

**REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF ORADELL HELD, ON MARCH 22, 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 Girl Scouts

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. (virtual)

Borough Engineer David Atkinson

PRESENTATION – Girl Scouts presented a service project concerning enhanced accessibility on Borough sidewalks. Mayor Didio issued a Proclamation for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

PROMOTIONS- Oradell Police Department:

Officer Richard Liguori to Sergeant

Officer Roger Pressburger to Sergeant

Officer Kyle Costa to Sergeant

Sgt. David Gangemi to Lieutenant

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Didio issued a proclamation for Mayors Wellness 2022

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Jannicelli, and approved on voice vote the minutes for the Sine Die and Reorganization January 4, 2022 meetings were approved

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilwoman Yu and approved on voice vote the minutes of the January 25, 2022 and February 15, 2022 minutes were approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

On a motion made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg and carried by majority voice vote the minutes of January 29, 2022 and February 5, 2022 were approved

January 29, 2022

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Schoenberg, Tashjian, Carnevale, Yu

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Jannicelli and Kern

February 5, 2022

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Jannicelli and Kern

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda items only

Sheila Sterling, 287 Merritt Drive. President of the Trustees of the Library Board. Ms. Sterling spoke on behalf of the library budget.

Paul Latsounas, 50 Beverly Rd inquired about resolutions 22-91 & 22-92 assessment amounts. Borough Administrator Lyons provided the necessary explanation relating to the tax appeal process. She indicated the Tax Assessor can provide further detail.

Jim Lessersohn ,524 Birchtree Lane. Mr. Lessersohn provided comments relating to the need to fund the library at a higher value than the prior year.

A motion to close public comment was made by Councilman Tashjian, second by Councilman Jannicelli.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

A motion to file correspondence was made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Councilman Jannicelli.

1. Letter from Mary Margaret Carter re: zoning application
2. Monthly Police Report – January & February
3. Letter from Quality Institute: 2021 Healthy town award

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

INTRODUCTION OF 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution 22-86 Introduction of the 2022 Municipal Budget in the amount of \$18,909,543.38

A motion to approve resolution 22-86 was made by Councilman Tashjian and seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Resolution 22-87 Authorizing increase of Deferred School Taxes for Regional High School and Local School Tax

A motion to approve resolution 22-87 made by Councilwoman Schoenberg and seconded by Councilman Tashjian.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Ordinance 22-2 An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank NJSA 40A:4-45

Councilman Jannicelli made a motion that Ordinance 22-2 be passed on first reading & published in the Monday, March 28, 2022 edition of the Bergen Record, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Consent Agenda

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 22-88	Approve payment of all bills and vouchers in the amount of \$5,638,250.61
Resolution 22-89	Approve budget transfer in the amount of \$33,570.00
Resolution 22-90	Approve excess sewer appeals for various properties
Resolution 22-91	Approve tax court judgement installment #1 for Block 905 Lot 1 in the amount of \$311,073.59
Resolution 22-92	Approve tax court judgement #1 for Block 9005 Lot 2 in the amount of \$189,637.25
Resolution 22-93	Approve refund of overpayment for excess sewer to Block 604 Lot 41 in the amount of \$39.20
Resolution 22-94	Approve annual waiver to NJ Transit for excess sewer charge billing
Resolution 22-95	Approve emergency roof repair to Mulligan Roofing Inc in an amount not to exceed \$7,200.00
Resolution 22-96	Approve emergency tree removal to Timber Tree Service in an amount not to exceed \$8,900.00
Resolution 22-97	Approve proposal from Borough Planner for Zoning Map update and revision in the amount not to exceed \$6,000
Resolution 22-98	Accept award of grant in the amount of \$27, 500 from NJDEP for Community Forestry Stewardship Grant Program
Resolution 22-99	Endorse and support nomination of George Carter for Historic Preservation Award by Bergen County for outstanding achievement
Resolution 22-100	Approve submission of grant application to NJ Historic Trust Preservation Plan update
Resolution 22-101	Accept resignation of Mary Fetske HR Officer / Assistant to CFO effective March 31, 2022
Resolution 22-102	Approve separation payment for accrued time for Mary Fetske in the amount of \$951.92
Resolution 22-103	Appointment of Rafaela Bartels to the Board of Health

On a motion made by Councilman Kern. Seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg and carried on voice vote the consent agenda was approved.

