

**Borough of Paramus  
Mayor and Council Public Meeting  
Council Chambers  
January 25, 2022, 6:00 P.M.  
MINUTES**

**Resolution No: 22-01-83:** Notification of meetings as required by “The Open Public Meetings Act.” Read by the Borough Clerk at 6:04 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** led by Borough Administrator Joseph D’Arco

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Vartolone, Councilwoman Weber, Mayor LaBarbiera

Also Present: Borough Administrator Joseph D’Arco, Borough Attorney Brian Giblin, Borough Clerk Annemarie Krusznis, Deputy Borough Clerk Nicolette Riggi

Absent: None

Mayor LaBarbiera reads a letter written by Borough Administrator Joseph D’Arco, announcing his resignation, effective February 4, 2022. Mayor LaBarbiera expresses a heavy heart regarding Mr. D’Arco’s exit. Mr. D’Arco is wished success.

**BOROUGH CLERK’S REPORT:**

- a. Request received from Conquest Inc., for permission to perform night work on January 28, 2022, from 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM at 141 Paramus Road to install new water service for Suez Water.  
**Approved.**
- b. Request received from Carrier Inc. to postpone HVAC night work from January 26 to February 16, 2022 at Bergen Town Center. **Approved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Bellinger The Library in Paramus was the most used library in 2021, used 39% more than any other library. Ms. Bellinger thanks Mr. D’Arco and expresses her feelings regarding his importance in the Borough and how much she valued him and his services.

Councilman Vartolone no report. Thank you to Mr. D’Arco for his services as Administrator.

Councilman Antonio Board of Ed met last night. They want to continue open communication with the Borough. Mayor LaBarbiera asks Mr. Antonio if there are any open items of communication that he is aware of at this time. Mr. Antonio responds that there are not.

Councilman Kaiser Recreation has not met but will meet tomorrow. The Police Chief sent his report. There were 4400 calls of service this month and issued over 500 traffic summonses. The accreditation should be complete by March of 2022.

Councilman DiPiazza No report. The Pool Commission will meet this Thursday.

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Councilwoman Weber Ms. Weber attended the grand opening of a bakery on Route 17. Ms. Weber wishes Good luck to Mr. D'Arco on his new endeavor and thanks him for his work.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor LaBarbiera appoints Al Nadera, Dr. Gregory Serrano, and Dana Folcarelli to Board of Health

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger

Second:Councilman DiPiazza

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Vartolone, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**Motion carries 6-0**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**RESOLUTION No. 22-01-84:** Closing the meeting of the Mayor and Council to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger

Second: Councilman Vartolone

Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Vartolone, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**Motion carries 6-0**

**6:18 PM**

**Open 6:25 PM**

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- c. Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment (Evse) & Make-Ready Parking Spaces – no discussion
- d. Amendment to Borough's Zoning Code – will have Planner attend next meeting
- e. Sign issue – Fashion Center – Paramus has been designated by executive order as super covid center. Two providers have come in and put up signs regarding vaccines. The Zoning officer went out and requested compliance. The signs are very large in size and number. There Certificate of Occupancy will be held until the issue is resolved. The Governor's office was made aware.

**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.

**6:37 PM**

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**Michael Salemi** – managing partner of Bergen Brookside Towing. Would like to address the towing ordinance and keep the Council aware on how fine-tuned this ordinance needs to be. A big issue is the rate schedule in Paramus which hasn't been updated in over a decade. Mr. Salemi is asking the Council to review a rate structure that his association has come up with. The rates have been reviewed by the NJ Attorney General and the NJ State Police has accepted these rates. Insurance premiums went up \$150,000 in one year alone. Mayor LaBarbiera respects and appreciates everything Mr. Salemi has presented. The challenge is that all 5 towers knew the set rates when they applied, and still applied. If there are 5 qualified towers that are willing to apply, it defies logic to raise the rates. It would be hard to justify to the consumer. Mr. Vartolone is very surprised that rates haven't been raised in 10 years. Mr. Salemi does not understand the Mayor's opinion and expresses that he has not heard this response from any other municipality. Councilman DiPiazza agrees with the Mayor that the number one duty as an elected official is to the taxpayers and residents of the Borough. Mr. Kaiser and Mr. DiPiazza advise Mr. Salemi that the council will look at the documents he has submitted.

**Councilwoman Bellinger exit the meeting at 6:58**

**Tom Locicero** – would like the Council to address the other issues in the towing ordinance other than the rates. Mr. Locicero advises the Council that the towers are part of emergency services. They are towing vehicles at a loss. Hundreds of towns have adopted the new rate schedule. There are also procedural items in the ordinance that have not been cleaned up. They are not asking to break new ground, just to "even the playing field". Mr. DiPiazza advises Mr. Locicero that the Governing Body will look at the new rates. Mayor LaBarbiera reminds Mr. Locicero that he has come from the private sector and picked up an application, submitted it, and received a license all while knowing the rates. Mr. Locicero was not forced to apply.

**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE 2022-04:** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2021-24 AND FIX THE SALARY, WAGE AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS

**Motion:** Councilwoman Weber

**Second:** Councilman Vartolone

**Yeas:** Councilman Antonio, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Vartolone, Councilwoman Weber

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Councilwoman Bellinger

**Motion carries 5-0**

**ORDINANCE 2022-05:** ORDINANCE CREATING NEW TITLE AND UPDATING JOB DESCRIPTION AND SALARY SCALE (Secretary, Planning/Zoning Level 3)

**Motion:** Councilwoman Weber

**Second:** Councilman Vartolone

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Yeas: Councilman Antonio, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Vartolone,  
Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilwoman Bellinger

**Motion carries 5-0**

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-85: PULLED PRIOR TO MEETING

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-86: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR 155 TRUMAN TERRACE IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-87: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY USE OF A FIRE APPARATUS TO THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-88: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE SUMMER PREPARATION AND WINTERIZATION CONTRACT WITH NAUTILUS SWIMMING POOLS

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-89: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS AND GREEN CHIP E-WASTE AND ITAD SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC REMOVAL AND R2 COMPLIANT RECYCLING SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-90: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SAMANTHA STEEN TO THE POSITION OF PART TIME LIBRARY ASSISTANT FOR THE PARAMUS PUBLIC LIBRARY AT A SALARY OF \$16.47 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-91: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTINE LICHTENSTEIN TO THE POSITION OF PART TIME LIBRARY ASSISTANT FOR THE PARAMUS PUBLIC LIBRARY AT A SALARY OF \$16.47 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-92: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD RODRIGUEZ TO THE POSITION OF PAGE FOR THE PARAMUS PUBLIC LIBRARY AT A SALARY OF \$13.00 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-93: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARY BOYLE TO THE POSITION OF PAGE FOR THE PARAMUS PUBLIC LIBRARY AT A SALARY OF \$13.00 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 22-01-94: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING SEASONAL POSITIONS FOR PARAMUS RECREATION 2022 WINTER STAFF

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**RESOLUTION NO 22-01-95:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP UP OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE POSITION OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT STEP G FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- DETECTIVE BUREAU AT A SALARY OF \$172,802.00 PER YEAR

**RESOLUTION NO 22-01-96:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RETIREMENT OF SHELLEY PARKER FROM THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL LIBRARY ASSISTANT FOR THE PARAMUS PUBLIC LIBRARY

**RESOLUTION NO 22-01-97:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PIRO LAKO FROM THE POSITION OF LABORER FOR THE PARAMUS SHADE TREE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

**RESOLUTION NO 22-01-98:** RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF THE FOLLOWING FROM THE PARAMUS AUXILLARY POLICE

**RESOLUTION NO 22-01-99:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF HUTHAIFAH K. AWAWDEH TO THE POSITION OF EMTFOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AT A SALARY OF \$20.00 PER HOUR

**APPLICATIONS:**

**GOLD/SILVER**

Rudy Sarkis

2022-GS-9

Approval of Consent Agenda as Amended

**Motion:** Councilwoman Weber

**Second:** Councilman DiPiazza

**Yeas:** Councilman Antonio, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Kaiser, Councilman Vartolone, Councilwoman Weber

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Councilwoman Bellinger

**Motion carries 5-0**

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:11 PM**

APPROVED: APRIL 6, 2022

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