

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

1. CALL TO ORDER- OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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

Mayor Koth provided commentary about former DPW employee and resident Tony Meo that recently passed away. He asked for a moment of silence for reflection.

ROLL CALL

Mayor James G. Koth III
Stephen Carnevale, Council President
Michael Staff, Councilman
Roger Tashjian, Councilman
Tracy Schoenberg, Councilwoman
Jonathan Kern, Councilman
Ted Gullo, Councilman

PUBLIC HEARING on GREEN ACRES APPLICATION:

Mayor Koth announced there was a public hearing on a Green Acres Application to establish a formal passive walking trail look at Memorial Field listed on the agenda this evening. He asked the Borough Engineer to present the project. Mr. Atkinson presented hard copy and digital images of the project. He summarized the project as trails that would entail a continuous loop within the woods, with various stopping off points where benches could be placed in the future. He stated there are already several trails within these woods which would be cleared and flattened to improve walkability. He stated in order to qualify under NJDEP Green Acres Stewardship funding the project will need to emphasize environmental restoration. The debris and fallen trees as well as the planting of new trees, will be important stewardship -based project components.

Councilman Gullo made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Tashjian.

Paul Latsounas asked if the trail was created would the Borough install garbage/recycling receptacles along the route. He also inquired about the cost of the project.

Mr. Atkinson provided the appropriate responses.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Schoenberg, seconded by Councilman Staff the public hearing was closed.

Discussion from Governing Body

Councilman Tashjian raised concerns regarding impact from flooding due to the increased frequency of storms and how it impacts the financial investment of the Borough in this project.

Mayor Koth stated although he had the same concerns, he believed there is potential in the installation of this project. He asked the Engineer to update a cost estimate for soft costs to be provided to the Governing Body.

After a brief discussion there was consensus of the council for the project.

Resolution 24-70 Approve Green Acres Enabling Resolution for application Memorial Field Trail Stewardship Project

On a motion made by Councilman Staff, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg and carried on voice vote, resolution 24-70 was approved.

Roll Call Vote

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Carnevale, Staff, Schoenberg, Kern, Gullo

Nays: Tashjian

Absent: None

Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

Paul Latsounas inquired if Resolution 24-68 was a refunding payment. It was explained that the performance bond was being returned to the developer as the project was completed. He inquired about Resolution 24-76. Mayor Koth indicated the resolution was pulled from the agenda to be discussed at the February Work Session.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

January 3, 2024 Sine Die Meeting; January 7, 2024 Re-organization Meeting; January 16, 2024 Work Session Meeting

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Staff and carried on voice vote the minutes were approved.

Roll Call Vote

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays:

Absent: None

Abstain: Gullo (1-3-24 Sine Die)

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Notice of BCUA re: Public Hearing Wastewater Service Charge
2. Notice from PSEG re: application for Flood Hazard Area to permit select herbicide application within Riparian Zones
3. Notice from Veolia re: 2023 Rate Case – WR23110790
4. Oradell Police Monthly Report – December 2023

On a motion made by Councilwoman Schoenberg, seconded by Councilman Carnevale carried on a voice vote the Correspondence was approved.

Roll Call Vote

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Carnevale, Staff, Schoenberg, Kern, Gullo

Nays: Tashjian

Absent: None

Abstain: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 24-59	Approve payment of all bills and vouchers in the amount of \$4,390,630.59
Resolution 24-60	Annual renewal for Shared Service Agreement with Bergen County for Employee Assistance Program
Resolution 24-61	Annual renewal of Shared Service with Bergen County for Bloodborne Pathogen Training Program
Resolution 24-62	Approve Shared Service Agreement with Bergen County for Tree Removal Services along County Roadways
Resolution 24-63	Annual renewal with BCUA for Certified Recycling Profession (CRP) for Tonnage Report
Resolution 24-64	Accept letter of resignation from Paul Martin, crossing guard
Resolution 24-65	Amend resolution 24-40 Crossing Guard appointments 2024
Resolution 24-66	Award purchase of salter from Van Dine's Motors Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$8,760.89
Resolution 24-67	Appoint Ed Hynes as Municipal Representative to Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee
Resolution 24-68	Release of Performance Bond 505 Kinderkamack Rd
Resolution 24-69	Approve application to NJ Clean Energy Program Community Energy Planning Grant Program
Resolution 24-70	Voted separately see Green Acres Public Hearing
Resolution 24-71	Appointment of Carlo Camporeale as alternate #1 to Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two (2) year term expiring 12/31/25
Resolution 24-72	Approve employment of Robert Markson as DPW laborer pro-rated at step 1 \$42,000 effective February 1, 2024
Resolution 24-73	Appointment of Dr. Rima Rosenstein as full member of Board of Health for an unexpired term expiring 12/31/24
Resolution 24-74	Appointment of Brian Pepe to Oradell for All Committee for a one-year term expiring 12/31/24
Resolution 24-75	Appointment of Tom Kelly to EDAC for a one-year term expiring 12/31/24
Resolution 24-76	removed from agenda
Resolution 24-77	Appointment of Borough Engineer
Resolution 24-78	Authorize the Borough Administrator to advertise for Recreation Director

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg and carried on voice vote, the Consent Agenda was approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration & Ordinance

Council President Stephen Carnevale reported that the Administration Committee will be meeting shortly to outline yearly goals. He stated the Ordinance Committee will be meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the sign ordinance.