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

Councilwoman Schoenberg thanked the Girl Scouts for presenting their service project. She also acknowledged Michael Starr for bringing this project to the committee.

Mrs. Schoenberg reported the EDAC committee will be listed on the April Work Session agenda. They would like to move forward on a project relating to a rewards gift card program to promote local businesses.

She reported the success to the Senior St. Patrick's Day luncheon. It was well attended and all the seniors commented that it would great to be back in person. Exercise classes are also well attended. She stated that she will continue to work with the grant writers to look for offsetting revenue to upgrade the kitchen at the senior buildings.

Councilwoman Schoenberg stated the agreement with Suez was executed therefore the Fire Department has access once again for the FD to train on the reservoir. Mayor Didio stated that Kevin O'Connor remains the Borough's contact during the transition of the Suez company sale. Mrs. Schoenberg reported on items provided by Tom Bernard: The Fire Department celebrated their 125th anniversary with a dinner; a report on recent fire calls was issued as well as required training was completed.

Mayor Didio led a follow up discussion concerning the separation of the Administrator and Clerk positions originally recommended by the Admin Committee. She indicated that all governing body members should have had ample time to review the documents submitted inclusive of the memo provided by the CFO. Councilman Kern commented on his concern with a potential increase being .5% to the annual overall budget. Councilman Carnevale requested additional time to review before making a final decision. He stated that as a member of the Admin Committee he agreed to the exercise to conduct the evaluation but in light of the feedback provided he needed additional time. Mayor Didio inquired as to what additional material would be needed for him to make a final decision. Councilman Kern indicated he suggested additional support staff. Council President Schoenberg stated the current exercise being examined is to split the two executive roles. She indicated there is ample support staff, as there is a Deputy Clerk and PT Admin Assistant. She preferred to finish one before another is explored. Mayor Didio asked Councilman Kern for clarification. Council President Schoenberg stated she would like to finish this discussion because the committee's recommendation memo has been out for quite some time. She stated this item has been ongoing since early this year and would like to close it out. Councilman Carnevale stated he understands what is being examined however he feels the broader organization should be looked at considering the budgetary impact. Councilwoman Yu asked to see some of the feedback that was received from other members. Council President responded that she really doesn't have much to share. Councilman Tashjian stated the real item

that needs to be looked at if this item moved forward would the borough receive the expected output. If more production can happen it will be more expensive. Councilman Tashjian cited a few other municipalities and salaries for joint positions.

Council President Schoenberg stated she will generate a memo and review it with the committee. Councilman Carnevale commented that he appreciated the time Council President Schoenberg has put towards this item but reiterated it is an important decision and needs more time.

Councilman Tashjian added that although the budget is tight, he is not opposed to increasing the budget so that the Borough received it in return. Councilman Jannicelli stated he is examining the job responsibilities and how would splitting them affect the organization. Discussion ensued concerning how roles are assigned to various positions. Mayor Didio suggested that the Admin Committee should have another meeting and respond to the comments from this evening. If any other positions are to be impacted than the proper notifications should be issued.

Councilman Tashjian thanked Council President Schoenberg for taking the bull by the horns in this effort. Councilman Tashjian added that he is looking for skill set that the Borough is looking to either introduce or have become obsolete.

DPW & Engineering and Shared Service:

Councilman Roger Tashjian

The Borough Engineer reported that construction has started on Prospect Avenue. They started this week doing the concrete work, that work will continue till next week as long as everything goes as planned. The goal is to have the job complete during Spring Break He provided an update concerning the Veterans Monument.

Councilman Tashjian announced the DPW is looking for summer help. He reported on ongoing items such as FEMA submissions, pothole repairs, tree trimming. He also indicated the Borough is looking to migrate vendors for Styrofoam due to recent issued. The TREX bench that was earned from recycled bags will be installed at DPAC and dedicated to Mary Cioffi on April 9th at 9am before the Easter Egg hunt.

Police, Emergency Management:

Councilman Stephen Carnevale-

Councilman Carnevale reported that the Public Safety committee met on February 22 2022 and March 4 2022 to conduct interviews. The February 2nd interviews were for a patrol officer position. On March 4th , interviews for the Lieutenant positions. Tonight, was the conclusion of that process by way of the promotion of Lt. Gangemi.

