

MINUTES

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting

Monday, October 26, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Meeting held via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER –

Mayor Papaleo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall.

SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Papaleo called for a moment of silent reflection for those who are suffering with COVID, their families and for those who have passed on. The Mayor led the salute to the flag.

STATEMENT –

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act:

In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, notice requirements for this meeting have been set forth in a resolution adopted by the Municipal Council at its meeting of January 6th, 2020. Pursuant to the State of Emergency and the Public Health Emergency as ordered in Executive Orders Nos. 103 and 104, the Borough will hold its scheduled meetings virtually until further notice. Further, notification of this compliance was published in The Record and the Ridgewood News on April 24, 2020, notifying the public that until further notice, all future meetings will not have members of the public physically present, but the public will have the opportunity to ask questions to the Mayor and Council virtually, and that the public who wish to participate in the meeting may secure access information shown on the Borough's website.

ROLL CALL –

Councilwoman Busteed, Councilman Chinigo, Councilman Gautier, Councilwoman Kaufman, Councilwoman Kinsella, Councilwoman Montisano-Koen and Mayor Papaleo were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Busteed the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting of October 13, 2020 were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA –

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman to open public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, seconded by Councilwoman Kinsella to close public comments was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION –

GJEM Otterstedt Agency – Annual Report – Ezio Altamura had distributed handouts to the Mayor and Council which summarized our 2020 Risk Management Plan through the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. He also went over the Borough’s current claims.

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES –

On motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen the following appointments and personnel changes were approved unanimously:

The salary increase of Kenneth Morse, Department of Public Works from a Tree Trimmer I, Step III salary of \$76,712.00 to Tree Trimmer I, Step IV - \$77,426.00 effective November 5, 2020;

The separation of Juan Avalos, Laborer in the Department of Public Works effective October 20, 2020;

The salary increase of Paul Insigna, Crossing Guard from an hourly Step III salary of \$19.93 to Step IV - \$20.99 effective June 20, 2020;

The salary increase of Peter Van Gunst, Crossing Guard from an hourly Step II rate of \$18.88 to Step III - \$19.93 effective March 24, 2020;

The salary change of Sean McLoughlin, Crossing Guard from an hourly probationary rate of \$16.00 to \$18.88 effective March 19, 2020;

The salary change of Thomas Callari, Crossing Guard from an hourly probationary rate of \$16.00 to \$18.88 effective March 19, 2020.

MONTHLY REPORTS – None

SECOND READING & HEARING ON ORDINANCES-

Tom Behrens, Borough Planner- explained that Ordinance #20-15 and #20-16 were introduced at the September 8th Mayor and Council meeting. The plans were revised in September to account for the affordable housing set asides. On October 8th the Land Use Board held a Master Plan consistency review and felt that both plans were not consistent with the Borough’s Master Plan. At the council meeting on October 13th, they discussed amending the Kinderkamack Road Redevelopment Plan to address the setback from 5 to 10 feet. We are here tonight to consider both amended documents. Mr. Behrens gave a brief explanation of the changes in the both plans. Council President Chinigo-thanked Mr. Behrens for doing a terrific job not only in explaining it to us but for everything that he’s done.

Mayor Papaleo read the title of Ordinance #20-15 into the record.

Ordinance #20-15 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE NEW BRIDGE LANDING STATION REDEVELOPMENT AREA

Ordinance #20-15 was introduced by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Gautier and unanimously approved as amended at the September 8, 2020 meeting as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE ORDINANCE #20-15

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE NEW BRIDGE
LANDING STATION REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

WHEREAS, the Governing Body retained the services of Burgis Associates, Inc., 25 Westwood Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey 07675 to draft a Redevelopment Plan for Block 1411, Lots 1.01, 1.02 and Block 1412, Lots 1, 2 and 3; and

WHEREAS, Burgis Associates, Inc. prepared a Redevelopment Plan which has been reviewed by the River Edge Land Use Board, the property owner/developer and other agents and departments of the Borough and by the Mayor and Council who approve of the Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Land Use Board found in its review that the Redevelopment Plan is consistent with the Master Plan for the Borough of River Edge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

Section I:

The Governing Body hereby adopts the “New Bridge Landing Station Redevelopment Plan” prepared September 4, 2020 a copy of which is annexed hereto as the Redevelopment Plan for the Subject Property, Block 1411, Lots 1.01, 1.02 and Block 1412, Lots 1, 2 and 3.

Section II:

The Redevelopment Plan shall supersede all provisions of Chapter 416 “Zoning” of the Code of the Borough of River Edge. In all situations where zoning issues are not addressed in the Redevelopment Plan, Chapter 416 of the Borough Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section III:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7(c) the Zoning Map of the Borough of River Edge is hereby amended to identify the redevelopment area in the manner depicted in the “New Bridge Landing Station Redevelopment Plan”.

Section IV:

If any provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not effect the other provisions of this Ordinance, except so far as the provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder of any portion thereof.

Section V:

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law and upon filing with the Bergen County Planning Board.

Thomas R. Papaleo, Mayor

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk
Dated:

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC – Ordinance #20-15

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier to open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #20-15 was unanimously approved.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - Ordinance #20-15

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to close the hearing on Ordinance #20-15 was unanimously approved.

ADOPTION - Ordinance #20-15

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilwoman Busteed to adopt Ordinance #20-15 was unanimously approved.

Mayor Papaleo read Ordinance #20-16 into the record as follows:

Ordinance #20-16 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE KINDERKAMACK ROAD REDEVELOPMENT AREA

Ordinance #20-16 was introduced by Councilwoman Kinsella, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen and unanimously approved as amended at the September 8, 2020 meeting as follows:

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #20-16**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE
KINDERKAMACK ROAD REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

WHEREAS, the Governing Body retained the services of Burgis Associates, Inc., 25 Westwood Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey 07675 to draft a Redevelopment Plan for Block 1413, Lots 1, 2.01, 4 and 5; and

WHEREAS, Burgis Associates, Inc. prepared a Redevelopment Plan which has been reviewed by the River Edge Land Use Board, the property owner/developer and other agents and departments of the Borough and by the Mayor and Council who approve of the Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Land Use Board found in its review that the Redevelopment Plan is consistent with the Master Plan for the Borough of River Edge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

Section I:

The Governing Body hereby adopts the “Kinderkamack Road Redevelopment Plan” prepared September 4, 2020 a copy of which is annexed hereto as the Redevelopment Plan for the Subject Property, Block 1413, Lots 1, 2.01, 4 and 5.

Section II:

The Redevelopment Plan shall supersede all provisions of Chapter 416 “Zoning” of the Code of the Borough of River Edge. In all situations where zoning issues are not addressed in the Redevelopment Plan, Chapter 416 of the Borough Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section III:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7(c) the Zoning Map of the Borough of River Edge is hereby amended to identify the redevelopment area in the manner depicted in the “New Bridge Landing Station Redevelopment Plan”.

Section IV:

If any provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not effect the other provisions of this Ordinance, except so far as the provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder of any portion thereof.

Section V:

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law and upon filing with the Bergen County Planning Board.

Thomas R. Papaleo, Mayor

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated:

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC – Ordinance #20-16

On motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to open the hearing of the public on Ordinance #20-16 was unanimously approved.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC – Ordinance #20-16

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, seconded by Councilman Gautier to close the hearing of the public on Ordinance #20-16 was unanimously approved.

ADOPTION - Ordinance #20-16

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to adopt Ordinance #20-16 was unanimously approved.

Mayor Papaleo-thanked Mr. Behrens for coming and said that they appreciate all that he and his firm does for the Borough.

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

On motion by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, seconded by Councilwoman Busted resolution #20-240 through #20-244 were unanimously approved.

#20-240 Purchase of Portable Radios and Accessories for the Fire Department Through State Contract

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge desires to purchase eight (8) portable radios and accessories for the Fire Department from Motorola Solutions, Inc., 123 Tice Boulevard, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677; and

WHEREAS, the vendor, Motorola Solutions, Inc., is an approved State Contract participant, bearing the State Contract #83909; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account ##C-04-20-060-051 in the amount not to exceed \$46,211.20; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-1.2 requires that any local contracting unit purchasing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12, must award the contract by a resolution of the Governing Body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is authorized to accept the State Contact bid on eight (8) portable radios and accessories as per the State's specifications in an amount not to exceed \$46,211.20.

October 26, 2020

#20-241 Authorize Tax Collector to Adjust 4th Quarter Taxes for a 2020 Veteran Deduction Allowed

WHEREAS, the following homeowner(s) filed a Veteran Application for a deduction in the amount of \$250.00 and was approved by the Tax Assessor on 10/20/20 for the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the deduction was not listed in the 2020 Tax Duplicate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to adjust her records to allow the 2020 deduction for the following amount.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Deduction</u>	<u>Adjust</u>
406/14	James V. Leon 728 Summit Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	Veteran	\$250.00

October 26, 2020

#20-242 Approve the Hire of a Full-time Laborer in the Department of Public Works

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that Joseph LaRosa be and he is hereby hired as a full-time Laborer in the Department of Public Works at an annual Laborer II, Step I salary of \$36,414.00 with a one (1) year probationary period, effective October 27, 2020.

October 26, 2020

#20-243 Resolution of the Borough Council of River Edge Regarding Length of Service Award Program for 2020

WHEREAS, New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy has declared a State of Emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, through various Executive Orders Governor Philip D. Murphy restricted various activities and gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 51 of the Borough Code creates a Length of Service Award Program (“LOSAP”) that rewards members of the volunteer fire department and ambulance corps for their service; and

WHEREAS, Schedules A and B of the Borough Code govern the points required for a volunteer to receive LOSAP award; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps members have been unable to acquire the points necessary to qualify for such awards; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has requested the possible reduction in the LOSAP points requirement for fiscal year 2020 as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council wishes to reduce the LOSAP points requirement for fiscal year 2020 as requested due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) schedules and annual service requirements contained in Schedules A and B of the Borough Code are hereby revised for fiscal year 2020 to require each member to accumulate sixty-five (65) points to receive the LOSAP award.
2. Effective January 1, 2021 the previously implemented LOSAP Schedules will again be effective and the one hundred (100) point requirement applicable to receive the LOSAP award for fiscal year 2021 and each year thereafter.

October 26, 2020

#20-244 Voluntary Recognition Agreement By and Between River Edge Borough and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 125

WHEREAS, IBT Local 125 filed a representation petition with the Public Employment Relations Commission on October 19, 2020 in case RO-2021-028 seeking to represent all blue-

collar employees of River Edge Borough's DPW, i.e. Trainee, Laborer, Tree Trimmer, Equipment Operator, General Repairman, Mechanic, Part-Time Bus Driver, and Part Time Recycling Employee employed by River Edge Borough;

AND WHEREAS, Local 125 is the only organization desiring to represent said employees;

AND WHEREAS, Local 108, RWDSU, the former majority representative, has disclaimed any interest in continuing to represent said employees;

AND WHEREAS, Local 125 has submitted authorization cards from a majority of unit employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 19:11-3.1 et. seq., IT IS AGREED.

The Borough hereby voluntarily recognizes IBT Local 125 as the sole and exclusive bargaining representative for the purpose of establishing wages, hours, and other conditions of employee for:

All blue-collar employees of River Edge Borough's DPW, i.e. Trainee, Laborer, Tree Trimmer, Equipment Operator, General Repairman , Mechanic, Part-Time Bus Driver, and Part-Time Recycling Employee employed by the River Edge Borough.

IBT Local 125 accepts the current ratified, CAN/MOA covering the bargaining unit with a term of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022.

This agreement will be submitted to the Public Employment Relations Commission as a resolution of RO-2021028.

October 26, 2020

Councilwoman Kaufman read resolution #20-245 into the record.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Chinigo resolution #20-245 was approved unanimously.

#20-245 Payment of Bills

At a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, held on October 26, 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge approve the following expenditures.

CURRENT FUND ACCOUNT	\$479,396.78
CAPITAL FUND ACCOUNT	\$ 28,009.18
GRANT FUND ACCOUNT	\$ 1,416.00
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 325.00

OPEN SPACE ACCOUNT	\$ 4,836.00
PAYROLL ACCOUNT	\$ 765.00
DEVELOPER'S ESCROW ACCOUNT	\$ 845.00
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 400.00

October 26, 2020

NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor Papaleo-stated that the next Mayor and Council meeting is scheduled for November 2nd. He suggested that it be moved to November 9th and asked anyone if they have an objection.

There were no objections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Kinsella to open for public comments was unanimously approved.

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL COMMENTS -

Councilman Chinigo – thanked our first responders for all that they do and stated that he knows they've been very busy because he's heard the siren go off quite a few times over the past few weeks. He said that their duty to this town is very much appreciated by our residents. Councilman Chinigo thanked the Rec Commission and Rec Director for putting together the River Edge book. He felt that Restaurant Week was successful and a terrific addition this year during the COVID situation. He wished everyone a happy and safe Halloween and reminded everyone to change their clocks this weekend.

Councilwoman Kinsella – wished everyone a safe and happy Halloween and reported that the Census officially ended on October 15th. She also reported that River Edge had a final response rate of 85.7 which she thought was pretty good.

Councilwoman Kaufman-reiterated to have a safe and fun Halloween. She hopes everyone will stay safe especially since we're seeing a rise in cases throughout our state and country.

Councilwoman Busteed-had no comment.

Councilwoman Montisano-Koen-reported that the Shade Tree Commission received a plaque congratulating River Edge for being named Tree City USA for 20 years. She reminded everyone that the Library has extended hours as of last weekend and said that it's working out very well. She wished everyone a happy Halloween and encouraged everyone to keep social distancing and enjoy the day in a safe manner.

Councilman Gautier – reminded everyone that leaf season is in full swing and reported that the DPW started collecting in Districts 2 & 3. He also reported that the Bogert Road Section 3 & 4 project has been completed and will be striped this week.

Mayor Papaleo-congratulated the Council for approving the repairs to the sidewalks that occurred during storm Iasis. He said that residents will be receive letter to inform them that the slabs will be repaired. He feels that this was the right thing to do given the circumstances as long as funds were available. The Mayor read a letter from resident Johann Navarro thanking the Police Department for the

professionalism of Lieutenant Casey, Sergeant Abate and Officer Varrecchia who responded to his emergency situation. Mr. Navarro was struck by a tree during a bad storm and was very grateful for their service. The Mayor agrees that we have one of the best Police Departments in Bergen County and is very proud of everything they do. The Mayor hopes residents enjoy Halloween and that they celebrate it in a socially safe way.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:50 P.M.

On motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Gautier to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Attest:

Mayor Thomas Papaleo

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated: