

A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL WAS HELD, ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF ORADELL BOROUGH HALL 355 KINDERKAMACK ROAD ORADELL NJ 07649

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

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

ROLL CALL

Mayor Dianne C. Didio
Tracy Schoenberg, Councilwoman
Roger Tashjian, Councilman
Stephen Carnevale, Councilman
Rob Jannicelli, Councilman
Jonathan Kern, Councilman
Michael Staff, Councilman - Absent

PRESENTATIONS:

Eagle Scout Project- Conor Olsen presented his Eagle Scout project to clean up the debris and brush from Lotus Woods. The council approved his project.

Matthew Bickerton, Bergen County Entomologist presented on the current status of the Spotted Lanternfly issue facing NJ. He provided suggestions on how to deal with the insects and answered questions from the Mayor and Council.

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Didio presented proclamations for Hunger Action Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month & the 100th Anniversary of the Oradell Dam.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On a motion made by Councilwoman Schoenberg, seconded by Councilman Carnevale and carried unanimously on voice vote the minutes of Joint Meeting July 11, 2023; Special Meeting July 27, 2023 and Joint Meeting August 15, 2023 were approved. Member(s) with conflicts abstained.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian Carnevale, Kern, Jannicelli,
Nays: None
Absent: Staff
Abstain: Councilman Jannicelli July 27, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda items only)
None

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. OPD August 2023 monthly report
2. Notice from BCUA re: plan amendment.

3. Notice of Award NJDEP re: Green Acres Lotus Wood Nature Walk Improvements
4. Notice from Arbor Day Foundation re: Oradell 2022 Tree City USA

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg and carried on voice vote, the correspondence was filed.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Kern, Jannicelli

Nays: None

Absent: Staff

Abstain: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTIONS:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Resolution 23-176 | Approve payment of all bills & vouchers in the amount of \$4,335,994.93 |
| Resolution 23-177 | Amend Official Depositories to add Affinity Federal Credit Union |
| Resolution 23-178 | Waiver of ROW permit fees for PSEG |
| Resolution 23-179 | Appointment of William Levine as substitute crossing guard \$20.21/hr |
| Resolution 23-180 | Appointment of Thomas Devine as Regular Member of Zoning Board |
| Resolution 23-181 | Approve change order to American Monument Co in the amount of \$6,850.00 |
| Resolution 23-182 | Tax Sale Certificate redemption for Block 601 Lot 30 |
| Resolution 23-183 | Approve Shared Service Agreement with Borough of Demarest for DPW Superintendent |
| Resolution 23-184 | Approve Shared Service Agreement with Borough of Haworth for DPW Superintendent |
| Resolution 23-185 | Shared Service Agreement with County of Bergen for 2023 Flu Vaccine |
| Resolution 23-186 | Closure of Prospect Avenue for Halloween 2023 |
| Resolution 23-187 | Issuance of refund for significant user fee Block 806 Lot 44 in the amount of \$35.65 |
| Resolution 23-188 | Insert Chapter 159 into 2023 Municipal Budget in the amount of \$25,000 for Water Resource Planning Management Stormwater Assistance Grant |
| Resolution 23-189 | Approve tax court settlement for 690 Kinderkamack Road in the amount of \$381,010.88 |
| Resolution 23-190 | Recognizing Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day as October 6, 2023 |
| Resolution 23-191 | Approve purchase of vehicle for Building Dept in the amount not to exceed \$29,990.00 |
| Resolution 23-192 | Capital Budget Amendment |

Councilman Tashjian stated he will be abstaining from Resolution 23-177. He asked the Borough Engineer to make PSEG aware that a resolution waiving fees must be done in each calendar year with the name of the streets included on the resolution.

Councilman Carnevale requested to table Resolution 23-183 & 23-184 until more information is provided. Councilman Kern also requested the resolutions to be tabled. Mayor Didio stated they will be listed on a special meeting October 10, 2023.

Councilman Carnevale asked for an explanation for resolution 23-192. Mayor Didio asked Mr. Harris for an explanation. Ms. Lyons was then asked for a response. She provided the explanation according to budget law.

On a motion made by Councilman Carnevale, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg, the consent agenda was amended to remove 23-183 & 23-184.

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg and carried on voice vote the consent agenda as amended was approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Kern

Nays: None

Absent: Staff

Abstain: Tashjian 23-177

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration

Council President Tracy Schoenberg

Admin - Council President Schoenberg stated a mediation date is scheduled for October 18th for UPSEU Contract issued. She asked Mr. Harris to forward the employee handbook prior to the next meeting so that updates can be examined prior to voting. She stated that an update on the outstanding Open Space grants is needed. She expressed her concern with the lack of close out on the projects.

Seniors – She stated she attended Bergen County’s first age friendly conference and was able to learn a great deal on how to expand our Senior facilities and programs. She stated a formal application to become an Age Friendly Community will be coming to the Governing Body at the next Work Session. She stated she brokered a partnership with Bergen County New Bridge medical center and the Borough for the specialized Flu vaccine for Seniors.

Fire Dept Councilwoman Schoenberg encouraged everyone to sign up for the Oradell 5K on Oct 7. Mayor Didio attended the monthly Fire Department meeting and reported on the Tunnel to Towers event.

DPW

Councilman Roger Tashjian

The Borough Engineer provided an update on various projects. There was a discussion regarding additional tree plantings as so many have had to be removed. Councilman Tashjian provided an update on the first phase of the PSEG project that will last a few years to replace gas lines. The library and DPW building roofs were discussed. The Library roof replacement was approved in capital. Councilman Tashjian asked Mr. Harris for the status of the DPW Assistant to the Superintendent Ordinance. Mr. Harris stated he will have it to the Council for the October Work Session or October Public Meeting

Public Safety & Emergency Management

Councilman Stephen Carnevale

Public Safety

Councilman Carnevale stated the Public Safety Committee met on August 30th. The Police Chief provided updates pertaining to personnel, traffic, budget items, and training related matters. He stated PBA contract negotiations are underway and his is hopeful to close out the proceeding in the next 60 days.

OEM He stated that the Police Department, Fire Department and OEM attended active shooter training to learn how to better be prepared for active incidents. There was not flooding impacts due to the recent Tropical Storm Ophelia.

Planning Board He stated the September meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is Oct 3rd. There is a meeting scheduled with the Borough Planner on Oct 3rd to obtain and update on the sign ordinance revision.

Historical Committee He stated the committee met on August 28th and September 25th. The committee continues to plan for the Oct 22 educational event that will be hosted at the Blauvelt Mansion. He stated the work at the Vorhees Cemetery should be completed by the end of October by the latest.

Ordinance

Councilman Robert Jannicelli

Adoption: 23-8

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 115 TITLE, "FEES" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL (POLICE DEPT)

On a motion made by Councilman Jannicelli, seconded by Councilman Tashjian and carried on voice vote Ordinance 23-8 was approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Kern

Nays: None

Absent: Staff

Abstain: None

Introduction: 23-9

BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,950,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,857,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY

On a motion made by Councilman Jannicelli, seconded by Councilman Kern and carried on voice vote Ordinance 23-9 was approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Jannicelli, Kern

Nays: None

Absent: Staff

Abstain: None

Councilman Jannicelli stated the filming ordinance should be examined for possible revisions that could provide financial benefits to the Borough.

Special Events He stated the committee met in preparation of Family Day. However due to inclement weather the event was cancelled. He stated the Oradell Rotary will be selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle with proceeds benefitting the Oradell Fireworks. The Halloween Trunk or Treat will be held on 10/29 at the Swim Club Parking lot. The Holiday Tree lighting was also discussed.

Recreation – The DPAC trust fund balance was discussed at the Recreation Meeting. The summer camp program debrief was held and the GOAL volleyball program had 70 registrants.

Finance, Technology and Communication

Councilman Jonathan Kern

Finance

Councilman Kern reported that the final capital budget meeting was held, and the Bond ordinance can be introduced this evening. The Tax collection rate remains at 99%.

Tech & Communications – He stated the committee is investigating with the IT vendor and Borough Insurance carried on how to reduce the deductible within the Joint Insurance Fund. The Borough is waiting for determination on the Cyber Security Grant Program that we applied for earlier this year.

OPTV – He stated the committee would like to film interviews with department heads and broadcast on OPTV. The committee would like to revisit the policy and procedures document.

Zoning –He recapped various applications and stated there is pending litigation to resolve the matter of RK Holding. Spoke on various applications.

Environmental – He stated the committee will be participating in the River Clean up on Sept 30. He announced that Oradell has been recertified for their Silver status with Sustainable Jersey.

Board of Health

Borough Clerk Laura Lyons provided Councilman Michael Staff's report:

Councilman Staff was pleased to see the Library roof repair included in the Capital Budget, however it was pointed out that there is a need to have a generator installed for the building to avoid issue with flooding.

Health- Councilman Staff asked Mr. Harris to have the AED training completed in October.

Mayors Report: Mayor Didio stated she received a thank you note from Mrs. Ennis to the Mayor and Councilman Carnevale for the efforts in getting the improvements made to the Veterans Memorial at Memorial Field. Mayor announced the JIF is predicting another 20% increase in insurance costs for 2024.

Borough Administrator's Report: Mr. Harris stated he will be contacting the Insurance Broker to speak to the Council with alternative solutions to reduce costs. He stated there will be a resolution on the October meeting to award OEM equipment for a command center.

Borough Attorney Report

Mr. Oddo stated he was working on a way to simplify the process for the Bergen County Players to have new signage approved. Mayor Didio asked if this can be ready for the October 10th special public meeting. He also stated that he is finalizing location for the Little Library project at the Train Station. He stated closed session topics: Contract negotiations regarding the PBA successor agreement and an agreement with Emerson regarding use of sewers.

Old Business:

2024 Fireworks date Discussion was held regarding the account balance for the fireworks as well as how the committee will be working to build that account in order to fund the 2025 fireworks. Councilman Carnevale confirmed that the borough would fund 2024 to allow for the committee time to fundraise for 2025 fireworks.

Proposed Joint Holiday Celebration (Menorah & Tree Lighting) – Discussion continued as to the condition of the tree at Schirra.. The Mayor asked that Mr. Harris have Dan Nywening get the cost for a new tree. Mr. Harris stated he will have the information for the October 10th meeting. Mrs. Lyons stated there is a possibility of speaking to a vendor that could provide a donated cut tree. Mayor Didio asked Mrs. Lyons to follow up. There was a discussion regarding the location and potential relocation of the Menorah.

Little Library Proposal – Katherine Norian showed the Little Library structure. The Borough Attorney said that there is a location that they will be able to use.

New Business:

Councilman Kern received some feedback from residents on the condition of the pavers along Kinderkamack. Council President Schoenberg stated this can be examined in next year's capital meeting. The Borough Engineer mentioned the Borough can look at applying for a street scape grant.

Councilman Kern recommended a resolution be prepared requesting Senator Menendez to resign. Mayor Didio indicated this was not appropriate for the Council to be involved in a political issue. Councilman Carnevale agreed and stated the Governing Body should remain involved in local level issues.

Councilman Jannicelli stated the PA system should be looked at and potentially a new system acquired for special events. Mayor Didio suggested reaching out to the Little Firehouse Theater to see if we could borrow the system. Mr. Harris indicated he would follow up

Councilman Carnevale asked for support to have a ceremony for Veterans Day to formally recognize the expanded Memorial. Mayor Didio suggesting combining the dinner or lunch with this ceremony as it would draw more attendees.

The Borough Clerk reported that voting districts have been moved by the Bergen County Board of Elections. Bergen Catholic is no longer a polling place. District 5 has been moved to the Senior Center. She stated she will have a post card sent out notifying voters.

Public Comment:

Nick Besink provided commentary on the current PA system.

Sean Bandfield stated he would like to create a group that promoted volunteerism for residents and youngsters.

Paul Latsounas provided commentary on the litigation concerning 66 Kinderkamack Rd. He also recommended the current tree ordinance be enhanced . He provided his opinion concerning the tree in Schirra park and the holiday tree lighting.

Theresa Trass expressed frustration with tree removals on the restaurant's property that recently occurred. She asked if someone can look into this issue and the process. The Borough Engineer responded that the removal for this particular tree was part of the Zoning Board approval for the project.

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

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg, and carried on voice vote the meeting was adjourned into Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:13 pm, the public meeting adjourned into Closed.

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