Borough of Paramus  
Mayor and Council Special Meeting  
Caucus Room 4:00 PM  
August 6, 2020  
MINUTES

Conference call Dial in - 866-390-1828  
Access Code: 3083465

Resolution No: 20-08-414: Notification of meetings as required by “The Open Public Meetings Act.”

In Accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting of The Borough of Paramus Mayor and Council was transmitted to the Bergen Record on August 4, 2020. Notice was posted on the bulletin board of the municipal building and on the Borough of Paramus website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor LaBarbiera

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Borough Clerk Annemarie Krusznis, Borough Attorney Daniel Lagana, Deputy Borough Clerk Nicolette Riggi, Associate Borough Attorney Katie Mocco

Absent: None

*Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Vartolone, Councilman Verile, Councilwoman Weber are present via phone conference*

Councilman Vartolone questions 20-08-420 in regards to the title being two separate issues. Mr. Vartolone suggests they be on separate resolutions. Ms. Mocco advises that they speak to the same issue regarding indemnification. Mr. Vartolone disagrees and asks Ms. Mocco to explain further. Mr. Vartolone’s concern is the voting and that is why he wants them separately. Ms. Mocco advises that Mayor LaBarbiera, Mr. DiPiazza, Mr. Vartolone & Ms. Weber should recuse themselves, whether it is one resolution or split into two. The underlying matter is indemnification which involves all the parties previously stated. Ms. Mocco explains that the Borough already has representation through insurance; this resolution provides counsel if insurance doesn’t cover. Mr. Lagana explains indemnification is relevant to this lawsuit because of resolution 20-06-321 passed on June 15, 2020.

Motion to split resolutions into 420 & 421

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger  Second: Councilwoman Weber

Yeas: All  
Nays: None

Motion carries 6-0

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 4:18 PM –

Mark Distler – 713 Gettysburg Place – Mr. Distler references a letter from Chief Ehrenberg regarding hiring of police officers. Mr. Distler speaks in support of hiring the 10 police officers. Mr. Distler is disappointed that this matter was not resolved at a previous meeting. Mr. Distler asks that the Council work together without politics and hire the 10 officers.
ORDINANCE ON FINAL

ORDINANCE 2020-19: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT AREA 2, BLOCK 601 LOT 5, IN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger   Second: Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos

Explanation by Council President

Open to Public for comment on Ordinance 2020-19: None

Mr. Kaufman explains that this is important because the Borough needs to close before the end of the year. Mr. Vartolone inquires about restricting the number to 259. Mr. Kaufman explains.

Yeas: Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos, Councilman Vartolone, Councilman Verile, Councilwoman Weber

Nays: Councilman DiPiazza

Abstain: Councilwoman Weber

Motion carries 4-1-1

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO 20-08-416: RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS DESIGNATING TORI BRETT LLC AS CONDITIONAL REDEVELOPER OF REDEVELOPMENT AREA 3

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 20-08-417: RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS DESIGNATING COLUMBUS CROSSING LLC AS CONDITIONAL REDEVELOPER OF REDEVELOPMENT AREA 4

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 20-08-418: RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERIM COSTS AGREEMENT WITH TORI BRETT LLC WITH RESPECT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF REDEVELOPMENT AREA 3 (BLOCK 4808, LOT 6.Q and 6.QQ ON TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS)
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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

RESOLUTION NO 20-08-419: RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 20-03-162 WHICH AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED THE PLANNING BOARD TO EXAMINE WHETHER CERTAIN LANDS DESIGNATED AS LOT 4 IN BLOCK 414 ON THE TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS SATISFIES THE CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION AS AN AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT FOR NON-CONDEMNATION PURPOSES

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger   Second: Councilman Verile
Yeas: Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos, Councilman Vartolone, Councilman Verile, Councilwoman Weber
Nays: Councilman DiPiazza, Councilwoman Weber
Motion carries 4-2

RESOLUTION NO 20-08-420: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS IN THE MATTER OF LABARBIERA VS BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, ET., ALS.,

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger   Second: Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos
Yeas: Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos, Councilman Verile
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Vartolone, Councilwoman Weber
Motion carries 3-0-3

RESOLUTION NO 20-08-421: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS IN THE MATTER OF JOSEPH VARTOLONE VS. THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS AND DANIEL R. LAGANA, ESQ.

Motion: Councilwoman Bellinger   Second: Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos
Yeas: Councilwoman Bellinger, Councilwoman Tedesco-Santos, Councilman Verile
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilman DiPiazza, Councilman Vartolone, Councilwoman Weber
Motion carries 3-0-3

Open to public at 4:40 PM – None

ADJOURNMENT: 4:40 PM
All in favor

APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
Respectfully submitted:
Annemarie Krusznis, RMC
Borough Clerk