

**Borough of Paramus  
Mayor and Council Public Meeting  
Caucus Room  
September 6, 2022, 6:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

**Resolution No: 22-09-542:** Notification of meetings as required by "The Open Public Meetings Act." Read by Deputy Clerk at 6:36 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 6:36 PM**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Also Present: Deputy Borough Clerk Nicolette Riggi, Borough Administrator Hector Olmo, Borough Attorney Brian Giblin

Absent: Borough Clerk Annemarie Krusznis

**BOROUGH CLERK'S REPORT:**

- a. Request received from JR Cigar Casa de Montecristo to hold a cigar event on Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> from 1PM- 6PM. **Approved**
- b. Request received from Dot Dowling to hold their annual block party on Gerald Street from the corner of Olympia Blvd and Glen Ave on Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2PM. **Approved**
- c. Notification received from PSE&G regarding upcoming Sunday work on Route 17 for 5-6 consecutive Sundays required by the DOT, beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> in relation to the new Valley Hospital construction. **Approved**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Bellinger- Inquires on a matter regarding Borough Administrator Hector Olmo receiving vehicle maintenance on his personal vehicle utilizing the Borough's garage, Borough employees, and performed during the Borough's hours of operation. Borough Administrator Hector Olmo responds that it was not done on Borough time. Councilwoman Bellinger clarifies during the Borough work day. Mr. Olmo responds saying he is unsure when they worked on it, they may have been off. Councilwoman Bellinger believes that whether the employees were on break is irrelevant. She defers to the Borough Attorney Brian Giblin. Mr. Olmo says to his understanding this is a common practice. Councilwoman Bellinger asks Mr. Giblin if it is a legal practice. Mr. Giblin says he does not know the answer to the question. Councilwoman Bellinger asks for an immediate investigation as to whether it is a legal practice. Councilwoman Bellinger asks for all film from DPW garage be secured pending investigation. Mr. Giblin says that requests can be made however, Mr. Olmo has rights as an employee to a RICE notice and any further questions can be discussed after the meeting. Councilwoman Bellinger introduces a new topic that had been discussed in meeting prior. She recalls that Borough CFO Sheryl Luna initially claimed funding for the purchase of vehicles, that included the Borough Administrators new vehicle, came from capital not spent on vehicles for the Police Department. Councilwoman Bellinger says after research she found the funds for the Administrators vehicle actually came from this year's operating budget and questions who authorized this. Mr. Giblin says there should be a resolution. Councilwoman Bellinger states there was no resolution brought to the mayor and

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council. Councilman Robert Kaiser suggests the budget committee sit down to discuss the purchase with Ms. Luna. Councilwoman Bellinger requests the matter be looked into as it goes against needs versus wants in spending. Deputy Clerk Nicolette Riggi will look for a resolution authorizing the purchase. Councilwoman Bellinger says all Borough purchased vehicles should follow policy. Mayor LaBarbiera says the Borough should not be working on any outside vehicles and any other practice should come to a stop immediately.

Councilman Kaiser- Reports Golf event was successful. No report regarding Recreation.

Councilman DiPiazza- No Report

Councilman Quintana- No Report

Councilman Antonio- No Report

Councilwoman Weber- Reports DPW leaf collection beginning in early October, they are currently waiting for road surfacing to begin, and Winterizing of pool is beginning as well. Reports Chamber of Commerce taste of Paramus is coming up in September hosted at Pier 1. Mayor LaBarbiera says the Centennial Committee has decided to have a free harvest festival in October with a band in attendance at the Library rather than a \$100 charge per person due to an initial lack of interest. Councilwoman Weber adds that the Paramus Pancreatic Cancer walk will be held September 18<sup>th</sup> at Bergen Community College.

**ADMINISTRATOR' REPORT:** Board of Education inquired about replacing chimneys at Stony Lane School until 10 pm. Mayor LaBarbiera says it depends, based off issues brought to his attention regarding field sharing. Mr. Kaiser advises the Board of Education won't give Recreation keys to utilize the fields. Mayor LaBarbiera says this is denying youth access to fields the Borough and tax payers paid for, and suggests a meeting be set up immediately with the Board of Education. Mayor LaBarbiera says the Borough needs to be first in line to utilize the fields when they are not otherwise in use. Mr. Olmo adds the brook behind Bergen Town Center has been cleaned out and will hopefully alleviate flooding.

**RESOLUTION No. 22-09-543:** Closing the meeting of the Mayor and Council to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman Weber

Second: Councilman Antonio

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion carries 6-0

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**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.

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**Mayor LaBarbiera opens to public for comments at 7:05**

**Grace Parisi** - 273 Cornell Road – says thank you to the council as the trees in front of her house have been taken down and she enjoys the view out of her window now. Mayor LaBarbiera says thank you for bringing the matter to their attention.

**Nora Barrington** - 96 Concord - says neighbor behind her cut down every single tree that wasn't a town tree and would like to know if that is allowed. Mayor LaBarbiera explains there are several towns that have rules regarding this however, Paramus is not one of them.

**Diana Light** - 557 Elliot Place - says trees are being cut down threatening flooding while contractors tear down small ranches and build new mansions and asks what is the Council's proposal to fix this. Mayor LaBarbiera explains push back from other residents that have argued it's their property and therefore their choice has resulted in a lack of ordinances regulating property owners' choices for tree removal and grooming. Mayor LaBarbiera suggests the future council take this under advisement for future ordinances to consider. Mrs. Light suggests educating residents on the benefits of trees and how they prevent flooding. Mayor advises the borough infrastructure is based on a 25-year event, but lately we have 25-year events every other year. Borough Attorney Brian Giblin will research other municipalities tree ordinances.

**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE ON FINAL:**

**ORDINANCE 2022-19:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 340 OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF PARAMUS ENTITLED "REGISTRATION OF FORECLOSURE MORTGAGES AND VACANT PROPERTY"; REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY BY MORTGAGEES AND VACANT PROPERTY OWNERS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT, THE REGULATION, LIMITATION AND REDUCTION OF REGISTRABLE REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE BOROUGH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AS WELL AS AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Motion: Councilwoman Weber

Second: Councilman Antonio

Explanation by Councilwoman Weber

Open to Public for Comment – None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion carries 6-0

**ORDINANCE 2022-22:** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2022-04 AND FIX THE SALARY, WAGE AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS

Motion: Councilwoman Weber

Second: Councilman DiPiazza

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Explanation by Councilwoman Weber

Open to Public for Comment – None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion carries 6-0

**ORDINANCE 2022-23**: ORDINANCE CREATING NEW TITLE AND UPDATING JOB DESCRIPTION AND SALARY SCALE (Director of Fleet Services)

Motion: Councilwoman Weber

Second: Councilman Quintana

Explanation by Councilwoman Weber

Open to Public for Comment – None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion carries 6-0

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-544**: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-545**: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMERCIAL TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY TO SETTLE 2020 THROUGH 2021 TAX APPEALS CAPTIONED: Sipporta Village v. Borough of Paramus  
*Docket #s: 008376-2020; 007285-2021*

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-546**: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND TO THE FOLLOWING TAXPAYERS DUE TO TAX COURT APPEALS (162 Route 4 LLC NJ)

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-547**: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND TO THE FOLLOWING TAXPAYERS DUE TO TAX COURT APPEALS (Boodaghian, Varouge)

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-548**: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND TO THE FOLLOWING TAXPAYERS DUE TO TAX COURT APPEALS (Boodaghian, Varouge)

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-549**: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF TREE PRESERVATION DEPOSIT FROM SHADE TREE TRUST ACCOUNT #2-03-56-286-851-802 TO THE FOLLOWING AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SHADE TREE & PARKS COMMISSION (Mariusz Gryglik)

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-550**: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TREASURER TO MAKE ACCUMULATED VACATION TIME PAYOUT TO KYLE VAN HAASTEREN

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**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-551:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND STANFORD ATRIUM CORPORATION FOR USE OF CERTAIN PARKING LOTS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMAND/STAGING AREAS

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-552:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH ARCHIVE SOCIAL FOR SOCIAL MEDIA ARCHIVING SUBSCRIPTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,988.00

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-553:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING AS PROBATIONARY MEMBERS OF THE PARAMUS RESCUE SQUAD

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-554:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN RAMIREZ TO THE POSITION OF FULL-TIME POLICE TELECOMMUNICATOR STEP 1 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT – COMMUNICATIONS AT A SALARY OF \$41,008.08 PER YEAR

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-555:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF NELSON URIBE VARGAS FROM THE POSITION OF PART TIME LABORER FOR THE PARAMUS DPW TO LABORER-1 FOR THE PARAMUS SHADE TREE AND PARKS DEPARTMENT WITH A SALARY OF \$34,070.00

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-556:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SEPARATION OF GIANNA SCOLA FROM THE PARAMUS GOLF COURSE

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-557:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RESIGNATION OF MICHAEL COLOMBINI FROM THE POSITION OF PART TIME 911 TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATOR 3 FOR THE PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT – COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-558:** A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 22-08-508 AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF NATALY G. VALADEZ TO THE POSITION OF SENIOR OFFICE CLERK FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT STEP 2 \$42,440.11 ANNUAL SALARY

**RESOLUTION NO 22-09-559:** A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 22-08-509 AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOYCELINE APPIAH TO THE POSITION OF SENIOR OFFICE CLERK STEP 2 FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT \$42,440.11 ANNUAL SALARY

**APPLICATIONS:**

**RAFFLE**

Woman's Club of Paramus

File # 887

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion: Councilwoman Weber

Second: Councilman Quintana

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

Nays: None

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Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion carries 6-0

ADJOURNMENT: 7:27 PM

APPROVED: NOVEMBER 22, 2022

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:  
ANNEMARIE KRUSZNIS RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK