

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL HELD VIA ZOOM, ON JANUARY 25, 2022

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 Municipal 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 – led by Police Officers Ligouri, Costa and Pressburger

ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk

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

Swearing In: Promotions to Sergeant Oradell Police Department - Resolution 22-54

Mayor Didio provided the oaths of office to:

Officer Richard Liguori

Officer Roger Pressburger

Officer Kyle Costa

Discussion Item:

The Borough Planner Caroline Reiter, presented a proposal to prepare, advise and recommend ordinances concerning land use amendments. There was a suggestion that a subcommittee be formed to work along with the Borough Planner during the process. Ms. Reiter indicated a separate project to be considered would be to update the Borough zoning map. Mayor Didio asked for Mrs. Reiter to submit a proposal for the update to be considered at an upcoming meeting. Mrs. Lyons indicated that if there was consensus of the Council regarding the land use ordinance proposal a resolution could be added to the next agenda for approval. The Council agreed.

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.

Paul Latsounas, 50 Beverly Rd asked for clarification on resolution 22-67.

Motion to close public comment made by Councilwoman Schoenberg, second by Councilwoman Yu. All in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion to file Correspondence made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Kern. All in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Agenda items listed will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussions of those terms unless a member of the Council or a citizen request, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its sequence on the agenda. All resolutions were posted in accordance with statutory provisions.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 22-55	Approve payment of all bills and vouchers in the amount of \$4,783,759.58
Resolution 22-56	Approve annual contract with ADS for payroll and pension services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000
Resolution 22-57	Approve Elizabeth Stass as PT Technical Assistant for Building Department at an hourly rate of \$25/hr not to exceed 29 hours
Resolution 22-58	Approve Ken Baumann as FT Recreation Director at a pro-rated salary of \$70,000
Resolution 22-59	Accept resignation of Sgt Kevin Doyle effective January 31, 2022
Resolution 22-60	Approve annual resolution establishing Green Team
Resolution 22-61	Approve application to Sustainable Jersey for Rain Garden and downspout planter in the amount of \$10,000
Resolution 22-62	Approve application to Sustainable Jersey for electric leaf blowers in the amount of \$2,000
Resolution 22-63	Declaration of emergency purchasing due to national vehicle shortage
Resolution 22-64	Approve purchase of vehicles for DPW in the amount of \$134, 261 to Beyer Ford, LLC
Resolution 22-65	Approve annual resolution to BCUA for preparation of 2022 tonnage report
Resolution 22-66	Support the designation of EMS as essential government services by Governor Murphy
Resolution 22-67	Support legislation for Liquor License reform
Resolution 22-68	Approve Aiden Burns as Cadet member of the Oradell Fire Department

Resolution 22-69	Approve Dan Erben as Regular member of the Oradell Fire Department
Resolution 22-70	Rescind resolution 21-213 special emergency resolution and re-establish amount to \$48,000 to be raised over three budget years.
Resolution 22-71	Approve Gordon Kohle as General Foreman of DPW for annual stipend of \$750 effective 2/1/22

Councilman Kern requested to pull 22-64.

Motion to approve the consent agenda with exception of Resolution 22-64 made by Councilwoman Yu, seconded by Councilman Carnevale.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Councilman Kern indicated that he would need to abstain from Resolution 22-64.

Councilman Tashjian stated the Borough was fortunate to obtain the vehicles due to the national shortage.

Motion to approve resolution 22-64 made by Councilman Tashjian and seconded by Council President Schoenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Yu

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Kern

Committee Reports:

Administration, Fire & Business Development

Council President Tracy Schoenberg

Mrs. Schoenberg this was an exciting year for the Fire Department. They are celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the organization. Pictures are being posted on Facebook of the department over the years. She thanked Tom Bernard for putting the 2021 year in review and reported various statistics. The Fire Department responded to 299 calls, 69 mutual aid calls in 12 different municipalities including 2 in Rockland County. Approximately 1,871 incident response hours and 2,038 training hours. She provided names of the top 10 responders: Stan Kufel, Rob Cappichioni, Greg Trass, Tom Bernard, Kevin Burns, Joe Gothelf, Raymond Gibney, Frank Gangemi, Chief Joe Lomoriello and Jeff Bernard. The department secured a \$30,000 in a federal grant to replace hoses & nozzles as well as introducing a new radio system.

She thanked Dan Nywening, DPW Superintendent for designing the layout for a revamp of the Senior Center Kitchen grant. The Borough applied for a \$50,000 grant from T Mobile. The company provides community improvements. The Borough has desired to improve the kitchen for many years in order to enhance senior programming.

Councilwoman Schoenberg indicated she is working with Ken Bauman, Recreation Director to organize the first Senior Citizen Advisory meeting. She provided an update to the replacement of the Senior Van that was damaged during hurricane Ida.

Mrs. Schoenberg announced that Amy Singer has returned as Chair to the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). She thanked her coming back to the leadership role. At January's meeting, some new members were welcomed. This restores the balance of residents to business owners. The committee has recognized the need to better improve notification to the local businesses. The committee will be working with OEM and the Police Department to create and update a master list to use when needed.

Mrs. Schoenberg provided an overview of the goals for the Oradell for All committee. She announced that the committee is looking for additional members. If anybody is interested and has experience, knowledge or living- being differently abled or supporting anyone differently abled please contact the Clerks office for a volunteer form.

She reported that a strategic meeting was held between various Borough officials and the grant writers to outline goals for 2022.

Mrs. Lyons provided an overview of the meeting held with the Director of the Historic Trust and Grant writers in relation to the Train Station Grant of 2021. Mayor Didio requested that this be listed as a topic for discussion at the next work session. Mrs. Lyons stated that she will ensure that the grant writers be on the zoom to answer any questions.

Council President Schoenberg inquired as to the annual salary recommendation memo submitted to Admin Committee. Mrs. Lyons indicated that she will be issuing it shortly along with the applicable reviews.

Mrs. Schoenberg also provided an overview to the newly created subcommittee assigned with Borough building and facility assessment. An initial meeting was held to outline the objectives. Tours of the buildings are being set up and regular reports will be issued to the full governing body.

Council President Schoenberg stated that the Governing body received two memos from the Admin Committee concerning their recommendation to examine the joint position of Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk. She stated it had been approximately 10 years since the position was created and no examination on the position had been issued. She stated that the committee recommended this examination be performed to assess if the needs of the community are being met by a combined position. She stated that she along with Councilman Carnevale indicated that programs had been expanded, additional initiatives are being identified as well as growing the grants program. Therefore they feel the Borough would be best served by splitting the Administrator and Clerk rolls into two separate full time positions. She referenced the memos that specified the responsibilities. She commented that this is not based on a performance issue of any particular person. She stated this committee's process was an examination of the day to day requirements. She further stated that she and Councilman Carnevale met with Mrs. Lyons last week to discuss. She is looking for consensus from the Council to discuss the separation of the positions. She indicated this is a process and many steps would have to take place. Funding the position along with locating the office needs to be considered. Councilwoman Yu asked for comparative information of neighboring towns. Council President Schoenberg commented the

memo submitted over the weekend provides those details. Councilman Kern asked if additional administrative assistants could offset the balance of required duties. Mrs. Schoenberg that the committee examined the organizational chart from the top down. Councilwoman Yu offered her support in examining the positions Councilman Jannicelli, indicated that in a corporate structure position are looked at annually, not every 10 years. This should be an internal process, and it had not been done within the Borough.

Councilman Carnevale added that organizational effectiveness is vital to every entity in organizations. He commented that is the objective in this exercise that has been identified. He further stated this process is going to enable the council to make sure that we are operating at the highest level in terms of our effectiveness, productivity and thinks it will be a healthy exercise to go through. Mayor Didio asked if there was support to move this process forward. There was consensus of the council. Council President Schoenberg stated the committee will now look deeper into the thoughts that were in the first memo with breakdown of job responsibilities, salary recommendations etc.

DPW & Engineering and Shared Service:

Councilman Roger Tashjian

Borough Engineer Dave Atkinson provided an update on Borough projects.

Councilman Tashjian reported the DPW committee met yesterday and reported that Rey is out with a suspected hernia and will need surgery on March 1 and will be out probably 3-6 weeks after that. He stated the pond is currently filled and waiting for cold weather. He stated that it takes approximately two weeks of below freezing temperatures for that pond to be ready to skate on. He stated that the minimum wage rate for part time plowers is a concern to the committee. Mrs. Lyons provided an overview of some options and stated she would discuss with Dan Nywening.

Police, Emergency Management:

Councilman Stephen Carnevale-

Councilman Carnevale stated that Chief Wicker provided a report to the committee in early January outlining the key initiatives. This includes the recruitment of an officer to complete the back fill of open positions, the sergeant promotional process which concluded this evening. He congratulated the newly promoted Sergeants. He did not have a formal update on OEM. Mrs. Lyons indicated she met with the OEM coordinator on Friday and stated they went over 2022 objectives.

He stated that the Planning Board met on January 11th and the next meeting is scheduled for February 1st. He stated the Historical Committee held its first meeting last evening. The focus of the meeting was developing speaking events and other educational events to promote awareness and appreciation for the value and importance of historical preservation. He stated the tree removal ordinance will be ready in the upcoming months for introduction.

