the Library fund and should be completed by October. Councilwoman Bellinger questions a resolution regarding salary comparisons for Shade Tree and states there are nine vacancies in the department and salary may be a concern that needs to be looked into. Ms. Weber stated an applicant heard the salary and turned the job down. Mr. Olmo mentions he and the mayor have a teamster meeting to go over those concerns on Thursday. Councilwoman Bellinger continues that not all of the Recreation Commission got the reminder for the Financial Disclosure Statement. The Clerk informs her that the reminders are not sent out individually but to the board secretaries.

Councilman Nadera - The OEM, Police and EMS conducted a successful table top exercise. Well done.

Councilman Quintana The Environmental Commission celebrated Earth Day this past weekend with Styrofoam recycling and cleanup at the schools. He has been informed that there are not enough waste bins at the schools and the Environmental Commission is eager to assist with more at the schools. Councilwoman Bellinger says that the kids are now eating outside a lot more now and that would explain the extra garbage outside, especially by the library. Councilman Quintana says that he received a report that during the summer it was not cleaned and becomes Board of Education's responsibility. Borough Administrator, Hector Olmo says he will speak to the DPW about cleaning up by the Library.

Councilwoman Weber- DPW advised that Garden State Plaza will have bid openings for the Plaza Way paving project. She continues that the Shade Tree Department is down nine employees and Jay Sexton, Assistant Superintendent, will be retiring. They asked that this position be posted at least a month before he leaves. The Board of Health is questioning why outside contractors are not required to sign a confidentiality agreement, when they are privy to confidential information, and asks if the Borough Attorney would prepare such agreement. The Health Department nurse resigned and they would like it posted as well as another part time position. The rabies clinic is in full swing. Mr. Olmo says he will speak with the Health Director about the posting of positions and the need.

Mr. Giblin states he will prepare the confidentiality agreement as he is working on the same type of agreement for all borough employees, which they will have to sign.

Councilman Kaiser Reports the achievements from the Recreation Department.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor DiPiazza reports that Earth Day was a great success. There was a Fireman's Memorial ceremony on Forest Avenue. He thanks the Fire Department for all they do. He asks the Borough Administrator to post for the position for the Senior Office Clerk in the Borough Clerks Department.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Mr. Olmo reports on May 15th there will be a police officer's memorial. On May 26th there will be a Memorial Day celebration at Memorial school. Chief Kenneth Ehrenberg's retirement walk out will be held at 3:00 pm at police headquarters. We are in receipt of quotes for the Fourth of July fireworks and we are on track to award bid at the next meeting. The Rohmer Run will be held on October 15, 2023. He continues the police hiring grant was submitted for 1.25 million. NJDOT road paving program is due July 1st and Hassan Brown, DPW Superintendent has given him a list of streets that in the worst condition. The OEM has sent him a draft ordinance for drones and explains the that if they are flying under 400 feet, they are not controlled by FAA and this will give conditions of where they can be flown. Discussion ensues.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a. **Shade Tree Commission-** Mayor DiPiazza would like to discuss changes to the Shade Tree Commission to possibly replace to Shade Tree Committee or an advisory board. It will change the powers and improve the life of the residents. He continues to discuss a particular tree that was dead and the resident was informed that it was still partially alive. Changing to a board will help alleviate the problems residents are having getting dead trees taken care of. Borough Attorney Brian Giblin explains the differences between a commission and a committee. He further explains that a committee would allow the governing body to set the policies. Mayor DiPiazza believes this change will allow the governing body to say what should be taken down and what shouldn't. Councilwoman Bellinger says she understands but feels she would still need the input of the department head of how it would affect them. Councilman Kaiser says that this needs to be looked at as he receives emails every week from residents who have been on the wait list for three years. Councilman Quintana says that the department is really short at the moment and speaks of a complaint about specific tree. Discussion ensues. Mayor DiPiazza says that a possible change needs to happen and if we need to bring in the department head we should. He also states that a committee will be better for them to help the residents. Councilman Nadera inquires if a commission or a committee would be better for then to make discussions in a moment notice if the tree is endangering people. Councilwoman Weber also reports complaints she has received as well about trees. Councilwoman Bellinger say the work isn't able to get done as well because Shade Tree is so short on personnel. She would like to bring in the department head to hear from him. A request has been made by Mayor DiPiazza for the department head to attend next meeting.

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.

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Mayor DiPiazza opens to public for comment at 7:26 PM

MaryEllen Rizzo-Representing Girl Scout Troops and asks if it would be ok for the senior girls to come to the May 23rd meeting. Mayor DiPiazza says they are more than welcome.

Maria Trimarki - also speaks as a girl scout leader and expresses that the girls would like to come to the next Mayor and Council meeting.

Bill Holtzman – Board of Education rep says he will let the Board of Education know about the school needing more waste bins. June 22, 2023 graduation for high school.

Jennifer Landa- Thanks everyone for the Stigma Free street naming and says there are many courses for adults and children that she thinks are very beneficial for the council to attend.

Michael Worth- suggests an ordinance be put in place to address political signs. Mr. Giblin says there was an ordinance in place but it was found to be unconstitutional and states that the highways are where the signs are normally placed which aren't in the Borough's jurisdiction. Mr. Worth asks if there is rent control in Paramus and he is told there is not. Mr. Worth asks about overnight parking and is told he can call in for special permission. He also adds that Hackensack just signed an agreement with the hospital and asks if we will do the same once Valley comes. Mr. Giblin states that we are currently looking into this.

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.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE 2023-25: AN ORDINANCE NAMING THE STREET TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 334 SPRING VALLEY ROAD AS "EGO COURT"

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

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ORDINANCE ON FINAL:

ORDINANCE 2023-22: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 439 OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TITLED "FOOD SERVICE MANAGERS" BY REPEALING AND REPLACING §439-6.

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilwoman Weber

Description by Council President

Open to Public for Comment – None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

ORDINANCE 2023-23: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 121 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TITLED "SALARIES AND COMPENSATION"

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilwoman Weber

Description by Council President

Open to Public for Comment – None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries 6-0

ORDINANCE 2023-24: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 363 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TITLED "SEWERS" BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE X TO BE TITLED "PRIVATELY OWNED SALT STORAGE"

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Quintana

Description by Council President

Open to Public for Comment – 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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Mayor DiPiazza asks for a motion to move the non-consent resolutions to the consent agenda

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

A CONSENT AGENDA WILL BE ADOPTED FOR ITEM NUMBERS 14 AND 15

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-315: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-316: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR 300 MCKINLEY BLVD., IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-317: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR 337 ELMWOOD DRIVE, IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-318: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR 178 VICTORIA AVENUE, IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-319: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A VARIOUS COMPUTER SYSTEM UPGRADES FROM SHI IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79,466.25

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-320: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF MOBILE TRUCK LIFTS FROM MOHAWK LIFTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79,578.72

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-321: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING QUOTE FROM MURRAY PAVING AND CONCRETE LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,231.22 FOR PARKING LOT REPAVING OF THE SENIOR CENTER

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-322: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAW OFFICES OF JOHN SCHETTINO, ESQ. TO SETTLE THE MATTER OF OFEAR VS. THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS ON THE TERMS CONTAINED IN THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AS RECOMMENDED BY JOHN SCHETTINO, ESQ.

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-323: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COLUMBUS CROSSING, LLC TO CONDUCT SOIL TESTS, INCLUDING SOIL BORINGS, ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS WHICH ARE REASONABLY NECESSARY IN THE OPINION OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER

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RESOLUTION NO 23-05-324: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO SIGN A RENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND WESTBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE USE OF THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-325: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO SIGN A RENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND PIKE DIVE ACADEMY FOR THE USE OF THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-326: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND MELLSWORTH FOODS, LLC FOR THE LEASE OF THE CONCESSION STAND AT THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-327: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TO PAY TO THE DEVELOPER OF THE COLUMBUS WAY PROJECT THE TOTAL SUM OF SIX MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO (\$6,815,852.00) DOLLARS AS AND WHEN THAT AMOUNT IS RECEIVED FROM THE DEVELOPER OF 650 FROM ROAD, LLC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOROUGH'S MANDATORY SET-ASIDE ORDINANCE.

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-328: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO SIGN THE MANAGER'S CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND STEPHEN TROCOLAR AS POOL MANAGER FOR THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-329: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO SIGN THE ASSISTANT MANAGER'S CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND JULIA REYNOLDS AS ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-330: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TAYLOR SCHEEF AS INTERN FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION NO 23-05- 331: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES TO CASHIER- SEASONAL STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS GOLF COURSE AT A SALARY OF \$13.00 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-332: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING SEASONAL EMPLOYEES FROM THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-333: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ALEXANDRA VALENTINO TO THE POSITION OF ON CALL PAGE FOR THE PARAMUS LIBRARY AT A SALARY OF \$14.13 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-334: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER J. MARTINO STEP 0 TO THE POSITION OF EMT FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AT A SALARY OF \$20.40 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-335: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SOPHIA TRIPODI TO THE POSITION OF ON CALL PAGE FOR THE PARAMUS LIBRARY AT A SALARY OF \$14.13 PER HOUR

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RESOLUTION NO 23-05-336: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATION OF BRIAN LIRANZO FROM THE POSITION OF LABORER 1 FOR THE PARAMUS SHADE TREE AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-337: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATION OF BRYAN SWEET FROM THE POSITION OF PART – TIME BUILDING MAINTENANCE STEP 3 FOR THE PARAMUS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – BUILDING AND GROUNDS

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-338: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATION OF CATHERINE KARROS FROM THE POSITION OF EMT FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-339: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF ISRAEL BEATO TO EMT STEP 2 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$23.07 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-340: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF KEVIN E. BEHNKE TO EMT STEP 3 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$24.48 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-341: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF ROBERT A. ALEXIOU TO EMT STEP 4 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$25.02 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-342: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF RYAN D. ENGLISH TO EMT STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$21.76 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-343: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF SERGIO A. ARROYO TO EMT STEP 2 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$23.07 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-344: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF SHAYNA TRAVIS TO EMT STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$21.76 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-345: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RESIGNATION OF THE FOLLOWING FOR THE PARAMUS POOL

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-346: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SOPHIA CARRE TO THE POSITION OF PAGE FOR THE PARAMUS LIBRARY AT A SALARY OF \$14.13 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-05-347: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ELLIANA GRACE GORGUIS TO THE POSITION OF PAGE FOR THE PARAMUS LIBRARY AT A SALARY OF \$14.13 PER HOUR

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APPLICATIONS:

SOLICITOR

Alpa Shah 2023-SL-8

RAFFLE

Spring Valley Fire Co. of the Borough of Paramus File #943

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

ADJOURNMENT: 7:48 PM

APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Respectfully Submitted:
Annemarie Krusznis RMC
Borough Clerk