

A JOINT PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL HELD VIA ZOOM, ON AUGUST 24, 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:
Roger Tashjian
Stephen Carnevale
Rob Jannicelli
Miriam Yu
Jonathan Kern

Council President Tracy Schoenberg (ABSENT)

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

Discussion Items :

1. 2021 Department Capital requests : DPW, Rec, and Admin
 - Dan Nywening was present to present the **DPW** Capital Requests. Started with Building and Grounds requests. Explained the items that are required to bring building up to code and things that need to be upgraded for safety. Moved to requests for the DPW. Requested replacement for vehicles that are unsafe to be used or have met its expiration. Currently we have no spare vehicles to put on the road in the situation of a breakdown. The Superintendent was able to proactively secure rentals for the snow season to protect us. Discussions on when to have another auction. The CFO recommended having one sooner rather than later.
 - Joseph Gothelf presenting for **OEM**. Spoke on the second half of the radio program. A huge chunk was taken out of the request, but there is a portion that is needed to finish it out. \$177,000.00 will complete the project in entirety. Borough Admin asked once the project is complete, what is the life expectancy of the project. Joe Gothelf should last another 20 years plus. Some of the equipment we are replacing are from 2003. Councilman Carnevale asked if the radios require software updates, Joe Gothelf responded that they do & we can do that in house. Borough Administrator further added

that she recommended aggressively pursuing closing out this project as soon as possible. We did have some dead spots in town & this will enable our Fire Dept to speak to our Police Dept and DPW Superintendent. It's important for everyone to be able to speak to one another in times of emergencies.

Admin – Improvements to Borough Facilities. We have put some monies into a fund to allow for things such as painting and carpeting. Borough Administrator doesn't want to put that kind of money again into this until we know exactly what we want to do with the building. Recommended that Council consider at least \$20-25,000 for repairs to facilities. We kept it open to all Borough facilities so that if it's not to be used on this building but let's say a field house that we would be able to use the monies where it is needed.

Borough Administrator explained that even though it is clear that we don't want to move forward with the second-floor renovation & knocking walls, it is uneasy to have a zero balance on the account in case there is an issue that needs to be resolved.

The Borough Administrator gave explanation on the Sidewalk Replacement Program which was created back in 2008. We were funding this program every other year, the issue at hand was that the cost of the sidewalk slabs had skyrocketed so much that we ended up funding fewer residents. Add that we use a professional tree expert now and planting the appropriate trees which is resulting in having less damage to sidewalks due to Borough Trees. Borough Administrator feels that we are at a time where we can pull back from funding this elective program. It is not mandated and not required. When we have some big-ticket projects, you kind of get forced to look at these smaller elective programs for a year or more. But at the same time, does not recommend taking a break in the street planting program. A pause was taken last year. Funding for 1 round of tree planting is roughly \$20,000 and would like to consider that for Spring of next year. So ask that we put \$20,000 in the budget for planting next Spring. Rob Jannicelli asked how many trees we have had to take down do to things like the Ashborne disease? The Borough Admin responded that she doesn't have the exact number but knows that it was substantial.

Recreation – Requests 1) softball regrading at Memorial Field – The 1 pocket that needs attention is the softball field. Its substantial but an area that really needs it - \$100,000 Councilman Jannicelli commented that other facilities have been renovated & this field is really next in line. Main thing is to keep momentum. Suggested to create a sinking fund to help complete out the rest of the recreational facilities. Councilman Tashjian asked where we are with Field usage fees. Mayor & Councilman Jannicelli responded that conversations need to continue field usage fees. They kind of stopped due to COVID. Councilman Carnevale, commented on Sinking Funds and fees they shouldn't be touched for quit some time to help build up. 2) request is Creation of the Pickle Ball Court. \$15,000 A lot of people have shown interest. Would be able to potentially utilize the 5th tennis court. Laura commented on the lighting system at the Tennis Courts. Suggested that maybe we look into working out the kinks on this system since it is definitely old & needs some attention.

Councilman Carnevale asked if we are not approving this till October, does decisions on the capital expenditures for 2021 impact our taxes for 2021? Katie Chen, the Borough CFO responded that this would not have an effect on the tax rate for 2021. And further explained the process.

Councilwoman Yu asked questions on the sidewalk replacement program. Borough Administrator gave explanation.

Mayor asked Katie to go over the summary of the summary she did on Debt Service. Confirmed that it is not inclusive on the BANS. Total Debt is about 17million. Katie

offered to do an updated spreadsheet including the BAN & environmental Infrastructure loan. Laura & Katie discussed how we have extensively been paying down our debt. Mayor is asking to see how much we have rolled off over the last 3 or 5 years. So that we can see where we were and where we are now.

Conversation ensued with Mayor & Laura over the Special Events Committee. I see we have 1 Citizen Leadership form, but it wouldn't be fair to the individual to be the sole committee member. Mayor suggested holding off till Re-Org to reinstate that committee.

2. Historic Committee

- Laura Lyons gave explanation on the Historical Committee and how she has been actively reaching out to her colleagues in adjoining municipalities (Pascack Valley) who are committee forums. To get their prospective of pros and cons. It just has been challenging to get people together. Some are not meeting since COVID. But hope to get some people scheduled to speak by the next meeting.

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 PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Correspondence: 1. June and July Police Reports

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 21-155	Approve payment of all bills and vouchers in the amount of \$9,227,499.35
Resolution 21-156	Authorize the Treasurer's Office to cancel stale dated checks
Resolution 21-157	Approve call for reinstatement of state and local tax deduction (SALT)
Resolution 21-158	Authorize tax overpayment reimbursement for Block 209 Lot 8 in the amount of \$5,371.50
Resolution 21-159	Tax Sale Certificate redemption 18-00002 \$79,190.14
Resolution 21-160	Authorize electronic tax sale for 2021
Resolution 21-161	Amend Resolution 20-201 increase not to exceed number from \$14,930.50 to \$17,500
Resolution 21-162	Authorize emergency repair and purchase of Stairwell Doors for Borough Hall in the amount of \$26,495 to Deutscher and Daughter, Inc.

Resolution 21-163	Approve purchase of Hooklift from ESCNJ coop in the amount of \$70,850.00
Resolution 21-164	Approve membership to Oradell Fire Department for Arthur Miller
Resolution 21-165	Approve Little Library Structures in Oradell
Resolution 21-166	Approve rejection for Memorial Field Monument Improvements and authorize to rebid
Resolution 21-167	Approve various members to committees
Resolution 21-168	Approve Frank Stefano as a probationary Police Officer to Oradell Police Department

Councilman Kern asked to pull Resolution 21-157.

Amendment to 21-167 – removed Special Events from members being appointed to Committee.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Yu, Kern

Nays: None

Absent: Schoenberg

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: Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Yu, Kern

Nays: None

Absent: Schoenberg

Abstain: None

Committee Reports:

Administration, Fire & Business Development

Council President Tracy Schoenberg

No report since ABSENT from meeting. Laura Lyons touched on Admin regarding the updating of the Employee Handbook. Big undertaking and have taken a very long time, but the light at the end of the tunnel is close.

Senior Citizens have been working on getting some more programming.

DPW & Engineering and Shared Service:

Councilman Roger Tashjian

The Borough Engineer reported on a few ongoing projects.

Laura Lyons added some more information to the Memorial Bid that was bided explaining that

the prices were much higher than anticipated & what was budgeted for.

Dave Atkinson further spoke on the structural evaluation of the municipal complex. Structurally, the building is sound, although there are some deficiencies and recommendations were made.

No DPW meeting, so no report.

Police, Emergency Management:

Councilman Stephen Carnevale-

The Public Safety Committee met on July 28 & Chief Wicker reported on various administrative items. Nothing specific at this time. Next meeting will be sometime September after school starts. Still working with Chief regarding the crosswalk at Argyle & Kinderkamack. This will need to involve the County since Kinderkamack is a county road. Also working with Rotary on putting pedestrian flags at that intersection as well. Will keep you posted.

Planning Board – meeting for Sept has been moved from Sept 7 to Sept 13 in recognition of Rosh Hashanah. This meeting will be 7:30 and once again be held virtually.

Historical Committee doesn't usually have meetings in August. So next meeting will be Sept 27.

Tree Ordinance – there were updates made to the DRAFT document based on feedback. This document was recirculated for additional feedback & should be ready for discussion at the September meeting.

Mayor asked Councilman Carnevale to reach out to the Chief on something she had seen on the news regarding the 6hour handgun – P320's have been reported to have been discharging on its own & wants to make sure that this is not the gun that our department are using.

Ordinance:

Councilman Rob Jannicelli

Ordinance Committee did not meet this month. We do need to get a meeting scheduled. Laura commented that yes – and gave update on her research in preparation of the meeting. Conversation ensued on recreation fees and EV parking spots.

NMVAC – very quick meeting. Only topic relevant to Oradell was the 9/11 event. They weren't sure they would have a rig available because there is a NM football game.

Recreation committee did have a meeting last week and received update on the score boards installation. Asked Laura for an update on the Grant for Hoffman. Laura explained that she has been working with a bunch of different people with the County. Still a few loose ends that she is trying to tie up so that she can hand it over to Ken.

Topic of discussions at the meeting were: capital requests, coaching, residential use of basketball courts and moving the Rec committee meeting date. Laura will follow up with Ken on the date.

Finance and Insurance:

Councilwoman Miriam Yu –

Explained the bills list & why the amount is so high. 5.4 million is to the school boards. 3rd quarter collection rate still remains high.

Tax Sale will be virtual again tentatively set for Oct 25. As of today there are 6 properties. Some

are anticipated to drop off before the Tax Sale.

American Rescue Plan – there was an interim ruling for municipal to submit an expense report by Oct 31. Although still unclear as to what the funds can be used for, we do know that for 2022 it can be used for loss of revenue due to COVID in 2021. Miriam Yu asked if road paving or sidewalk improvements are considered infrastructure. Dave Atkinson and Laura Lyons responded that he thinks its more sewer based or Public Health. The CFO will be reaching out to other CFO's to see what they are doing. We are trying our best to take the advise of our Auditor since there is no clear direction given.

Library – There was a meeting to clarify what the DPW should and shouldn't be responsible for. A portion of the Library surplus funding from last year will be returned – \$11,335.

The Library wanted to host an event at the gazebo at Schirra but the requirements from JIF forced the event to be cancelled. Spoke to Gerard Quinn & he confirmed that there is no way around this.

Youth Services Director of the library had a meeting with Tracy Schoenberg & members of Oradell For All to discuss how it can be involved and proactive in providing services with special needs.

Library did sustain some water in the lower level. It seemed to be the result of a clog in the AC drain which the DPW fixed and cleaned up. But just yesterday there was another leak unrelated to the HVAC. Will find out more bout that.

Board of Ed – Back to school night has been moved from Sept 23 to Sept 9th. Parking lot was paved to add 6 more parking spots. School also sustained water in their basement. Looking into ways to remedy this. Due to COVID the board was left with higher than normal surplus, and plan to remodel the auditorium. OPS will be providing childcare for those of need through YWCA. Return to OPS next Thursday 9/2 for full in school programing.

Technology and Communication:

Councilman Jonathan Kern –

Tech committee – nothing to report. Next meeting is in September

BOH – no meeting this month. Also meeting in September

Zoning – met on 17th virtually. Voted in favor for residential variance for 779 Clinton Ave.

OPTV – looking into 2 grants. Hoping to meet with Grant writers. Awaiting from a response to see if Verizon list of contacts where they service customers and hopefully resolve some issues with cable assess.

Enviro / Beautification – farmers market was still open during the rain this past Sunday. There is a new booth to facilitate secondhand products that were being handed out for free. So if anyone is looking for some second hand products come by & check out their booth. Looking to get a 3rd TREK bench.

Mayor's Report

Mayor reported on an article that was in the Bergen Record regarding the rehab of the Oradell Garage (NJTransit). Mayor wanted to report that although they do plan on work the garage, this article was really regarding a new Northern NJ garage in Ridgefield Park. The garage in Ridgefield Park is scheduled to be completed by end of Dec 2022- opening for service is 2028. The garage here in Oradell is over 60 years old & is scheduled to be rehabbed as they get closer to completing the Ridgefield Park garage.

Art in the Park will be installed in Schirra Park on 9/19 rain date 9/26. Artist was chosen. This is park of a grant and will be an interactive, educational exhibit and will speak of history of Wally Schirra. Looking for artists 18 years or older to help with the installation.

Stigma Free will be participating in the Health & Wellness fair at RiverDell HS on Saturday 9/25 (raindate 10/9).

Administrator/Clerk's Report:

CFO & Laura met on the phone with the Auditors to go over the potential audit comments. Waiting now for the final report which should the September Work Session and add resolution to adopt at the September public meeting. October meeting will have the corrective action plan.

Sept 29 (tentative date) a decision should be made from NJ Historic Trust on a HUGE grant. This would be for the train station to allow us to do a major rehab.

Borough Attorney's Report:

No public report

Old Business:

No report

New Business:

No report

Public Comment:

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Paul Latsounas 50 Beverly Rd – spoke on various topics

Joe – Maple Ave – Question regarding attending virtually. Laura explained that the website is new & working out kinks. Apologized in not receiving his inquiry, but all meeting Zoom information is posted on Mondays which has the Hyperlink. Laura explained that you can come into the meeting through Zoom, on the telephone or watching on OPTV. Then further asked about the reduction in the library budget. Laura responded that she doesn't have the exact numbers in front of her, but it is a statutory number. Laura explained that all departments have had a reduction to their budgets across the board. Mayor further added that tonight they spoke on Capital which are long term projects. Cuts in Departments were in Operating Budgets and those were cut because of the cut in services and hours due to COVID. Laura explained that these are some of the challenges that the Council must face. There was further explanation on American Rescue Funding.

Mr. Belthoff – extended thanks Mayor & Council, borough employees & professionals during these challenging times. Questioned the pipe cones that were placed on Kinderkamack by the commuter lot, east of the railroad tracks. People can't make a left hand turn out of that lot,

Councilman Carnevale said that was a good point and he will bring it to the Chiefs attention. They were intended for pedestrian safety.

Also added 230 Merritt Dr. a new home is being built, but it looks terrible since the work has stalled possibly due to COVID. There is scaffolding & garbage all over the place & should be cleaned up. Laura Lyons responded that she will have Steve Depken go look. Dave Atkinson further added that he got an email today regarding meeting him there as far as a complaint due to storm water.

Mr. Sam Tripsas 327 Maple Ave – commented and gave his opinion on Historic Committee vs Historic Commissions.

A motion to close public comment made by Councilman Tashjian and seconded by Councilman Jannicelli. All in favor

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