

**A WORKSESSION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL WAS HELD, ON JANUARY 16, 2024 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS 355 KINDERKAMACK ROAD ORADELL NJ 07649 AT 7:30 PM.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER- OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

Mayor James G. Koth III called to order and the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act was read and the Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor James G. Koth III  
Stephen Carnevale, Councilman  
Michael Staff, Councilman  
Tracy Schoenberg, Councilwoman – attended through zoom  
Roger Tashjian, Councilman  
Jonathan Kern, Councilman  
Ted Gullo, Councilman

**WORK SESSION DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Bergen County Shared Service Contracts**

Laura Lyons, Municipal Clerk provided a summary explanation and cost information for the annual renewal of Shared Service contracts with Bergen County for the Employee Assistance Plan and Bloodborne Program Training. Consensus of the Mayor and Council directed these resolutions be placed on the agenda for January 30<sup>th</sup> for approval.

Mayor Koth provided a summary of the new shared service proposal with Bergen County regarding tree removal along County roads. There was consensus to list on the public meeting agenda for approval.

**Zoom contract renewal**

Ms. Lyons explained that in examining the renewal bill, there was an excess of accounts and add- on features that are currently not in use and therefore the annual cost could be reduced. Currently the borough is being charged over \$4500.00, with the cost saving measures it would be reduced to under \$1000.00. The Mayor and Council discussed the advantages of keeping a zoom account for governing body members to participate remotely while ensuring the cyber security integrity of the meeting. There was a suggestion to explore Microsoft teams, as it may already be part of the software platform currently being used by the Borough staff. There was consensus to renew the zoom contract at the reduced rate while alternative remote technology is explored.

**Kinderkamack road lighting / pedestrian safety**

Mayor Koth stated that the current lighting along the Kinderkamack corridor and municipal parking lots needs to be addressed. There are issues with outages of lighting fixtures as well as the obsolesces of the current design. He suggested this be included in 2024 capital project discussions. He also stated that a meeting will be held shortly with the appropriate Borough and PSEG representatives to discuss options. Councilman Carnevale stated that municipal parking lots should be included in the project. Councilwoman Schoenberg stated that while Oradell

Police Department officers do a good job reporting the outages, it is time to discuss the replacement of the decorative lights.

### **Skating Pond**

Mayor Koth provided clarification on the Borough's ability to flood the watershed area known as the skating pond. He reiterated the requirements that need to be met for skating to be permitted after the appropriate thickness of ice is achieved. The current weather pattern has not met these requirements, in addition to the facility repairs that are needed. He stated that he is confident that the infrastructure repairs can be made during the summer months.

### **Communications**

Mayor Koth announced he tasked the Communications and Technology committee with developing an official communications plan for the Borough. This would streamline and identify protocols in communicating information with residents. Councilwoman Schoenberg stated she is looking forward to working with the communication committee on this task because she has a background in this field. Mayor Koth stated he issued the directive today to the Councilman Gullo, chairman of the committee who will move the process forward.

### **SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Staff and unanimously carried on voice vote the meeting was adjourned into a special public meeting.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Carnevale, Staff, Schoenberg, Tashjian, Kern, Gullo

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Ms. Lyons, stated the names of the appointments were left blank on the posted agenda as the positions had to be discussed in closed session held prior to the work session. Ms. Lyons announced that Ed Hynes would be appointed in resolutions, 24-51 through 24-55 as well as the Class III member of the planning board, resolution 24-50. She further stated that Melissa Presta would be appointed in resolution 24-57. Mayor Koth provided background qualifications for Mr. Ed Hynes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Paul Latsounas asked for the spelling of the new administrator's name.

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Staff and carried on voice vote the public comment was closed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Resolution 23-51	Mayors appointment of Edward Hynes as Borough Administrator
Resolution 23-52	Appointment of Edward Hynes as Alternate Insurance Commissioner to Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
Resolution 23-53	Appointment of Edward Hynes as Borough of Oradell Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO)
Resolution 23-54	Appointment of Edward Hynes as Community Development Regional Committee
Resolution 23-55	Appointment of Edward Hynes as Open Space Trust Municipal Park Improvement and Land Program Regional Committee
Resolution 23-56	Approve separation payment to PO John Mullins in the amount \$2,630.07
Resolution 23-57	Appointment of Melissa Presta as Municipal Registrar
Resolution 23-58	Appointment of Margarete Denicola to the Environmental/Beautification committee

On a motion made by Councilman Gullo, seconded by Councilman Staff and carried on voice vote the consent agenda was approved.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Carnevale, Staff, Schoenberg, Tashjian, Kern, Gullo

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

### **Mayor's appointment to Planning Board (no council confirmation required)**

Resolution 23-50	Appointment of Edward Hynes to replace Laura Lyons as Municipal Official Class II member of the Planning Board to a one-year term expiring 12-31-24.
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On a motion made by Councilman Gullo, seconded by Council Staff and carried on voice vote the meeting was adjourned into the work session

### **ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Carnevale, Staff, Schoenberg, Tashjian, Kern, Gullo

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Paul Latsounas provided comments regarding repairs at the Hagler Playground that are needed, current litigation pending against the Borough and the need to employ more borough residents. He requested the council plant more trees to remediate all the recent removals. He provided comments on the tree removal ordinance and his concern about population density within zoning board applications.

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Staff and carried on voice vote public comment was closed.

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Staff and carried on voice vote the meeting was adjourned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:09 pm, the public meeting adjourned.

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Laura J. Lyons, CPM, RMC, RPPO  
Municipal Clerk