Borough of Paramus
Mayor and Council Public Meeting
Work Session held in Caucus Room
April 21, 2020, 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Any member of the public may email a question or matter of discussion to
boroclerk@paramusborough.org

The Public May Participate In The Mayor And Council Meeting By Telephone:

Phone Number 201-503-0338
Participation Access Code: 0338

The public will be asked to mute your phone until the public participation portion is open by
Mayor LaBarbiera.

Please visit the www.paramusborough.org for details and instructions.

Mayor LaBarbiera asks those listening on the conference call to mute their phones and advises
that the public will be invited to speak at a later time in the meeting.

Work Session

Resolution No: 20-04-228: Notification of meetings as required by “The Open Public Meetings
Act.” Read by Borough Clerk at 7:02 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor LaBarbiera at 7:02 PM

Mayor LaBarbiera leads a moment of silence and prayers for everyone affected by Covid-19.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos,
Councilman Vartolone, Councilman Verile, Councilwoman Weber, Mayor LaBarbiera

Also Present: Borough Attorney Daniel Lagana, Borough Clerk Annemarie Krusznis

Absent: Borough Administrator Joseph D’Arco, Deputy Borough Clerk Nicolette Riggi

*Council Members DiPiazza, Vartolone, and Weber are present via phone conference.

BOROUGH CLERK’S REPORT:

a. Notice of cancellation of Valley Hospital Auxiliary June 1, 2020 golf event
b. ABC has extended liquor license expirations from June 30th, 2020 to September 30th, 2020

Mayor LaBarbiera advises that Borough Administrator Joseph D’Arco, who previously tested
positive for COVID-19, is improving.
COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:

Councilwoman Bellinger Health Department has been very busy tracking COVID virus and processing death certificates. They were able to obtain some graduate students to help. Councilwoman Bellinger reports on Covid-19 numbers in Paramus. As of today, 588 positive cases, 320 of those are closed and recovered and 268 remain open. 197 cases come from long term health centers. 87 deaths, 76 of those coming from long term health facility and 11 from the community. Councilwoman Bellinger continues to thank the Health Department, first responders, Police, EMS and all Borough employees that are essential, that have been working through this pandemic to keep us all home and safe. Mayor LaBarbiera brings attention to Resolution No. 20-04-239 on the agenda, raising the temporary hourly pay as hazard pay for EMS workers and how everyone appreciates what they are doing for the community. Mayor LaBarbiera continues to speak about the Covid-19 numbers in Paramus.

Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos The Pool is trying to figure things outs while waiting for the quarantine to be lifted. There will be a zoom Pool Commission meeting on Thursday. Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos continues to report on Police Department numbers and thanks the Police, EMS and all first responders for everything they're doing. Mayor LaBarbiera adds that all Pool and Recreation registrations are on hold.

Councilman Verile Fire and Rescue will be having meetings and sending in their reports. Golf has been working on the fields and waiting for everything to be lifted so they can reopen. The 4th of July fireworks and concert venues are working on back up plans with the epidemic. Mayor LaBarbiera adds that the Golf course has been working diligently and will be ready open.

Councilman DiPiazza The Shade Tree sidewalk program is currently underway and the contractors will be working through the list. Tree related service will collect and scheduled removal will continue. Councilman DiPiazza continues with a public service announcement to if possible, please discard surgical masks and gloves in the Borough Parks as they are hazardous and they have been seeing a lot left on the ground. All playgrounds and basketball courts have been closed. Ground maintenance operations at Borough grounds and parks are underway.

Councilman Vartolone- No Report

Councilwoman Weber DPW continues to operate with no interruptions. Changes to the recycling center drop off have been going well. Road servicing project is scheduled to begin in May and will be posted on the Borough website. DPW employee shifts have been altered to limit contact to comply with CDC guidelines and all employees have been issued personal protective gear as needed. Councilwoman Weber inquires about getting “we support healthcare worker” signs and discussion ensues. Councilwoman Weber adds that Valley Hospital is looking for help with donations and asks if Paramus can do anything to help. Councilwoman Weber acknowledges the loss of a lifelong resident Mel Fabricant.

Mayor LaBarbiera speaks about an item on agenda tonight about the relaxation of penalties with property taxes. He welcomes Borough CFO Sheryl Luna via phone conference for background information. Ms. Luna explains what the State has proposed and after a discussion with the Mayor and Council they want to relax interest rate for a certain period. Ms. Luna says this will go through June and then be revisited in June so it doesn’t affect our cash flow and discussion ensues. Mayor LaBarbiera acknowledges the Borough staff that has been making sure the services to community have been maintained. He hopes we return to normalcy soon but as we have done from the beginning, we will follow the lead of our governor.
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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 LaBarbiera opens to the public for agenda items only at 7:22 PM- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- a.& b.  Pulled prior to meeting

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE ON FINAL:

ORDINANCE 2020-10: ORDINANCE UPDATING REQUIREMENTS FOR AMUSEMENT LICENSES

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger  Second: Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos

Explanation by Council President

Open to public for comment on Ordinance 2020-10: None

Yeas: Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos, Councilman Vartolone, Councilman Verile, Councilwoman Weber
Nays: None
Motion carries 6-0

NON-CONSENT:

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

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO 20-04-230: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS


RESOLUTION NO 20-04-235: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TO APPLY FOR THE 2019 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT

RESOLUTION NO 20-04-236: RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE PARAMUS PUBLIC LIBRARY’S APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND ACT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO 20-04-237: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE BOROUGH CLERK TO EXTEND AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN WEAR UNIFORMS FOR 2020 UNIFORM SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO 20-04-238: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF INTEREST FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

RESOLUTION NO 20-04-239: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY RAISE IN HOURLY PAY AS HAZARD PAY TO THE EMS WORKERS OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS

APPLICATIONS:

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger Second: Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos
Yeas: Councilwoman Bellinger, Counciman DiPiazza, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos, Councilman Vartolone, Counciman Verile, Councilwoman Weber
Nays: None
Motion carries 6-0

Mayor LaBarbiera opens to the public for any comments at 7:23 PM

Roy Hegg 321 Lockwood Drive: Inquires about the issue from the last meeting on the hiring of the 10 police officers and how it will impact the Borough financially. He continues to say how is confused how the Mayor’s son was approved for other positions but when it comes to hiring him as an officer, now it’s rejected. Mayor LaBarbiera defers to the Borough Attorney Daniel Lagana. Mr. Lagana explains that financially it’s difficult to say at this point and discussion ensues. Mr. Hegg inquires if the lawsuit is against the Borough or the Council people that voted against and Mr. Lagana replies both. Mr. Hegg inquires about Shade Tree and driveway issue. Councilman DiPiazza explains the policy and discussion ensues. Mr. Hegg continues this was not what it was supposed to be and how this has been ongoing now for two years. Mayor LaBarbiera tells Mr. Hegg he will follow up by next meeting and thanks Mr. Hegg and his family for delivering meals and putting together lists of businesses still open.

Mayor LaBarbiera asks for a motion to enter closed session to discuss a Billboard Ordinance and an employee contract issue at 7:30 PM
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Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger  Second: Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos
Yeas: Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos,
Councilman Vartolone, Councilman Verile, Councilwoman Weber
Nays: None
Motion carries 6-0

RESOLUTION No. 20-04-229: Closing the meeting of the Mayor and Council to the public.

   c. Billboard Ordinance
   d. Employee contract issue

ADJOURNMENT:

APPROVED: JUNE 23, 2020 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
ANNEMARIE KRUSZNIS RMC
BOROUGH CLERK