Ordinance:

Councilman Rob Jannicelli

INTRODUCTION

22-1

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

The Borough Administrator provided a brief description of the ordinance.

Councilman Jannicelli moved Ordinance 22-1, be passed on final reading and published in the Bergen Record on Monday, January 31, 2022, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Councilman Jannicelli provided a Recreation update. He congratulated Ken Baumann for becoming full time Recreation Director. Councilman Kern and Carnevale added congratulations. He stated the Recreation committee met virtually on the 13th. A new member was welcomed. He announced the annual coaches training. He stated that Ken is working on outlining the details for the return of the summer program.

He inquired to the status of the NMVAC insurance requirements.

Finance and Insurance:

Councilwoman Miriam Yu –

Councilwoman Yu provided an overview of year-end financial statistics. The unaudited overall collection rate for 2021 was 98.63% compared to the 99.59% in 2020. This figure may change when the final annual statement is prepared. But this is an unaudited number, so this number typically raises once they do their final audit. She outlined the Borough allotment of ARP funding. Mrs. Lyons recapped the current provisions for usage but indicated final regulations were recently issued. She stated she has the CFO enrolled in a webinar in order to become versed in the program. She announced the budget meeting dates. She also announced the final amount to be reduced by resolution for the special emergency funding in connection with Hurricane Ida.

She stated that the Library Board met on Wednesday, January 12. The Reorganization meeting selected Sheila Sterling as president, Eileen Gabriele as Vice President and Jim Lessersohn as 2nd VP and our newly appointed Jessica Holmes will be as secretary.

She reported that the Board of Ed held their re-organization meeting on January 7. Newly elected members were sworn in. She provided a recap of ongoing projects and enrollment numbers.

Technology and Communication:

Councilman Jonathan Kern –

Councilman Kern stated the IT committee is vetting the potential new IT vendor. References are being examined and if recommended an interview will be scheduled.

He stated the Board of Health met on January 10 for their initial reorganization meeting. New members are still needed to ensure ongoing quorums.

He reported that OPTV will have their first scheduled meeting on January 27 to discuss issues and initiatives related to the new year 2022.

He reported the Environmental committee met on January 5. Two grant applications have been initiated for Sustainable Jersey (\$10,000 grant for rain garden & \$2,000 grant for possibly non gas leaf blowers). A tentative date for Borough Planting has been set for May 15. Another topic discussed was the borough's participation in the 2nd annual Arts Amble which is scheduled for June 10 – 12th.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Didio acknowledged Kate Beatie, police chief secretary who is retiring at the end of this month. A plaque will be given at the February work session. She provided a recap of the Stigma Free Committee that was held last night. There are also a few events scheduled in May for mental health month. She also provided an upcoming schedule of meetings she is to attend with Pascack Valley and Bergen County Mayors.

Administrator/Clerk's Report:

Mrs. Lyons issued a reminder that the meeting for February has changed. The change was made to accommodate the school closing for winter break.

Borough Attorney's Report:

No public report

Old Business:

Councilman Jannicelli and Councilman Tashjian discussed the efforts needed to get the skating pond ready. He asked if portable lights can be moved to the site. Mrs. Lyons indicated the Borough will have to follow JIF requirements.

New Business:

Councilman Jannicelli stated Little League has submitted a request for a storage shed for equipment at DPAC & 1 at Memorial. He asked for confirmation this was scheduled for the work session discussion. Mayor Didio added the discussion regarding handicap parking on Center Street for the church. Mrs. Schoenerg asked everyone to support the two River Dell students that are up for athlete of the week for the Bergen Record.

Councilman Tashjian requested that the department heads log on to the budget meeting zoom ahead of their time slot so the meeting is not delayed.

Public Comment:

Each speaker shall have one turn and not to exceed 5 minutes. Please identify yourself at the microphone and remain courteous.

Paul Latsounas, 50 Beverly Ave asked the Borough Attorney for the closed session topics discussed this evening. He inquired if there is an Ordinance for underground parking garages and asked if this has been discussed. He provided comment regarding his request for a Public Advocate for 66 Kinderkamack Rd project.

Dave Banfield, 80 Prior Ct – NJSpotlight.org has a webinar available related to storm water energy. Asked if we have received any communication from Verizon as far as 5G antennas? Mrs. Lyons responded that she has not been contacted.

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

A motion to adjourn into closed session the meeting was made by Councilman Schoenberg and seconded by Councilman Tashjian. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:38 pm, the public meeting adjourned.

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