

**Borough of Paramus
Mayor and Council Public Meeting
Council Chambers
March 14, 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: 23-03-212: Notification of meetings as required by "The Open Public Meetings Act." Led by Borough Clerk at 6:39 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Marine Corp Veteran Alan Brundage

ROLL CALL:

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

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

Absent: Councilman Quintana

MAYOR'S REPORT:

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:

Councilman Antonio-

At his attendance of last night's Board of Education meeting a resident mentioned the pickleball courts. Councilman Antonio asks Administrator Hector Olmo about potential Open Space grant in which we could provide a location for said pickle ball courts. Mr. Olmo responds that there is money from the County for this and that at the last meeting the East Brook and West Brook tennis courts could possibly be utilized as a location and mutual cooperation from the county and schools could provide a location for pickle ball courts. Mr. Antonio says that a committee should be assembled to help with the process to work out issues.

Councilwoman Bellinger- calls for rules and procedures to be followed. She wants to several items on the agenda which she has questions about and explains she has asked the clerk to provide the members of the Council with salary agreements as a reference point regarding are several issues we need to address regarding salaries. She believes that we need to take the proper steps and would like for the council to review the flex hours in the PSEA Union. She refers to the hiring of the new recreation director and how although she supported it she was led to believe he would not be able to continue to be a baseball coach. Mr. Giblin cautions Councilwoman Bellinger that this person has not been riced. Councilwoman continues regarding the approval of the coaching role by the administrator for the new director to which Mr. Giblin interjects and that her mention of the said approval by the Administrator Hector Olmo is also out of bounds as Mr. Olmo has not been riced either. Councilwoman Bellinger asks that this issue be discussed and that the contract be sent to the Mayor and Council. She then addresses Ordinance 2023-12 and asks which union this is part of. Mr. Giblin responds PSEA and she inquires as to why it has changed from last year and would like to discuss it in closed. She asks about Resolution 23-02-222 and the golf pro resolution and questions the compensation to which there is no clear resolution. She then inquires as to whether or not the towing ordinance still discusses the work with Borough vehicles and to which she is told yes. Her report is wrapped up with a final statement regarding the amount of late additions they have received as of late and asks if we can have an explanation as why this continues to happen and would like to have more time discuss things such as ordinances when they are added late.

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Councilman Nadera- Councilman attended his first OEM meeting.

Councilwoman Weber- DPW are continuing to fill in pot holes. Free Rabies vaccination are in session through the health department Thursday May 4th 5-7 at Life Safety. Narcan training will be held again Wednesday March 22nd 6-7 at Paramus library where residents may learn to use Narcan in case of opioid overdose as well as be given 2 free doses after training. The retirement of a nurse in the health department will mean an opening will be available to be filled as on June first. Shade Tree would like to inform the council that hundreds of ash trees have been removed. And a local businessman Danny Wiggers has offered to move a truck load of what is leftover to provide wood for the Jewish community to cook matzah in their oven for their holiday, this offer should of course be available to all residents and small businesses but due to the fact that there is a small ammount of time before the holiday they would like a decision made tonight, said decision could save the borough time and money. Stigma free committee would like the street renaming to be done before the May 9th meeting. Mr. Giblin says that for the firewood he has no legal objection as long as it is on an even playing field open for all residents to obtain. Mayor DiPiazza says they should speak to Shade Tree but he believes the more people getting rid of the dead tress the better but it is important to go through the proper channels and get Shade Trees advisement first.

Councilman Kaiser- No report

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Mr. Olmo needs approval to go out for an RFQ for municipal prosecutor for criminal and traffic since the former prosecutor as been promoted to Judgeship and will need to step down. For now, the Court is using the alternate prosecutors. JIF elected officials training and we get \$250 off our premiums for whoever takes it. Additionally, the part timer in the Health Department is leaving and a replacement needs to be found.

Mayor DiPiazza invites the Paramus Junior Baseball League to come up to speak

Andy Terrabachia 221 Buttonwood Drive & Alan Brundage 206 Morningside Road. Members from the baseball league came to present one of the buildings they are working on that is located behind the library as it has had a water leak and they are now looking for help from the town as they have had several conversations with Mr. Olmo about said issues. Mayor DiPiazza says that any help we can give we will. Councilwoman Bellinger asks if we ever figured out who's building this is. It was found out that it belonged to the Borough and leased to the baseball league. Mr. Olmo thinks we should come up with a new lease agreement so we know who's responsible for what for matter such as these. Mr. Brundage requests that if the Borough decides to give the building to someone else that they let know so they can find another location. Mr. Brundage continues saying that the water leak needs to be fixed otherwise water cannot get to the field and it is approximately \$36,000 for fixing the hotbox and ripping up the street to fix on midland, Mr. Olmo says the work should take approximately two days. Mayor DiPiazza says essentially the council needs to give Hector authorization for a new lease to be negotiated. Councilman Antonio asks if this can be discussed with the Board f Education as well when negotiating these terms. The council will move forward with the lease negotiation and they should continue meeting with Mr. Olmo to resolve the issue.

Mayor DiPiazza opens to the public to the people in room at 7:13 PM

Nick Matahan First wants to address the light by Park in Petruska that turns red at 11 and it should not be doing that. Mr. Olmo says traffic can take a look at this. Mr. Matahan then asks about property taxes and why his taxes have gone up for the third year in a row and he is currently trying to appeal with the County but Paramus is not on the list.

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Mr. Giblin says the Borough Council needs to adopt a budget in order to adopt a tax rate that must be sent and approved by the state, until that happens they will not know what the tax rate is. Mr. Giblin says that the assessment of his property may have gone up but without this step there is no way of knowing about the tax rate. Mr. Giblin says there will be an additional time aloud since he can't do it yet and recommends that he Mr. Mathan reach out to the Borough's Tax Assessor.

Joanne Bergman BOE representation she is looking forward to getting a committee together with the Council to work on issues such as the pickleball courts and various DPW agreements and believes open dialogue will be a key component to handle such situations efficiently.

Tom Locicero wants to thank the council for the introduction of the towing Ordinance. Mr. Locicero says the towers have tried on several occasions to request a meeting with Mr. Olmo unsuccessfully and that there are some typos within the ordinance. He also questions whether the vehicles that are being towed are only Borough owned vehicles and asks that a meeting be set up before adoption. Mayor DiPiazza says that as in past practice shared service vehicles are still considered within the framework of the ordinance. Mr. Locicero says that sometimes they have to go other towns in order to tow back these kinds of vehicles and this is extra work for towers and additional costs such as tolls or gas. Other than his previously addressed issues he sees much improvement on the ordinance.

Councilwoman Bellinger says she believes this towing process is only valid under circumstances such as a Paramus Mechanic in the process of fixing a shared service vehicle needs it towed. Councilwoman Bellinger also says that the Borough provides a lot of opportunity for business unlike other times and as such certain services should continue to be provided by the towers as indicated in the current ordinance. Mayor DiPiazza says the council will look into Mr. Locicero's Grievances however, all towers are aware of the contingencies of applying to tow in Paramus and at the end of the day the council must protect the taxpayers from additional costs such as paying back towers for tolls or gas when performing tows within the frame the application they submitted too.

Charlene Talarico 207 Lawrence Drive There is a big building that they want to put behind her house, Mr. Giblin interjects to caution the council about discussing such building and Ms. Talarico says that she will not go into detail about, however it is a threat to a tree she would like to bring to the attention of the council. She distributes packets to the council with information and photographs regarding the tree and explains that the it is over 300 years old Southern Patacal Tree and is registered by the State as well as the only one of its kind with in the state. The people who bought the property which is now the church also bought a house that is on the property and took down a lot of trees that were dead. She has since made it known around the neighborhood and community the significance of this tree and until now had no qualms with her church neighbors until learning of their contacting Shade Tree. During which they were told that all the trees could be taken down on their property including the state registered tree. Now that they will potentially be expanding on the property the tree will be cut down as it hinders the intended building plan. She is asking for the Council to pass an emergency Ordinance to save this tree and explains that once such an Ordinance is passed she can get the tree to be registered differently as historic designation. Mayor DiPiazza says anything to do with the building the Mayor and Council can't discuss as it under review by the Board of Adjustment. She continues that there has to be a way to save the tree and that Shade tree should know what trees are registered within the Borough. Mr. Giblin suggests to go to the Board of Adjustment meeting to speak with them. She says that she has and they are aware of the tree. Mayor DiPiazza says he will have the Mr. Giblin research if there is anyway to change an application once it's been submitted and Mr. Giblin says he will research if the tree having historic

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designation will change anything. Councilman Nadera asks if it's been classified and she says yes and that it is of the highest level being champion status as it is so rare and due to the fact that it is the only one of its kind in New Jersey and that she hopes the Mayor and Council will consider doing what is necessary to save the tree.

Mayor DiPiazza opens to the public to anyone on the phone lines.

Melissa Caminiti thanks the Council for opening up the phone lines again. Continues on to say that Senator Lagana was able to obtain 1.5 million for the Board of Education to improve the turf field as well as lightning. Once this budget is formerly approved around the end of June the Board of Education will have the money to fix these things which will in turn have a great impact on the community and Recreation Department.

RESOLUTION No. 23-03-213: Closing the meeting of the Mayor and Council to the public. 7:45 pm

- a. Litigation
- b. Personnel

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Antonio

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes- February 14, 2023

Motion: Councilwoman Weber

Second: Councilman Kaiser

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

- b. Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes- February 28, 2023

Motion: Councilwoman Weber

Second: Councilman Kaiser

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

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Councilman Bellinger asks for a description of the Ordinances added and Mr. Giblin and Mr. Olmo explain.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE 2023-13: BOND ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 4 OF THE BOND ORDINANCE (ORD. NO. 2021-33) ENTITLED: "BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$7,700,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE VARIOUS GRANTS, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS," ADOPTED ON AUGUST 25, 2021, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12 ADOPTED ON MAY 10, 2022.

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Antonio

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

ORDINANCE 2023-15: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING SEVERAL SECTIONS OF ORDINANCE 429 TITLED "ZONING" AND ADDING A NEW ARTICLE XXXIV TO BE TITLED "ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY/SERVICE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS"

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Antonio

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

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ORDINANCE ON FINAL:

ORDINANCE 2023-09: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION N.J.S.40A:4-53 FUNDING OF TERMINAL PAY FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilman Antonio

Description by Council President

Open to Public for Comment – None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

ORDINANCE 2023-10: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2021-08 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 395 ENTITLED SWIMMING POOLS, ARTICLE I ENTITLED SWIMMING POOL FACILITIES, SECTION 5 FEES

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, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

ORDINANCE 2023-11: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 259 OF THE PARAMUS BOROUGH CODE RELATED TO THE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilwoman Antonio

Description by Council President

Open to Public for Comment – None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

ORDINANCE 2023-12: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2022-09 AND ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 57 TO BE TITLED "HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL"

Motion: Councilman Kaiser

Second: Councilwoman Weber

Description by Council President

Open to Public for Comment – None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

Motion to move Resolution No. 23-03-327 from non-consent to consent

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger

Second: Councilman Kaiser

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

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

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-214: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-215: AUTHORIZING THE 2020-2021 RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL LICENSES 2020-2021

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-216: AUTHORIZING THE 2021-2022 RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL LICENSES 2021-2022

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-217: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE FOR BLOCK 6103 LOT 6

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-218: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF A TAX SALE CERTIFICATE FOR BLOCK 7503 LOT 20

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-219: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ADOPTING AN AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-220: RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 23-01-45 AUTHORIZING ONE YEAR CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF A GRANTS CONSULTANT FOR THE YEAR 2023

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-221: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SCARLET AQUATICS SWIM TEAM-NEW JERSEY WAVE DIVISION FOR USE OF THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL IN ACCORDANCE TO THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR A RENTAL FEE OF \$17,500.00

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RESOLUTION NO 23-03-222: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES TO CASHIER- SEASONAL FOR THE PARAMUS GOLF COURSE WITH COMPENSATION EQUAL TO 90% OF MONEY PAID TO THE PARAMUS GOLF COURSE FOR LESSONS ATTRIBUTED TO EMPLOYMENT

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-223: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THE PARAMUS AUXILIARY POLICE

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-224: RESOLUTION APPOINTING LIEUTENANT NORMAN GIN AS THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT COORDINATOR AND POLICE LIAISON

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-225: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SCOTT WHITNEY TO THE POSITION OF FULL TIME LABORER II STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- SANITATION/RECYCLING DIVISION AT A SALARY OF \$36,671.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-226: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF TABISH TAHIR TO THE POSITION OF EMT FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$20.40 HOURLY

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-227: 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 23-03-228: RESOLUTION APPOINTING VINCENT MAGGIO TO THE POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-229: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING SEASONAL POSITIONS FOR PARAMUS RECREATION 2023 SPRING STAFF

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-230: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF ANNETTA A. PANAYIDES TO EMT STEP 3 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$24.48 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-231: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF JAMIE L. VERBOVSKY TO EMT STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$21.76 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-232: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF LILIANA T. ESMail TO EMT STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$21.76 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-233: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF OLIVIA A. KATAFIGIOTIS TO EMT STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY OF \$21.76 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-234: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATION OF DOUG EHRENBERG FROM THE POSITION OF POLICE LIAISON FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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RESOLUTION NO 23-03-235: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATION OF JOHN SMITH FROM THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT COORDINATOR FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-236: RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESIGNATION OF TAMARA STRAUSS FROM THE POSITION OF INTERN FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION NO 23-03-237: RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 23-02-178 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion: Councilman Antonio

Second: Councilman Kaiser

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Quintana

Motion carries 5-0

ADJOURNMENT: 8:17 PM

APPROVED: APRIL 25, 2023

Respectfully Submitted:

Annemarie Krusznis, RMC
Borough Clerk