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.

Work Session

Resolution No: 20-06-283: Notification of meetings as required by “The Open Public Meetings Act.” Read by the Borough Clerk at 7:13 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Borough Administrator Joseph D'Arco

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Borough Administrator Joseph D’Arco, Borough Clerk Annemarie Krusznis, Borough Attorney Daniel Lagana, Deputy Borough Clerk Nicolette Riggi, Associate Borough Attorney Katie Mocco

Absent: None

*Councilmembers Tedesco-Santos and Weber are present via phone conference*

BOROUGH CLERK’S REPORT:

a. Millennium Strategies May 2020 Grant Report
b. Request received from Camp Trunk Delivery to allow transfer of luggage services for children’s sleep-away camps on Sundays during July & August, pending opening of camps at 100 W. Century Road. Approved.
c. Request received from Arcola Country Club to perform a fireworks display for their members on July 4th at 9:00 PM, utilizing “viewing circles” to comply with social distancing. The show will last until 9:15 PM and then members will exit the club. Approved, subject to executive orders or restrictions in place.
d. Request received from Challenge U. Softball to hold a drive in Park to Show Pride event at the Paramus Park mall on Sunday June 28th, 2020 from 12 PM to 2 PM. Approved.
ADDITIONAL PLANS REQUESTED FOR EVENTS:

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<td>e</td>
<td>Request received from Digital Sound, Light and Video Inc. to hold a drive in Movie Theater in the</td>
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<td>parking lot of 49 E Midland Ave from July 2020 through October 2020 on Sunday through Wednesday 8 PM-</td>
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<td>10 PM and Friday –Saturday 8PM-10PM and 11:30 PM- 1 AM.</td>
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<td>Request received from MegaBite Events to hold a drive-in movie event in the parking lot at Garden</td>
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<td>State Plaza on several dates from July through October.</td>
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<td>Request received from Just Jersey Fest to hold a drive through food truck festival at the Paramus</td>
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<td>Park Mall parking lot on Sunday, July 19th from 11AM-7PM.</td>
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Event applications to be referred to the Construction Official.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:

Councilwoman Bellinger provides COVID-19 numbers as of June 7, 2020. 21 cases remain open, and 17 are those are from Long Term Care Facilities. Councilwoman Bellinger offers prayers to those who are affected by this.

Mayor LaBarbiera exits meeting at 7:19 PM
Enters meeting at 7:19 PM

Councilman DiPiazza - Spoke with Shade Tree regarding driveways. If the Borough were to start a driveway program it would cost about $10,000 per driveway to outsource it to another company. Mayor LaBarbiera discusses realistic numbers per square foot. The intent was not to do the entire driveway, just to remedy the impacted area disturbed by the town tree. Councilman DiPiazza will bring back to Shade Tree.

Councilman Vartolone No report

Councilman Verile Rescue and Fire had construction site practice. Rescue is looking to order some items for their trucks. Food concession has been working well at the Golf Course. Mayor LaBarbiera advises that as of tomorrow, all restrictions for the Golf Course have been lifted.

Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos Governor Murphy lifted orders regarding recreation fields. As of June 22, the fields will be in use. There will be no summer playground. Fall and Winter program guide will be available. The Pool is permitted to open as of June 22nd. The Pool Commission will be meeting to finalize guidelines and how membership will be handled.

Mayor LaBarbiera appoints Dana Garcia to a vacant alternate position for the Pool Commission. All in favor.

Councilwoman Weber Environmental Commission held a virtual meeting. Their request for a pollinator was not accepted due to lack of funding. There was a question about an area off From Road and whether it is a state road. Mayor LaBarbiera explains there have been problems with the Parkway Authority for years.

MAYOR’S REPORT: The Governor has lifted some orders and the town is enjoying some of the relaxation. There will be a town sponsored graduation to honor the class of 2020. The Pool is opening very soon. We hope to see malls opening in the near future. Mayor LaBarbiera would like to add a resolution if it is not already on, extending the hazard pay for EMTs to 90 days through June 15. The resolution is already on the agenda but additional documentation was required.
Councilwoman Bellinger inquires about Resolution 20-08-285. Mr. Lagana advises that this should be discussed in closed session.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Working on developing a 501 c3 for Friends of the Parks and one for the Senior Center. We need to establish this to accept donations. Council authorizes. There are two policies recommended by JIF that will be on the agenda shortly.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:**

a. Outdoor dining – Construction Official Michael O’Connell is present to discuss the possibility of outdoor dining and the guidelines that will be in place. Restaurants will be providing a detailed plan before approval. Mayor LaBarbiera advises that he would like to give businesses any chance possible to continue operating. Restaurants will have to apply to ABC for serving alcohol outdoors if their restaurant doesn't already offer that service.

Health Officer Judy Migliaccio is present and updates the Council on state health requirements for outdoor dining. Some of the guidelines will be signage, social distancing, no buffets or salad bars, disinfection and sanitizing, employees will be wearing face coverings and gloves.

**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. 7:39 PM

Mark Distler – Paramus – Thanks to the Health Department, Fire and Police for an excellent job lately. Mr. Distler speaks in support of hiring 10 police applicants. Mr. Distler points out that current police department numbers are lower than permitted by code. Mr. Distler does not see any reference of nepotism in Paramus code or police policy. Mr. Distler believes nepotism is controversial but it is not inherently unethical to hire family members. The Chief of Police recommended the names in accordance with the hiring procedure and the Mayor recused himself. Mr. Distler does not believe that anyone has questioned the qualifications of any of these 10 candidates. Political affiliation or last name should not be used as reason to not hire. Mr. Distler believes the police department serves Paramus 24/7 and we need to put politics aside and work together to make Paramus stronger.

Michael Blitzstein – 151 Viola Way Paramus – Mr. Blitzstein thanks Mr. Distler for his statement. Mr. Blitzstein inquires about Councilmembers Weber and DiPiazza about their previous vote to hire Vincent LaBarbiera as a special police officer. Borough Attorney Daniel Lagana advises not to answer this question at this time due to pending litigation. Mr. Blitzstein makes a statement that Mr. LaBarbiera scored top 10 out of hundreds of applicants and if he’s not hired there will be more lawsuits. Why would council members knowingly do something illegal? Taxpayers are paying for it. Mr. Blitzstein again is advised that those questions cannot be answered at this time due to pending litigation. Mr. Blitzstein believes money is being wasted for a political agenda and it is wrong.

Nick Matahen – 66 Primrose Lane Paramus – Mr. Matahen is calling in support of hiring the 10 police candidates including Vincent LaBarbiera. Daniel Lagana advises that the question cannot be answered at this time due to pending litigation. Mr. Matahen inquires about the impact on taxpayers regarding the lawsuit. Mr. Lagana advises that
it is speculative at this point and hard to answer. Mr. Matahen inquires if there is a current anti-nepotism ordinance on the books and Mr. Lagana advises that there is not.

Debra (inaudible) 287 Paramus Road – recently emailed regarding a noise problem and would like to address the noise ordinance regarding times. She believes 11:00 PM is very late for loud music and lights. She would like the Council to take another look at the ordinance.

Roy Hegg Lockwood Drive – inquires about a pending lawsuit and would like to know if insurance will cover it or will taxpayers be paying for it. Mr. Lagana advises that an insurance company has instituted Counsel.

Gail Horton 144 Arcola Avenue – longtime resident of Paramus – remembers and idea presented by Mayor LaBarbiera in the past regarding nepotism and wonders why the Mayor has changed his mind. Mr. Lagana advises not to answer this question due to pending litigation.

Jean Hegg Lockwood Drive – Ms. Hegg advises that she has seen Paramus go through many changes and is embarrassed at what is happening right now. One young man and 10 qualified candidates are being put through the ringer and are extremely qualified to be police officers. It is imperative right now that we have qualified individuals who are willing to put their lives on the line every day. There has never been anything negative published against Vincent LaBarbiera that would prevent him from being hired except his last name. What the Council is doing is against the law.

Frank (inaudible) – Freeland Avenue – asks if the Council has considered hiring temporary candidates until the issue is resolved, as an interim option. Mr. Lagana advises that this hasn't been considered – the offers were for full time positions.

Larry Port 410 Forest Avenue – inquires about the requests for drive in movie events. Mayor LaBarbiera advises that the application is being put through a committee for approval.

Mark Distler – inquires about a resolution in April authorizing conditional offers of employment. Mr. Distler does not see it on the agenda tonight and wonders if it will be voted on tonight. Mayor LaBarbiera advises that it is not currently on the agenda.

Nick Matahen – inquires about the police hiring process and the committee. Mr. Lagana advises that the hiring process is part of the ordinance and the hiring power was given to the police committee. There is a procedure in place. Ms. Mocco advises that it’s a non-partisan committee that goes through several months of interviewing candidates and vetting qualifications. A list is produced and the Chief approves the list. It then goes to the Council for additional approval. The committee consists of The Chief, Deputy Chief, four Police Captains and 3 council members. The application process was months in the making prior to even getting to the point of interviews. It started with about 100 applicants and was narrowed down to in the low 20s. The entire committee brought the recommendations to the Chief and that’s how we got down to the 10 candidates on the list. There were no objections prior to being brought to a Mayor and Council for a vote. Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos, and Councilwoman Weber were on the police committee.

Michael Blitzstein – asks if there is a possibility during this lawsuit that the insurance company will not cover the cost and what happens if that is the case? Mr. Lagana advises that this is speculative and it’s an inappropriate question
that cannot be answered at this time. Mr. Blitzstein feels that the taxpayers are going to be stuck with a large bill. Ms. Mocco advises that generally if there's willful misconduct, insurance coverage could be pulled. However right now it's too early to speculate. Councilman Vartolone believes Ms. Mocco's statement was speculative and inappropriate.

RESOLUTION No. 20-06-284: Closing the meeting of the Mayor and Council to the public.

a. Agenda item Resolution 20-06-285
b. Pending litigation
c. PBA Contract

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

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 2020-11: SIGNAGE AND FACADES (REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 367 AND ARTICLE XXXII 429-192 ET SEQ.) is recommended to be pulled by Borough Attorney Daniel Lagana to send to Planning Board to review

Councilwoman Bellinger confirms the pulling of Resolution No. 20-06-285: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS MANDATING ALL ITEMS BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE A MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING because the change will be made administratively.

ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION:


Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger   Second: Councilman Vartolone
Yeas: Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilman DiPiazza, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos, Councilman Vartolone, Councilman Verile, Councilwoman Weber
Nays: None
Motion carries 6-0
ORDINANCE 2020-13: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION OF AN EASEMENT INTEREST IN A PORTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS, AND LOCATED AT, 422 FOREST AVENUE AND DESIGNATED ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS AS BLOCK 5707, LOT 11

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

NON-CONSENT:

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-315: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF SARAH NOVELLO CLAIM

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 20-06-316: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF BRENDA PICONE TO THE POSITION OF POOL ASSISTANT SNACK BAR MANAGER STEP 6 FOR THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL AT A SALARY OF $15.25 PER HOUR

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

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-317: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS THROUGH THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE, 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT

Councilman DiPiazza would like it made clear to the public that Resolution No. 20-06-317 is for nonmilitary equipment. Mayor LaBarbiera confirms that it is surplus from the defense department that is nonmilitary however it might have been used in the military.

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

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-286: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-287: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF OUTSTANDING CHECKS FROM MUNICIPAL COURT GENERAL ACCOUNT AND BAIL ACCOUNT TO THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-288: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994 C.72

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-289: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND TO THE FOLLOWING TAXPAYERS DUE TO TAX COURT APPEALS (Paramus Center Partnership, LLC)

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-290: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND TO THE FOLLOWING TAXPAYER DUE TO PAYMENT FROM TITLE COMPANY AND HOMEOWNER (Rojas)

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-291: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT IN CHUNG, PETER & HEE JOO v. PARAMUS BORO (BLOCK 603, LOT 3, QUAL C0001) TAX COURT OF NEW JERSEY DOCKET NO. 013335-2018

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-292: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION IN THE MATTER ENTITLED, CHRISTINE GUERRA v. BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, MICHAEL J. MORDAGA, ET AL.

DOCKET NO. BER-L-007761-18

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-293: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT TO CERT VOLUNTEER RACHEL HOLDEN

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-294: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DISHCARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR 76 WEST GLEN AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-295: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DISHCARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR 655 FOREST AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-296: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DISHCARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR 102 GREENBRIAR ROAD IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION 20-06-297: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DISHCARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR 325 MCKINLEY BOULEVARD IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-298: AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM A SUB-GRANT AWARD #246 FOR THE SUBAWARD PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING - $10,000.00
RESOLUTION NO 20-06-299: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY RAISE IN HOURLY PAY AS HAZARD PAY TO THE EMS WORKERS OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-300: RESOLUTION OF NEED AS REQUIRED BY NJHMFA WITH RESPECT TO REDEVELOPMENT AREA 4, COLUMBUS WAY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-301: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO MIDLAND AVENUE (SECTION 3) PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-302: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO SIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-303: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SAIGE MASTROPASQUA TO THE POSITION OF POOL SNACK BAR STAFF STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS MUNICIPAL POOL AT A SALARY OF $11.00 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-304: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF BRENDAN CARROLL TO THE POSITION OF 911 TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATOR 1 GRADE 1 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- COMMUNICATIONS AT A SALARY OF $14.22 PER HOUR

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-305: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF JOSEPH WINDT TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 6 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $101,784.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-306: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF JUSTIN SICARI TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 6 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $101,784.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-307: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF HENRY RAMM TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 6 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $101,784.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-308: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF MICHAEL MORDAGA TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 6 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $101,784.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-309: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF THOMAS KEOUGH TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 6 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $101,784.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-310: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF DIEGO CRUZ TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 6 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $101,784.00 ANNUALLY
RESOLUTION NO 20-06-311: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF MICHAEL MULLAY TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 9 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $147,172.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-312: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF JOSHUA CAPIZZI TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 9 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $147,172.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-313: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STEP-UP OF ANTHONY MORDAGA TO POLICE OFFICER STEP 9 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT- PATROL DIVISION AT A SALARY OF $147,172.00 ANNUALLY

RESOLUTION NO 20-06-314: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SEPARATION OF CHRIS CALCAGNO FROM THE PARAMUS GOLF COURSE

APPLICATIONS:

SOLICITOR
Scott A. Byers II  2020-SL-10
Ariel Nascimento  2020-SL-11

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

Mayor LaBarbiera opens to the public for comment at 10:15 PM- None

ADJOURNMENT: 10:15 PM

APPROVED: AUGUST 19, 2020

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
Annemarie Krusznis, RMC
Borough Clerk