Borough Administrator Lyons stated the new alert system RAVE system is working well internally as well as with the town. We encourage everyone to join if they have not done so already. Councilman Carnevale asked if there would be quarterly meetings set up with OEM. She reported that this was covered earlier in the year with the OEM coordinator.

Mr. Carnevale stated the Planning Board met on March 1st and approved one soil moving application for a residential project. The next meeting is scheduled for April 5 at 7:30pm at Borough Hall

Mr. Carnevale reported the Historical Committee met on February 28 and continued their planning discussions for an upcoming event in May. The event would include a panel to present insights and other information on historical preservation.

Ordinance:

Councilman Rob Jannicelli

INTRODUCTION

22-3

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 270 OF THE CODE OF ORADELL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING SHADE TREES AND SHRUBBERY

Summary: This ordinance will create a removal process on private property

The Borough Administrator provided a brief description on the ordinances.

Councilman Jannicelli wanted to clarify this ordinance pertains to development plans or projects not private homes.

Councilman Jannicelli made a motion that Ordinance 22-3, be passed on first reading and published in the Bergen Record on Monday, March 28, 2022, seconded by Councilman Tashjian.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

INTRODUCTION

22-4

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 280-46 OF THE CODE OF ORADELL ENTITLED HANDICAPPED PARKING ON ROADWAYS

Summary: This ordinance will add a handicap parking space on Center Street at the request of the Church of the Annunciation.

Councilman Jannicelli stated that that Ordinance 22-4 be passed on first reading and published in the Monday, March 28, 2022 edition of the Bergen Record, seconded by Councilman Tashjian.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Councilman Jannicelli reported the committee met on the March 14th on various items. A representative from Riverdell football provided year end data. The committee discussed sheds being donated by Oradell Little League. He provided an update on the Summer Recreation Program. Borough Administrator Lyons stated there will be two emergency appropriation

resolutions on for the next meeting concerning the lighting at DPAC.

Councilman Jannicelli provided information concerning the Easter Egg hunt. There is a revitalized committee that will be adding support to the Recreation Department for special events.

Mayor Didio inquired if all issues have been resolved with the NMVAC. He indicated the corp. has transferred the property to the Borough of New Milford.

Finance and Insurance:

Councilwoman Miriam Yu –

Councilwoman Yu provided a recap of the 2022 operating budget process. She asked the Council to consider amending the library appropriation level to the requested amount. Mayor Didio stated she has been reaching out to other Mayors to ascertain their funding rate comparative to the statutory rate.

She reported that the Board of Education completed their audit this year and all was found that to be in compliance with state and federal grant programs. As of March 7 2002 masks became optional. She provided clarifying information concerning a feasibility study relating to regionalizing the school system from 2021. Mayor Didio confirmed the grant study application was not applied as the timing would not be conducive.

Councilwoman Yu will be held from Friday, March 25 through Sunday. There were pre-registrations required to control volume in attendance.

Technology and Communication:

Councilman Jonathan Kern –

Councilman Kern reported that a firm was interviewed earlier this month to transition IT services and the process not moves to the committee to make a formal recommendation.

Due to lack of quorum the Board of Health did not meet.

Councilman Kern provided a summary of the recent OPTV committee. He reported that the Zoning Board of Adjustment voted against the application on 66 Kinderkamack Road. The Board will resume in person meetings next month. He stated the environmental committee has requested a meeting with a DPW representative to resolve various outstanding items. The committee is finalizing details for upcoming events. Councilwoman Schoenberg and Mayor Didio expressed concern about lack of notification regarding the County Kayak launch. Mayor Didio requested the Administrator reach out to find out why proper notifications were not made.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Didio reported the dedication of Kloebers Korner will be held at 10:00 AM this Saturday morning. She urged all to attend. This is to commemorate Charlie Kloeber and his business that was a cornerstone in Oradell for decades.

Mayor Didio announced the Oradell Avenue Bridge Study is hosting the second public meeting on March 31 from 2-6pm. All information has been posted on the Mayor's Facebook page, the

Borough's Facebook page & website.

The Pascack Valley Mayors met with the DEP on March 10th. The group outlined the inefficiencies with dealing with a regional interstate problem as individual towns. She report the last Army Corp of Engineer's study of the entire drainage basin (10 towns) was last done approximately in 1977. The Pascack Mayors are looking for guidance from the DEP on how to engage the Army Corp for follow up recommendations. She stated the DEP expressed a willingness to work with us to come up with some practical achievable regional solutions that can benefit all of our residents and our communities. Additional information will be submitted to the DEP and follow up meetings will be scheduled. If the DEP is to undertake the project the Pascack Valley towns may be requested to share the cost of professionals.

Mayor Didio acknowledged with a moment of silence the passing of former Oradell Police Captain John Rohack.

Administrator/Clerk's Report: Mrs. Lyons indicated she is waiting for backup information from the CFO prior to preparing capital packets for the Council. Once all the information is put together it can be ascertained how meetings will be scheduled. Councilman Carnevale requested the Administrator to make a place holder for a proposal concerning the Voorhees Cemetery. Mrs. Lyons announced the public that the meeting date in April has shifted due to spring break. The work session is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6th and the public meeting is on Tuesday, April 19th.

Borough Attorney's Report:

No report

Old Business:

Councilman Carnevale stated he supported Councilwoman Yu's recommendation to increase the Library Board's budget allotment to their original request. Mrs. Lyons explained that the revised amount would not trigger the need to re-introduce the budget, therefore the adoption schedule will remain the same.

Mayor inquired if the survey was issued to local business regarding outdoor dining. Mrs. Lyons asked for clarification if this was to be completed internally or by a committee. Mayor Didio requested that a survey be issued by the Borough. Councilman Carnevale stated that the issue needs discussion. A discussion was held regarding private overnight parking for commercial vehicles. Various locations were examined and at this time, a suitable location was not determined.

Councilman Tashjian asked if the Purple Heart recipient parking signage was installed. Mrs. Lyons indicated she would inquire with the appropriate departments. Councilman Jannicelli asked if the Bank of America property has been leased. Mrs. Lyons stated she has placed a few calls and not heard anything back from an official representative. Councilwoman Schoenberg stated that although the Borough should have received certified letters concerning lead lined pipes, not all on the list were sent letters. Mayor Didio confirmed that there are 170 homes with lead lines of which should have received this certified letter.

Council President also mentioned how back in 2018, the governing body passed a Resolution to encourage the NJDEP to sign off on allowing the Hackensack River from the Oradell dam to the mouth of Newark bay (basically the entire length of our section of Bergen County) to become a Superfund site to allow for remediation and clean up. The NJDEP Commissioner recently approved the Hackensack River being designated a superfund site.

New Business:

Temporary signage for the River Dell Drama club was discussed and approved.

Councilman Kern mentioned that he reached out to Rutgers regarding a new program that he discovered called 'Rutgers Mayoral Internship Program'. The program offers students a chance to participate in an internship program to gain experience in municipal work. Councilman spoke with the Chancellor &* Chief of Staff at the University on the possibility of us participating in this program. The students would receive a stipend from the university themselves for participating.

Councilwoman Yu asked about Zoom once we resume in-person meetings and questioned if there were laws that prohibited zoom calls in live meetings. Administrator Lyons explained when COVID first hit there were no regulations, then in November 2020, the DCA issued a local finance notice prescribed the regulations. She summarized the notice and indicated she can recirculate to the land use boards.

Public Comment:

Larry Landsman – member of the board of governors and past president of the Bergen County Players is also the director of the 90th anniversary season opening musical. He announced the musical Ragtime will be the season opener. He stated Mayors Night will be September 15. He requested a council liaison be assigned to the 90th anniversary committee.

June Levine – 796 Woodland Avenue inquired as to the grant awarded from the DEP. Mayor Didio explained it was for a tree inventory to be performed.

Paul Latsounas – 50 Beverly Rd – expressed opinions on 66 Kinderkamack Rd application. He was satisfied that the application was not approved. He suggested this is a good time for underground parking to be prohibited by ordinance.

On a motion to close public comment made by Councilman Tashjian, seconded by Council President Schoenberg and carried on a voice vote, the session was closed.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:04 pm, the public meeting adjourned.

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