

M I N U T E S

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting
Monday, April 13, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Meeting held electronically 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.

Mayor Papaleo made an announcement that the street work on Bogert Road and Howland Avenue will start this week. He asked that one-use disposable gloves be thrown out in the garbage and not in recycling or thrown in the streets.

STATEMENT –

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act: This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on December 20th of this location, date and time to the Ridgewood News and the Record and by posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site and filing a notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

On motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Gautier, the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting of March 31, 2020 were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA –

On motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen to open for public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

There was a request to put the monthly reports on the website.

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

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES –

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

- The salary change of Gabriel Colucci, Police Officer from an annual salary of \$39,226.00 to Patrol Officer 18th grade salary of \$47,632.00 effective April 8, 2020;
- The salary increase of Edward Blue, Police Officer from an annual salary of \$81,255.00 to Patrol 13th grade salary of \$89,661.00 effective May 5, 2020;
- The salary increase of Brandon Goetz, Police Officer from an annual salary of \$39,226.00 to Patrol Officer 18th grade salary of \$47,632.00 effective May 13, 2020.

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #20-3 into the record as follows:

Ordinance #20-3 CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A 40A-45.14)

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Busteed, the first reading of Ordinance #20-3 was unanimously approved as follows:

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE 20-3**

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.16a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$119,846.61 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of River Edge shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.50%, amounting to \$419,463.14, and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the Borough of River Edge be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk
Dated:

Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

MONTHLY REPORTS –

- Library Board of Trustees - March 31, 2020
- Fire Prevention - January – March 2020

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

Mayor Papaleo asked Borough Administrator, Ray Poerio to explain resolution #20-111 for public information.

Raymond Poerio- explained that this is the introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget. Last year there was an increase of \$149.00 per property and this year it is currently under \$100.00. He feels that this is a sound budget and includes all items.

Councilman Chinigo-asked for an explanation for the public as to why it is less this year.

Raymond Poerio-stated that currently it's lower this year but the union contracts are still pending. Again he explained that this is only the municipal portion, not the school or county.

Councilwoman Busted-thanked the Citizen's Budget Committee for their participation and cooperation in the budget process.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier, resolution #20-111 was approved unanimously.

#20-111 Introduce 2020 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Local Municipal Budget of the Borough of River Edge, Bergen County, New Jersey for the fiscal year 2020 be approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, and the Clerk is hereby instructed to advertise it in THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS on April 24, 2020 and that a final public hearing before passage will be held on May 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and that said budget shall authorize total general appropriations of \$17,049,012.04 and the anticipated revenues of \$3,220,688.22 leaving an amount to be raised by taxes for municipal purposes of \$13,828,323.82.

April 13, 2020

On motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, resolution #20-112 and #20-113 were approved unanimously.

#20-112 Authorize Person-to-Person, Place-to-Place Liquor License Transfer

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a person-to-person, place-to-place transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License #0252-33-001-008, heretofore issued Sonny T, LLC for a liquor license with an address of 259 Johnson Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the licensed business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge does hereby approve, effective April 13, 2020 the Person-to-Person, Place-to-Place transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License to Sonny T, LLC from its former owner and location of 259 Johnson Avenue, PEJA Corp. t/a Rugova Restaurant, 259 Johnson Avenue, River Edge to its new owners and location Sonny T, LLC, 259 Johnson Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey 07661 and does hereby direct the Borough Clerk/ABC Board Secretary to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows:

“This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to Sonny T, LLC effective April 13, 2020”.

April 13, 2020

#20-113 Authorize Increase in Deferred School Taxes for Local School and Regional School Taxes

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services requires that the Governing Body of any municipality which has Deferred School Taxes must authorize any increase in the deferral of any additional amounts, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has decided that an increase in Deferred School Taxes is in the best interest of the Borough at this time,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body that the following Deferred School Taxes be hereby increased for the year ended December 31, 2018 as follows:

	<u>Deferred Local School Taxes</u>	<u>Deferred Regional High School Taxes</u>
Amount Deferred 12/31/19	8,424,752.00	7,890,209.00
Amount Deferred 12/31/18	<u>8,257,889.00</u>	<u>7,747,959.50</u>

166,863.00

142,249.50

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Governing Body that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

April 13, 2020

Councilwoman Kaufman read resolution #20-114 into the record.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier resolution #20-114 was unanimously approved.

#20-114 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 April 13, 2020.

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

CURRENT FUND ACCOUNT	\$1,454,916.56
CAPITAL FUND ACCOUNT	\$ 34,065.25
ANIMAL CONTROL ACCOUNT	\$ 26.40
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 281.55
PAYROLL ACCOUNT	\$ 11,110.99
DEVELOPER'S ESCROW ACCOUNT	\$ 4,764.80
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 251.53

April 13, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENTS -

On motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to open public comments was unanimously approved.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilman Chinigo-thanked the first responders and all of the essential workers everywhere for their dedication during this time.

Councilwoman Busteed-reported that the Green Team and Environmental Commission will be ready to present their draft ordinance to ban plastic bags. She also thanked everyone for helping flatten the curve.

Councilman Gautier-echoed everyone's sentiments and thanked the borough employees who are working under these difficult circumstances.

Councilwoman Kaufman-just wanted to thank everyone.

Councilwoman Montisano-Koen-thanked the postal workers, our DPW and the Library during their mandatory closure for their online services.

Councilwoman Kinsella-echoed everyone's comments.

Mayor Papaleo-gave a special thanks to the Finance Chair, the Borough Administrator and CFO for spending many hours setting up the budget. The Mayor announced that the Land Use Board will be having a virtual meeting this Wednesday, April 15th at 7:30 p.m. He thanked the Police Department for making huge efforts to make our lives easier and asked that everyone please respect them for breaking up groups around town. He again reminded everyone that one-time use gloves should be thrown in the garbage and that this Thursday and Friday there will be milling and paving on Bogert Road and Howland Avenue. The Mayor encouraged everyone to check our website for updates on the coronavirus and also thanked all of our first responders. I be ending soon. He provided his cell number and email address to the public and asked everyone to remember that these tough times will be ending soon. He announced that the next Mayor and Council meeting will be on Monday, April 27th.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:35 P.M.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated: