

A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL HELD VIA ZOOM, ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. The Annual Notice, which details the meetings dates for the year, has been sent to The Record and Ridgewood News, placed on the Municipal Bulletin Board and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER- OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT – ROLL CALL

Mayor Didio called to order and the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act was read.

Mayor Didio: “Notice of this meeting was published in the official newspaper and prominently posted in Borough Hall and filed with the Municipal Clerk in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Pledge of Allegiance –

At roll call, the following were present:
Mayor Dianne Didio

Councilmembers:
Tracy Schoenberg
Roger Tashjian
Stephen Carnevale
Rob Jannicelli
Miriam Yu
Jonathan Kern

Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Laura J. Lyons
Borough Attorney Andrew Oddo, Esq.

Borough Engineer David Atkinson (in attendance via ZOOM)

Flooding Update – various Borough officials

Laura Lyons announced that an email was set up (flooding@oradell.org). We have collected several emails from various addresses in town & have separated them into 3 sections & sent them to the DEP. We are waiting for her analysis. We are still moving forward with trying to get a representative from DEP here in person to address those issues and have resources. Laura explained that she on behalf of the residents & for her own knowledge OPRA'd their entire file on the Hackensack Golf Course Dam. We are waiting for that response. She also asked for language that explains the responsibility of homeowners that have an open water course through their property. They have confirmed that de-snagging, and cleaning of the brook or any open water course is the property owner's responsibility. We are subject to that as well for the partials that we own along the various water courses. In addition, she asked them to break out the page that explains the stream cleaning and where they can get easy access to the DEP as far as permits. Although we have sent over a large packet of emails from the residents, we are continuing to send weekly, so it is encouraged to keep sending emails.

We were able to schedule an onsite meeting with myself, construction official, our borough engineer, along with the foreman of Hackensack Golf Club, Superintendent of grounds of Hackensack Golf Club and their engineer to walk the property yesterday. A subsequent report or summary came from our Engineer today along with pictures. Asked the Borough Engineer who is on the call to give his summary.

Mayor wanted to clarify that at the last meeting we heard that someone from the county was out & indicated to the residents that the town was responsible for the open water courses no matter where they were. Between that meeting and tonight, Mayor spoke with Commissioner Hash and County Executive Tedesco who confirmed in an email writing “while the County inspects the 4 culverts involved in the Van Saun Mill Brook, they found them to be structurally safe. That is their duty and responsibility to inspect those 4 culverts go. The remaining culverts are the Boroughs responsibility. As to the maintenance of the local waterways, he indicated that it not the County of Bergen’s responsibility to do maintenance, dredge, digging or clearing. The Bergen County Mosquito Commission as indicated by our DPW Superintendent at our last meeting, will assist with manpower and specialized equipment for local municipalities if there is a major blockage or massive fallen tree that is causing a damming effect of the local water way that would cause water to pond that would increase mosquitos’ activity. If a Bergen County culvert or bridge is found to be endanger of damage or possible structural integrity is threatened, the County would take the necessary steps to eliminate that condition at the culvert or bridge. County Executive Tedesco further brought to the mayor’s attention that a county employee made a comment about local water ways being the responsibility of the local municipalities and to clarify he said, “local municipalities or the property owner are responsible for the local waterways through out the municipality depending on whose property they course.” Mayor wanted to share that correspondence with the county with the residents.

Dave Atkinson, summarized the visit at Hackensack Golf Course. The Golf course has 2 ponds that are interconnected via pipes. The downstream side of the pond, there is a out-fall structure that controls the level of the pond. Once it reaches a certain height, it goes through this concrete chamber which then spills over into the spillway which has energy dissipations that are in it to reduce the velocity of the flow coming out of the pond which then goes into the outfall structure headwall which then goes into the brook area. Those areas are all installed with energy dissipaters as well as methods to stabilize and control the flow coming out of it. That then flows through a grassed channel- downstream. Then down stream of that there are 2 bridges and some lawn areas. As far as our observation, it appears that there were no signs of failure of the dam. The areas in and around the dam were all in acceptable condition. It is primarily lawn & vegetation. There was no indication of wash outs or blow outs within the lawn areas as well as the downstream side. Like I had mentioned there are 2 bridges down stream of it, that are walking paths and golf cart paths & those were all intact and in place. There were no signs of any erosion or excessive erosion in those areas and overall, it appeared that the dam structure functions as was designed by their engineer. We have communicated with the golf course, and they did indicate that there were no breaches during IDA as far as the top of the dam – going over it. There is a golf course path directly downstream that appeared in good condition. They also have other functions on how to drain the pond. So, there is a 6-inch pipe on the downstream side. That particular structure is designed to lower the pond for maintenance purposes. Based on the information provided to us it would take approximately 1 weeks’ time to drain the entire pond utilizing that particular structure.

Miriam Yu asked if the water didn’t come from the golf course, where did it come from. Dave Atkinson responded with data found on the Rutgers website pertaining to rain fall. Looking at the rain fall data that was compiled at their weather station that is in Haworth at the Suez property

for this particular storm event – just to give everyone a better understanding of what this station does is they collect rain fall data in 5-minute increments. It keeps track of other things as well, as far as wind and different aspects. So as far as this storm – IDA, the storm started at approximately 5:45pm till about 9pm. The rain event dropped about 1 ¾ of an inch of water. Where that title surge, I believe happened, is shortly right after that, at about 9:10 to until right about 9:30pm, so a 20-minute duration.... Asked people to remember that this data is collected from Haworth so the time may be a little off because of the distance. There was another 1.75 inches of rain that dropped in that short duration. So, what I think occurred during this storm event was that first 1 ¾ inch or rain in 3 plus hours' time frame and the water course was already inundated with water and then in a 20-minute time period the sky opened up and dumped even more water which is probably what the surge is that they saw. So obviously, water flows downhill. So, it means water flows where the creeks or brooks are. That particular drainage area are collecting water from the golf course, which the water in the pond is controlled with the structure to keep the water a certain height. There is also drainage coming from the west, the east and everything along Soldier Hill that does feed into that whole brook. So, there is a pretty significant drainage area that is going into these water courses. And I think that is pretty much what was seen as far as these surges. You had this large volume of water that was dumped in such a small duration. As this storm continued on till about 2 or 3 in the morning, the total rainfall was just around 7 inches of rain.

Councilman Jannicelli asked about the valve that they use to drain the pond and asked if there was any record of when they are opening & closing that valve? Dave Atkinson mentioned that the valve from what they had indicated had not been utilized since maintenance of the pond back in 2005 or 2006 time period. When the pond was dredged and the volume of water that could be stored within that pond was increased at that time. They don't go and operate that valve on a frequent basis. As mentioned, if they did open it, there was no indication that any major flows came out of it. To drain that whole pond with that pipe would take about a weeks' time.

Councilwoman Yu mentioned that the residents explained a sudden surge & then the water kind of disappeared. If the rain continued to fall till 2am, how did the water disappear so quickly after that initial surge? Dave Atkinson responded that after the surge comes through, so you have that bid inundation of water & then as the rain subsides, the amount of water that's going there decreases and allows the channel to flow and get out of that area. The Engineer indicated that it is good to hear that the water did get out because that means that the water course is functioning. Its just unfortunate when you have these kinds of historic rain fall events, the water courses can't handle that kind of volume of water. It was asked if a similar storm were to happen again, we should expect same results? He responded that it could. Looking back to the June rain fall event that we had, was very similar data, only difference with that storm was that there was about a 40-minute duration where it dropped 2.68 inches of rain. A little bit less as far as total volume but duration was similar. Mentioned that if you look at the FEMA map – which FEMA has done studies for flood insurance and those types of things. Particularly along the Van Saun Mill Brook – it is a flood zone. It may not be the 100-year flood event, but it is denoted as Zone X which is the 500 year storm. Which is basically just statical data of how frequent potentially a storm can happen. And it gives you an understanding the magnitude of water that could occur during that rain event. It doesn't mean that it is gonna happen once every 500 years. Unfortunately, as we have been seeing, these type of rain events due occur more often.