Councilman Gullo requested the committee to work with the Technology and Communication committee on creating an ordinance to establishing a policy & procedures for all borough related communications. He announced the Planning Board reorganization meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm. The Zoning Board of Adjustment held a re-organization meeting on January 17th and the Historical Committee met on January 26th 2024.

Public Safety & Emergency Management

Councilman Michael Staff reported he met with Chief Wicker to discuss the department's status. The police department is currently hiring for two open positions. He reported the Public Safety Committee met and discussed various topics. He stated Chief Wicker had the night patrol document street light outages to submit to PSEG for repair/replacements.

Library

Councilman Roger Tashjian stated the Library Board of Trustees held their re-organization meeting. Officers were elected and a new member sworn in. He expressed appreciation to former Library Director George Cook for a recent donation.

Board of Health

Councilwoman Tracy Schoenberg reported the OPTV committee met to discuss yearly goals. She announced that Board of Health will hold their first meeting February 12th. She stated she is in the process of looking for additional members for Oradell for All and Stigma Free. She stated she is hoping the Borough will consider the Black Poster Project Proclamation at an upcoming meeting.

Finance & DPW

Councilman Jonathan Kern stated the intent for the 2024 Municipal Budget will be to incorporate the operating and capital budget during the process. The Borough Engineer provided a status update on projects.

He thanked the DPW staff for their efforts during recent storms. He reported that recent damage at the train station is being handled through the Borough insurance. He provided an update on Board of Education topics.

Councilman Carnevale and Mayor Koth spoke about the repairs at the Train Station. Mayor Koth indicated orange cones will not be placed throughout town without follow up and repairs.

Technology & Communications

Councilman Ted Gullo reported the Technology committee is scheduled to meet on February 7th. He stated a general audit of the borough's IT infrastructure is needed. He stated the Borough Server needs replacement as well as a review of the borough's existing IT provider and compliance with cybersecurity. He stated he is steering the project on drafting and implementing social media and digital communication policy for the borough. The primary purpose of this project is for the borough to proactively communicate to the residents in one voice.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Koth reported that various processes are being examined. Examples are resolution and appointments. Mayor Koth stated that chairs of the various committees were contacted after the election for input on re-appointments. He announced that if residents are interested in serving, they should contact the Clerk's office. He stated there will be an agenda prep meeting each Thursday prior to the meeting. This will help outline the items that will be listed prior to the packet being issued. Mayor Koth introduced the new Administrator, Ed Hynes. He asked Mr. Hynes to reach out to Bergen County to discuss various aspects of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on Kinderkamack Road.

Borough Administrator's Report:

No report

Borough Attorney Report:

Bill Bailey, Borough Attorney stated he is working with the new administration to become familiarized with pending litigation.

Old Business:

Councilwoman Schoenberg inquired to the status of the Oradell Avenue Bridge replacement. She requested that the project engineer be contacted for an update.

Councilman Kern stated the Borough's fuel system needs addressing. Mayor Koth stated Mr. Hynes is examining alternatives. Mayor Koth stated that the importance of a unified voice for Borough communication was apparent in a recent issue concerning proposed developments in Oradell. He stated that there are no applications on file in the building department. He stated that if material information or applications are submitted, it will be reported.

New Business:

Mrs. Lyons stated the OK Foundation requested October 12th for the annual 5K and fun run event. She stated the Environmental Committee requested Super Bowl Sunday for the reservoir walk. There was consensus of approval for both events.

Mayor Koth recommended budget meetings should be held during the week as opposed to Saturdays. This will assist in the transparency and accessibility of meetings for the public. There was consensus of the Council to meet on weekdays. He stated that the Borough Administrator

and CFO should meet with the department heads regarding their budgets prior to the Council presentation. Mayor Koth and Councilman Carnevale provided commentary on the ability to leave cell phones on during Council meetings. Mayor Koth requested the OPTV committee to research how other programs and stations can be filmed with no interference from the signal.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nick Besink, OPTV committee, stated cell phones should be turned off. He stated council meetings can be viewed in multiple options. Mayor Koth asked for the viewership analytics.

Eileen Jones stated there is an orange cone by her driveway is by the electrical box for a long time. She spoke about the dangerous conditions on Oradell Avenue and how it relates to her driveway. Mayor Koth agreed that this issue has gone on and a remedy should be identified.

Paul Latsounas stated there are playgrounds that need additional mulch.

Sam Tripsas provided comments on potential developments in Oradell.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 pm, the public meeting adjourned.

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