Councilman Jannicelli added a follow up question, in term of the water going through, under or over the dam, there is no type of release or anything that they have that would explain water flowing? Rains building up as you said for a long period of time, water is going to be flowing, whether there you're seeing a pattern in the grass on the side of the brook or their landscapers I'm sure on a regular basis so you may not even see that. Isn't there any explanation for water

over flowing over their dam. There is no automatic release to keep the pond at a specific level. Dave Atkinson responded No - there is control for the pond. There are different stages. I don't have the engineering calculations for it, but there is what is called a Wheel Wall which is what controls elevation of the water. It has a certain opening for the everyday rain event and that allows X amount of gallons of water to leave. And once it reaches the next level, then there is an overflow grate where the water then goes into that. And then after that, it would have to breach the entire top of the dam. Which again that did not occur during this storm event. So, there is a control to it, when the water over tops these different locations its not gonna send this tidal surge down the water course. So, you have this drainage area and its not just isolated to the golf course, you have a combination of the golf course area, residential homes to the east & to the west and everything goes to this one focal point. And when you have that volume of rain come in such a short duration, that's really what you're seeing as far as the peak of the rain and the surge of water coming down.

Councilwoman Yu asked what we can do to help this problem in the future? Is it possible to dig deeper, or wider on the brook?

Mayor added something that she has been discussing with the Pascack Valley Mayors. This group makes up 10 towns in Bergen County. In the aftermath of the storms that we have been experiencing, in June & Henry & Ida and many local governments in the Pascack Valley are grappling with the reoccurring problem of flooding along our brooks and streams that flow through all of our communities. And until now most efforts focused on the aftermath; improving notice of communication, positioning our rescue assets, assisting residents with clean up and inviting FEMA in to facilitate the claim process for property owners. The flooding that was experienced here in Oradell, was not limited to Oradell. Across municipal boundaries as well as boundaries between New York & New Jersey. So, any local attempts that we do just within our borders will have little effect on the greater systemic intermunicipal & interstate issue. So, at the suggestion Mayor Arroyo of Westwood and as many of you know, Mayor John Berkner who took steps within his municipality within the water courses that flow through there. They still have flooding issues. So, I often say to people who complain about the deer, the deer don't know boundaries, water doesn't either. So, at the suggestion of Mayor Arroyo, I'm hopeful that the Pascack Valley Mayors will be drafting a letter to FEMA asking the agency to fund and conduct a holistic assessment of flooding along the length of the watershed. From the origin point in New York State to the terminus in the Hackensack River. Because unless we look at this holistically, and find out what's happening upstream and downstream, any efforts we take on sections will not do any good. In speaking with representatives with FEMA when they were here a week ago, I learned that when a disaster is declared, and the Federal Government authorizes funding, 20% of that total is set aside for pre-hazard mitigation. I also learned that money is administered through the state, through the counties. So if Oradell, a little municipality, submits its application for the cleanup of our water courses and an analysis of it, the projects are vetted and prioritized first by the county and then by the state. And those that survived the vetting process are then reviewed by FEMA for final approval and funding. FEMA is certainly capable of funding projects that can reduce or eliminate flood hazards on a large scale. Therefore, towns such as Oradell individually applying for these funds, in order to address local pieces of a far-reaching problem may be less attractive to the reviewers than a request to study the interrelated pieces of the problem. Dredging the brooks along a handful of homes, will increase the flow and holding capacity along those properties, but the actual relief can only be as effective with similar efforts upstream and downstream. Therefore, the Pascack Valley Mayors will be requesting an assessment study on mitigating flooding along the length of the Van Saun Mill Brook, Banke Brook, Pascack Brook and other brooks that might be the beginning of truly understanding a problem that not only our residents have faced, but the residents of the greater Pascack Valley

face every time we have an event like this. Such an assessment should yield recommendations and provide a realistic cost benefit analysis of various mitigation techniques. Mayor really feels that a joint effort by these 10 towns carry more weight then just 1 request.

Dave Atkinson responded that Mayor said it the best. We can do stuff locally, and a list of things can be done locally, but without studying upstream and downstream and addressing the different matters, its not going to make much of a difference. If everyone can jump in on this together, communities join forces I think you can get a lot more accomplished in getting the water courses flowing better and get the water out of here quicker.

Mayor suggested opening up the meeting to the public now since we are all here & on this topic. Council all agreed, and Mayor opened the meeting up to the public.

Public Comment (guidelines)

The meeting is now open to the public for discussion of flooding only. Each speaker shall have one turn and not exceed 5 minutes. There will be another Public Comment at the conclusion of the meeting. Please identify yourself at the microphone & remain courteous.

Public Comment: As per Resolution 21-81 (published March 30, 2021 in the Bergen Record) and DCA Local Finance Notice 2020-21 the Municipal Clerk shall enforce all public comment protocols outlined in both documents. Copies can be found at www.oradell.org.

Jared Levine – 796 Woodland Ave- Appreciates all that the Mayor commented on & has done, but want to express the elephant in the room.... Hackensack Country Club. Commented on the “irrigation pond” and various issues related to the Hackensack Country Club dam and his belief of release of water and the process. Spoke regarding the Emergency Action Plan for the Golf Course. Conversation then ensued with Mayor, Tracy Schoenberg & Laura Lyons.

Judy Levine – 796 Woodland Ave – commented that she knew that she lived on a brook, but wasn’t aware that she was downstream from a Class 2 significantly hazardous dam. Further explained and gave definition of the hazard level.

Brian Halligan – 810 Woodland Ave – asked the procedure for inspection of the dam. Dave Atkinson explained that our inspection was just a site visit to see the functionality of the dam. The golf course is responsible to have their own engineer perform an annual inspection of the dam structure itself. And is sure there is a process they follow. And believes every 10 years they have to have what’s called a “formal inspection” which is reported and submitted then to the DEP for their review. Mayor questioned who performs that 10 year inspection report. Dave Atkinson responded that the inspection is done by the property owners & the engineer that he hires to do the inspection. Mr. Halligan asked if we have record of each report. Dave Atkinson and Laura Lyons both responded that we do not and have never seen one come to us. Mayor commented that the only thing that she has seen or has been copied on is the violation notices. Tracy Schoenberg said that should be part of the conversation with Kerry Pflug from the DEP that we are not getting copied on things that we should be copied on. Mr. Halligan asked the Borough Engineer – after the last rain event, when did you visit the Golf Course to inspect the pond. Dave Atkinson responded that his office went on 9/27- and that was the first time since IDA. Mr. Halligan mentioned that it is his understanding that the day after IDA there was large residue of debris outside of the pond which would have indicated that there was an overflow. Thought that maybe the engineer may have been there earlier.

Jared Levine – 796 Woodland Ave – spoke again regarding dam and The Borough Code.

Paul Latsounas – 50 Beverly Road – asked if we have contacted the DEP. Mayor explained the Borough Administrator reported on that at the beginning of the meeting. Asked for clarification on whether it is illegal to collect your rainwater for irrigation purposes in your yard. Mayor responded that she has never heard of this when in fact she has heard of people encourages rain collection bins to save water.

MaryAnn Nelson - 789 Amaryllis Ave – explained the devastation when one has such a “violation” of their home. Expressed concerns that the Borough Engineer took 1 week to go and look at the site when it was clear that there was an issue. There are 5 Mayor & Councils that were made aware of this issue as there are 50 something homes that have concerns whenever there is a storm event.

Paul Latsounas - 50 Beverly Road – commented on DPAC playground – there is a brook where there are telephone poles which are now in the brook. He called to see if they can be removed. Mayor responded that she will have the DPW look into it.

No public comment from ZOOM

Motion to close Public Comment made by Councilman Tashjian seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg. All in favor

Correspondence:

1. August 2021 Police Report
2. Email to Mayor & Council from 485 Seminole re: objection to draft tree ordinance
3. Email to Mayor & Council from Lodi Borough Manager re: application for storm assistance
4. Email from J. Lessersohn re: Support for draft tree ordinance
5. Email from S. Garcia re: Opposition historic commission
6. Email from 435 Summit Avenue re: Opposition historic commission
7. Letter from 361 Grove St re: Opposition historic commission
8. Email from 664 Oradell Avenue re: Opposition historic commission
9. Email from 319 Grove St re: Opposition historic commission
10. Email from K Castro re: Opposition historic commission

Both Laura & Mayor have additional Correspondence that have been received which will be added to the list of Correspondence. Mayor asked if any other Councilmembers received correspondence that needs to be added, please forward them to Laura.

Council President Schoenberg made a motion to file correspondence, seconded by Councilman Tashjian. All in favor

Public Comment (guidelines)

The meeting is now open to the public for Agenda items only. Each speaker shall have one turn and not exceed 5 minutes. There will be another Public Comment at the conclusion of the meeting. Please identify yourself at the microphone & remain courteous.

Public Comment: As per Resolution 21-81 (published March 30, 2021 in the Bergen Record) and DCA Local Finance Notice 2020-21 the Municipal Clerk shall enforce all public comment protocols outlined in both documents. Copies can be found at www.oradell.org.

NO COMMENT ON AGENDA

Motion to close Public Comment made by Council President Schoenberg, second by Councilman Tashjian. All in favor

Agenda items will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of those terms unless a member of the Council requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its sequence on the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Resolution 21-169 | Approve payment of all bills and vouchers in the amount of \$3,394,777.20 |
| Resolution 21-170 | Approve tax overpayment for various addresses to Corelogic in the total amount of \$23,182.37 |
| Resolution 21-171 | Approve Audit and authorize to sign group affidavit for general comments and recommendations |
| Resolution 21-172 | Approve emergency purchase for temporary trailers for DPW due to tropical Storm IDA |
| Resolution 21-173 | Approve waiving of various building dept fees in connection with storm damages |
| Resolution 21-174 | Approve appointment of Jessica Holmes for Library Board of Trustees |
| Resolution 21-175 | Approve membership of Gabriel Martinez as Junior Member of Oradell Fire Department |
| Resolution 21-176 | Approve membership of Tamas Kellerman as Junior Member of Oradell Fire Dept. |
| Resolution 21-177 | Approve appointment of Eric Hicks as Fire Inspector until 12/31/21 pro-rated salary of \$4,160.00 |
| Resolution 21-178 | Approve rejection of bids submitted for re-bid of Memorial Field Memorial Improvements. |

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Yu, Kern

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mayor commented on Councilman Kerns pulling of Resolution 21-157 and explained that while he was on break, Council made some changes to the Resolution to be more focused for Oradell. Councilman Carnevale made some additional changes.

Motion to approve Resolution 21-157 as amended was made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Jannicelli

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Yu, Kern

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Committee Reports:

Administration, Fire & Business Development

Council President Tracy Schoenberg

Fire Dept – thanked the entire Dept especially the water rescue team that were dispatched to many neighboring municipalities during IDA. It was a tremendous effort and went fully through to the next day. She commended the volunteers of the Oradell Fire Dept as well as our other first responders for their efforts. Neighboring communities as well has shared their gratitude.

Reminder that the 50/50 raffle is in its last few days. So if you haven't already got your ticket, please reach out & support the department.

At the last meeting, Old Moe (the vintage firetruck) is now out being basically re-built. Our hope to have it back by the 125th Anniversary celebrations on July 4th. That will depend on the next phase of work. There is also going to be another fundraiser Poker Night in December. That information will be on the website once finalized.

EDAC – Thanked Chris Manscausco, who has been a member of EDAC for several years, he is the owner of America the Beautiful, the flag store in town. He has stepped down as he is just way too busy right now. There will be a new member coming on that has already been identified to replace him. Also wanted to commend the chair, Amy Singer, for her leadership.

Senior Citizens- finally able to get the Senior Citizen Advisory committee back to meeting this Thursday to help plan & get some more programming back on the schedule. Unfortunately, due to flooding that the DPW suffered, we lost our Senior van in addition to a few other vehicles. We are happy to report that through the LESO program, which only costs us the cost of transport we have identified a vehicle that should arrive by mid-week because we know we have Seniors that still need to get to doctor appointments & shopping. Appreciates everyone's patience.

Admin – Asked Laura Lyons for an update on the Handbook. Laura responded that her & Deena spent well over an hour going through her revisions. As the council is aware, this was a major revision. We basically combined 2 different documents into 1. Should have a draft to Laura in the next week or so in anticipation of having a Resolution on to approve it at the October public meeting.

Asked for an explanation regarding the last set of minutes that have been uploaded being April. Laura explained that with COVID, flooding, borough hall flooding and staffing issues, 3 sets are complete, they just need the final proofing. 3 sets will be on the 12th for approval.

DPW & Engineering and Shared Service:

Councilman Roger Tashjian

The Borough Engineer reported on how we took bids for the Memorial restoration & see that you took action tonight to reject the bids. They came in a bit higher than we had budgeted for. We will be going back out for bid. As far as the road work on Prospect Avenue, we continue to have

delays with getting the pipe material that is required for this project. So there still is no start date scheduled as of yet.

Roger & Laura asked questions pertaining to the Prospect Avenue project. Specifically related to deadlines because it was a grant. Borough Engineer responded that they are well aware of the supply issues and continues to keep them abreast of the project. It was also asked about potentially pushing back the start date of the project till after 4th of July since school is in session. Dave responded that cost may be affected with waiting that long but can look into it. He also stated that he didn't think it would really affect traffic since most of the work should be to one side. Pertaining to the War Monument, Laura asked for that 1 section of the bid regarding the concrete work.

DPW committee met this week – spoke a lot about personal issues. Asked for Miriam & John to stay after the meeting tonight just for a few seconds to update on a few things. The DPW is currently working on stags in the brook. We are doing what we can within our bounds to the brooks. It was also discussed about the ongoing concerns of flooding with the DPW facility. Still waiting on trailers & hoping that they will be delivered by the end of the week. Currently in the process of cutting & weeding borough properties and gearing up for leaf season. Mentioned how the cardboard compactor was damaged in the flood, but the recycling center will still be open Saturday. We have limited use of the compactor. We are working on preventing issues like this in the future – like raising the motor of the compactor.

Council President brought up possibly re-configuring that building to prevent future issues with flooding. It was discussed that unless we put a second floor on, there is not much more we can do.

Police, Emergency Management:

Councilman Stephen Carnevale-

The Public Safety Committee met on Sept 15 where they spoke on several items pertaining to the operations & administration of the police department. On Sept 14, Chief, Councilman Carnevale & Council President Schoenberg and officer Dan O'Leary toured the New Milford Police Headquarters which is a newer facility and designed to meet the needs of operating a secure and professional department in today's environment. As it has been discussed, there is a need to address a number of challenges we are facing with our current police facility.

On Friday, Sept 24, the Public Safety Committee along with the Chief and Borough Administrator, conducted interviews for 2 openings in the department. Looking forward to moving to the next steps in the process and will keep everyone posted.

Pedestrian Flags have been installed at the crosswalk of Argyle and Kinderkamack.

Planning Board – met on Sept 13 and approved 1 soil moving application. The next meeting of the board is on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:30pm and will be virtual and televised on OPTV.

The Mayor & Councilman Carnevale continue to work with the Borough Planner regarding the recommendations provided by the planning board based on the re-examination of the Master Plan. The focus at this point is on parking in the downtown area as well as other improvements to enhance the downtown experience for our businesses, residents & visitors. More to come on this project.

Historical Committee met last evening – there was a lot to discuss pertaining to the status of the Proposal to establish a Historical Preservation Commission. At this point, the committee wants

to focus their efforts on continuing to be a source of information and education pertaining to the value and importance of understanding and appreciating the rich history of Oradell as it pertains to its people, events & properties. Thanked all committee members for dedication and support.

Memorial Field War Monument – apologize to fellow residents who have supported this project, in the fact that we are delayed in getting the work started. Unfortunately, the bids that we have received to date have exceeded the budget we have in place and therefore, we need to continue to work with the vendors in order to complete the project at a reasonable cost.

Proposed Tree Ordinance – thanked all residents who have taken the time to share their feedback and prospective. This Draft remains a work in progress & we will continue to keep the public apprised going forward. Confident we will find a solution to insure we maintain the healthy inventory of trees throughout the borough while also recognizing and respecting the rights of private property.

Ordinance:

Councilman Rob Jannicelli

Introduction 21-8

**AN ORDINANCE TO FIX COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN
EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL, COUNTY OF
BERGEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Laura Lyons, gave description & explanation of Ordinance 21-8.

Rob Jannicelli moved to have Ordinance 21-8 be passed on first reading and published in the Bergen Record on Saturday, October 2, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Yu, Kern

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Ordinance Committee needs to get a meeting on the calendar. Laura Lyons requested if the committee could send her availability for the next few weeks she can go off of she can set it up.

Recreation committee – did meet earlier this month and really gave an update at the Work Session – so nothing further to report on that.

NMVAC – met last week. Had 1 new person that is currently going through their EMS training so that is a good thing. A lot of the topics that were discussed were similar to our meeting specifically related to the flood and New Milford being impacted pretty severely.

Steve Carnevale – suggested having an Ordinance meeting regularly scheduled so that it is on the agenda & if there is nothing to discuss the meeting could always be cancelled. Mayor said to make it a set night of the week.

Finance and Insurance:

Councilwoman Miriam Yu –

Tax Collection rate for the 3rd Quarter remains high at 98.64% which is compared to 99% last year. So ever since the pandemic, our numbers really haven't changed in terms of collection rate. The advertisement for next month's Tax Sale has gone out & luckily, we went down from 6 properties that were on the list last month to just 3 this week. Hopefully we get a few more, if not all delinquencies paid before tax sale. Our CFO has been talking about the American Rescue Plan for some time now. She attended a webinar yesterday about the specifics. She said she would send me the information. But one of the things that was talked about was using these fund for water & sewage infrastructure. So as we get more information we will know better as to if we can use these funds on this. The Grant will cover costs that were incurred on or after March 3rd, 2021 and must be obligated by December 21, 2024. Any projects that we commit to and plan to use these funds for must be completed by 2026.

Councilman Tashjian asked about potentially using the grant monies to help with the repairs on New Milford Avenue. Councilwoman Yu explained that we can't because the incident occurred before March 31, 2021. Laura confirmed that we can't use it to repair the break, but to cover another project related to that section and further explained how she requested for a User - Friendly guide as to the cans & cants of the grant.

Library – Hours have been fully restored to pre-pandemic hours, including the Junior Room. Councilwoman Yu spoke about how earlier this year it was reported they return of surplus funds. But based on a deficit of anticipated revenues & the restoring of hours, it is not anticipated that there would be a surplus in this year's budget. Welcomed Jessica Holmes to the board.

Board of Ed OPS– as of 2021/ 2022 – 12 new teachers and 773 students in the school. Councilman Kern asked if the numbers have increased or decreased. Councilwoman Yu responded that she doesn't have the past years numbers in front of her but expects that they are higher. Spoke on the school's vaccination protocols. At the last board meeting several teachers were awarded Years of service Awards – recognizing years of service from 5 years all the way up to 35 years.

Technology and Communication:

Councilman Jonathan Kern –

Tech committee – met yesterday & spoke on various topics. Had an open discussion on the request for proposal for IT Consultant that was advertised this month. Also spoke about the need for more user-friendly website page dedicated to the committee and feels that it should be made more easy for residents to find events such as this meeting on the website. Briefly spoke about the newly implemented Facebook Page and what cyber security issues are needed in administering that page.

BOH – did not meet this month due to a reschedule due to technical difficulties. Councilman Kern alerted council that the Committee is short 2 members and needs them to be filled as soon as possible. So if anyone is interested, please reach out.

OPTV – the OPTV chair advised that he is looking into new audio equipment. This has been brought up to Administration & will follow up. Was advised of the complicated process of transferring recorded Mayor & Council meeting footage for distribution. Basically, it will take a 48 hour time frame at bare minimum to get the content up and running. Mayor asked if it is being

broadcasted live, is it being recorded, and what is the difficulty in getting it up on the website? Councilman Kern explained that it is raw footage that needs to be edited first.

Enviro / Beautification Corn Stalks are being installed on Saturday, Oct 9 at 9am – all are welcome to help. Farmers Market continues through Nov 21. There are 2 new vendors (banana bread & a beekeeper).

Nick Besink – gave an explanation of his process from filming the meeting to airing it. For a 2 hour meeting it takes 6 hours to render it in the computer. If meetings go over 1 hour it becomes a longer process.

Mayor's Report

Meeting coming up with Oradell Bridge Study on Nov 5. We will report at the work session about what comes out of that meeting.

Administrator/Clerk's Report:

A meeting looks like it is finally on the calendar with PSEG & are working on a meeting with Suez & NJ Transit. Calendar prep is underway & the theme is 125th of the Fire Dept. Tomorrow Laura will be on a podcast regarding Early Voting – this election will be a little different to run. Will get as much information out to the Council & the public as soon as possible definitely by the next meeting. Attended a follow up meeting with Peter Kortwright from the County & Dan from the DPW regarding the bus shelter situation. The County came to take a look at the various sites that we had pointed out and seemed as baffled as we were as to why NJ transit would install all of them on a sidewalk. They feel it can be remedied but wants to further speak with NJ Transit to find out why they would have been installed in the first place. The correction is anticipated before the winter comes.

Borough Attorney's Report:

No public report

Old Business:

Mayor asked Laura if there was any word on the Train Station Grant. Laura responded that it is tomorrow that they will be releasing the award.

Mayor asked for an update on the Purple Heart parking space. Laura confirmed that we were looking to dedicate a spot over by the Senior Center.

New Business:

No report

Public Comment:

*As per Resolution 20-208 (published December 1, 2020 in the Bergen Record) and DCA Local Finance Notice 2020-21 the Municipal Clerk shall enforce all public comment protocols outlined in both documents. Copies can be found at www.oradell.org
Each speaker shall have one turn and not to exceed 5 minutes. Please identify yourself at the microphone and remain courteous.*

Ann Sullivan- 505 Birchtree Ln – Gave opinion regarding the Draft Tree Ordinance. Spoke about how in her research many other towns have Tree Ordinances.

Silvana Rosso – 351 Grove St – spoke about Historic Preservation Ordinance and is opposed to it and feels it is a constitutional infringement on rights to renovate our own homes. Spoke about committee members and their comments online.

Councilman Carnevale explained his position as a Council Liaison to the Historical Committee and what his job.

Mike Sullivan – 505 Birchtree Lane – Reiterated what his wife said regarding the Draft Tree Ordinance.

Jim Lessersohn – 524 Birchtree Lane - Spoke on his support of the Draft Tree Ordinance. Although he hasn't read the Draft, he feels it is important to have. Mentioned that the Master Plan already sites trees.

Michael Gallucci – 446 Oradell Ave – Spoke on strongly opposing the Historical Commission. Reiterated about the Committee members & their comments on social media being inappropriate.

John Ferrara – 310 Kinderkamack Rd. - felt property owners needed to have been notified of this Draft Ordinance. Gave opinion on Draft and how it's about control.

Paul Latsounas - 50 Beverly Rd – spoke on various topics regarding playgrounds. Spoke on the vehicles that were left at DPW when we knew a storm was coming.

Polyakova Gengrinovich- 373 Oradell Avenue – Gave her opinion on Draft Tree Ordinance and Historic Commission

Sam Tripsas – 327 Maple Avenue – Gave his opinion on the Historic Commission & explained why he is in favor of it and defended the Draft Ordinance. Argument ensued with Mr. Tripsas & residents.

Jared Levine – 796 Woodland – Gave opinion on how to be successful and the need to follow through on projects. Commented that the committee has tried to stop a variety of projects in town such as the restaurant or the United Way project.

John Falcone- 795 DeMarrais Pl – Spoke on transparency and thoughts on how this town has transformed over the years.

Rachel Kuglemass- 640 Blauvelt Dr – VIA ZOOM - gave personal story on developing & restoring her home without touching existing trees. Feels there should be some sort of permitting process before a tree is removed.

A motion to close public comment made by Mayor and seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg. All in favor

Councilman Tashjian asked if we vote on the Historical Commission vs Committee. Councilman Carnevale commented that since there is not a formal Ordinance there is really nothing to vote on. The only time this was ever really discussed was during the Work Session which is designed for just that. To be able to have open discussion on any item that's under consideration. We have not presented a formal Ordinance on either the Tree or Historical which means there has been no property notification because it is not an ordinance yet. Its an idea. So, at the next Work Session

we can decide if we want to pursue one or both of these ideas. But there is nothing to formally vote on as a Council because there is no formal Ordinance in place to consider. Council members gave their personal opinions on one or both of the ideas (Historic & Tree).

Mr. Lessersohn brought up again the Master Plan as it pertains to trees. Mayor gave clarification & explanation.

Councilman Carnevale gave further explanation on both ideas.

Mayor spoke on the proposed Draft Tree Ordinance and feel that we can work together to create something that is a happy medium.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Tashjian and seconded by Councilman Jannicelli. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

At _____pm, the public meeting adjourned.

Laura J. Lyons, CPM, RMC, RPPO
Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk