



MINUTES

Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Thursday, July 9, 2026
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER –

This Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge was held in person at the Council Chambers located at 705 Kinderkamack Road, River Edge, NJ 07661 and virtually via Zoom on Thursday, July 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Council President Indira Kinsella.

SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE

Council President Kinsella called for a moment of silent reflection for the residents impacted by last week's heatwave and July 4th storm as well as for those who died in the earthquake in Venezuela. Councilman Feffer led those present in the salute to the flag.

STATEMENT –

Council President Kinsella read the Statement of Compliance into the record as follows:

This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on January 9, 2026 and January 16, 2026 of the location, date, time, and access information to the Town News and the Record and by posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough website and filing a notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL –

PRESENT: Council President Kinsella, Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Dhariwal, Councilman Feffer

ABSENT: Councilwoman Klodiana Malellari, Mayor Papaleo

ALSO

PRESENT: Borough Administrator Lissette Aportela
Borough Attorney John L. Shahdanian, Esq.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

On a motion by Councilman Feffer, seconded by Councilman Glass, and all members present voting in favor, that the Minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting of June 25, 2026, are hereby approved. Council President Kinsella, Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, and Councilman Glass abstained as they were absent for the June 25th meeting. Councilwoman Dhariwal inquired about the June 14th minutes. Ms. Aportela responded that the Borough Clerk had not completed those minutes to list for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM–

On a motion by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, and all present voting in favor, to open the floor for public comments on any item on the agenda.

Marge Burns – 236 Wales Avenue – commended the volunteer firemen, DPW, and Police for the phenomenal job they performed in responding to the fire and subsequent damage caused by the July 4th storm. She commented that she never thought a rainstorm would cause such a fire. She noted that there were a lot of kids roaming around since it was the 4th of July and people were still driving down the street while there were hoses on the street as the firefighters were trying to put out the fire. She stated that on Sunday night, she went to look at the site and in her 49 years as a resident, she hadn't seen anything like this. Ms. Burns stated that she was grateful for the workers of River Edge. She expressed that she was happy that Fifth Avenue has reopened for the upcoming car show.

Councilman Glass remarked that our first responders deserve huge recognition and thanked Ms. Burns for her comments.

On a motion by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, and all present voting in favor, to close the floor for public comments.

MONTHLY REPORTS –

Council President Kinsella noted that the Land Use Board Minutes of May 27, 2026, Historic Commission Minutes of June 23, 2026, and the Tax Collector's June 30, 2026 report are on file in the Borough Clerk's Office and available for review.

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| #26-199 | Approve Refunds – Recreation Department |
| #26-200 | Approve Refund – Farmers Market |
| #26-201 | Approval of 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption |
| #26-202 | Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation |

On a motion by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, seconded by Councilman Feffer, to approve the Consent Agenda.

The vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Kinsella:	aye	Councilman Glass:	aye
Councilwoman Montisano-Koen	aye	Councilwoman Dhariwal:	aye*
Councilwoman Malellari:	absent	Councilman Feffer:	aye

Councilwoman Dhariwal abstained from Resolution #26-199 – Approve Refunds – Recreation Department.

#26-203 - Payment of Bills

Councilman Glass read resolution #26-206 into the record:

At a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, held on July 9, 2026.

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

CURRENT FUND	\$ 924,551.79
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 743,009.12

GRANT FUND	\$	164.39
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$	12.00
TRUST OTHER	\$	2,254.77
PAYROLL	\$	25,093.64
DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT	\$	935.00
RECREATION TRUST	\$	7,814.25

On a motion by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, seconded by Councilman Feffer to approve Resolution #26-203-Payment of Bills.

The vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Kinsella:	aye	Councilman Glass:	aye
Councilwoman Montisano-Koen:	aye	Councilwoman Dhariwal:	aye*
Councilwoman Malellari:	absent	Councilman Feffer:	aye

*Councilwoman Dhariwal recused from the following checks: #69024, #69040, #69041, #69043, #69064, #69065, #69068, #69087, #69089, #69095, #69096, #4639, #4641, #4643, #3109, #3112, #6238-#6256

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilwoman Montisano-Koen echoed the community support for the Borough's first responders. As Council Liaison to the Department of Public Works, she read into the record a report from DPW Superintendent, Jason Milito:

On July 4, 2026, at approximately 8:00 p.m., the Department of Public Works (DPW) was called into service, by the River Edge Police Department, due to a sudden severe storm that caused significant damage throughout the middle and northern sections of River Edge. The storm resulted in numerous downed trees, fallen tree limbs, and substantial debris that created hazardous conditions on local roadways.

DPW crew responded immediately and worked throughout the weekend and into the evening of July 5th to restore safe conditions for residents. The cleanup included 8 downed trees (2 uprooted, 6 broken at stalk, 2 required cranes for removal), 12 major limbs broken out (will have to remove 4 more trees because of limb loss), and 20+ branches down / hanging branches with an estimated total storm cost of \$20,000.

As Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, I [Jason Milito] am proud of the leadership demonstrated by Tree Foreman Eric Phillips. Under my supervision, Eric coordinated the response efforts while working alongside the crew in multiple capacities throughout the storm cleanup. Their professionalism, dedication, and teamwork ensured that the work was completed safely and efficiently.

I [Jason Milito] would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the following employees for their outstanding efforts during the July 4th weekend:

- Eric Phillips – Tree Foreman
- Kenny Morse – Tree Trimmer
- Ben Mullen – Tree Trimmer
- Anthony Truesdale – Tree Trimmer
- Anthony Naem – General Repairer

- Roger Tarpey – Laborer
- Matthew Farley – Laborer

Their willingness to respond on a major holiday weekend and work long hours under challenging conditions reflects the commitment and professionalism of the River Edge Department of Public Works. In the week following the storm, resident requests and concerns were also addressed by the rest of the DPW staff.

Special thanks to the entire DPW team as they strive to ensure that all residents are safe and that roadways remain accessible during emergency events and throughout the year. I [Jason Milito] am grateful for the dedication of this team and their continued commitment to serving the Borough of River Edge throughout the year.

- Rick Stephen – Working Foreman
- Lisa Hessman – Office Manager
- Miriam Fabisiak – Office Clerk
- William Camera – Mechanic
- Peter Stitz – Mechanic
- Eric Schultz – Operator
- Daniel Dekker – Operator
- Mark Rigney – Operator
- Frank Gallagher – Laborer
- Edward Hazuka – Laborer
- Justin Fierro – Laborer
- Tomasz Lesczyk – Laborer
- Diego Yopez – Laborer
- Anthony LaFace – Laborer

Councilwoman Montisano-Koen also reported that all roadways that were closed as a result of the recent storm have been reopened, with the exception of Woodland Avenue. The water company is expected to complete its repairs and reopen the roadway by approximately 10:00pm tonight. Residents who are still without utility services should contact their respective utility providers directly for updates and to report any remaining outages. She also thanked the Library for being open as a cooling and charging center.

Councilman Glass stated that the Borough is lucky for having the resources and dedication from personnel. He highlighted that the response was swift and exceptional. As Council Liaison to the Police Department, Councilman Glass recognized Lt. Zemaite, Lt. Abate, Sgt. Diamond, Officer Lee, Det. Piterski, Officer Doran, and Dispatcher Lopez. He read into the record a report from Police Chief, Michael Walker:

On the evening of July 4, River Edge experienced a fast-moving and severe storm that swept through the north end of the Borough, resulting in numerous downed trees, downed power lines, and other weather-related emergencies. These conditions ultimately contributed to the house fire at 822 5th Avenue. Throughout the event, the Patrol Division was responding from call to call, addressing the many incidents that severe storms often create.

I [Chief Walker] would like to make the Mayor & Council aware of the exceptional efforts of several members of the River Edge Police Department, as well as our law enforcement partners, during this incident.

Sergeant Diamond was the Tour Commander throughout the storm. Despite his patrol squad being short-staffed (as are three of our four patrol squads), he effectively triaged incoming calls, assigned personnel where they were most needed, and addressed each incident with focus and professionalism. Sergeant Diamond was the first River Edge police officer to arrive in the area of Woodland Avenue and Fifth Avenue for downed wires. Upon arrival, he quickly determined that a residence was actively on fire and immediately requested the necessary assistance from the River Edge Fire Department, mutual aid partners, and other emergency services. His prompt assessment and decisive actions ensured that the appropriate resources were dispatched without delay.

While the River Edge Police Department was managing both the house fire and the numerous storm-related emergencies, Detective PETERSKI, who was actively assigned to the Bergen County Rapid Deployment Team (RDT) elsewhere in the county, was monitoring River Edge Police radio traffic. As a Command Staff Officer with the RDT, Detective PETERSKI recognized that River Edge was being overwhelmed by simultaneous emergency calls while contending with a significant structure fire.

Detective PETERSKI brought these concerns to his RDT supervisor, Lieutenant Chris Whiting of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, and received authorization for himself and approximately eight additional RDT members to respond to River Edge to assist. Their assistance proved invaluable in helping the department manage the extraordinary volume of incidents.

Among those responding from the RDT was Patrol Officer Mulick of the Paramus Police Department, a former member of the River Edge Police Department. Officer Mulick was assigned as the law enforcement liaison to the family displaced by the house fire. He was able to locate the family, who had walked to a nearby neighbor's house. Working closely with Detective PETERSKI, he provided support to the family and coordinated a police escort to a friend's residence, ensuring they were safely relocated during this difficult time.

Lieutenant Zemaite, although off duty when the storm began, observed downed utility wires at the intersection where the house fire subsequently occurred. He immediately notified dispatch of the hazardous condition. After Sergeant Diamond arrived on scene, confirmed the fire, and requested the necessary emergency response, Lieutenant Zemaite recognized that the incident had transitioned into a major fire operation. He responded to the River Edge Fire Department Command Post and represented the River Edge Police Department. His presence at the Command Post allowed Sergeant Diamond to remain focused on coordinating the many other simultaneous emergencies occurring throughout the Borough.

The coordinated efforts of Sergeant Diamond, Detective PETERSKI, Lieutenant Zemaite, our patrol officers, and our regional law enforcement partners exemplify the professionalism, teamwork, and dedication displayed during this challenging event. Their decisive actions, effective communication, and willingness to go above and beyond ensured that the Borough received the highest level of public safety services during an exceptionally demanding evening.

While no one ever hopes for incidents of this magnitude, I [Chief Walker] am proud to say that the members of the River Edge Police Department consistently demonstrate their readiness to meet whatever challenges come their way. Their professionalism and commitment to serving our community are a credit to this department and to the Borough of River Edge.

Councilwoman Dhariwal stated that as per Fire Chief Sanders' report, he responded to the area of Fifth and Wales as a tree fell and pulled down wires causing a rapidly expanding fire. The Fire Department had to wait until PSEG de-energized the powerlines. Mutual aid was called to assist and the fire departments of Oradell, New Milford, Hackensack, Paramus and Teaneck responded. One River Edge Firefighter was transported to the hospital for evaluation. As of today, all power has been restored to the area. Chief Sanders also serves as the Borough's OEM Coordinator and the Office of Emergency Management is applying for aid for the Borough and the homeowner. It is unknown if there are still issues with Verizon and Optimum.

Councilwoman Dhariwal also advised that REVAS reported that the July 4th storm caused much chaos in the area. They transported one firefighter to the hospital and remained on scene to provide support to the other first responders. She thanked REVAS for their service.

Councilman Feffer echoed everything that has been said. This storm was historic. Although rare, it was severe. This one incident touched so many lives and we shouldn't take for granted all the people who rushed to the scene. He wished the family who lost the house well and noted that so many neighbors and residents rallied to support them. Councilman Feffer thanked Ms. Burns for coming to the meeting to recognize the Borough's first responders. He recommended if the public sees a member of the Fire Department, Public Works, Police Department or REVAS while out in the community, to stop and say thanks.

Council President Kinsella commented that in today's age, it is rare that someone has something positive to say. It is refreshing and well said. It is a testament of how everyone came together. She thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, REVAS, the Library and OEM for coming together to help the residents.

Councilwoman Dhariwal advised that the 250th Committee will recognize the most patriotic car at the car show being held on July 12th at River Dell Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Dhariwal, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela, MPA, RPPO, QPA
Borough Administrator

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #26-199

Approve Refunds – Recreation Department

WHEREAS, participants of various programs offered by the River Edge Recreation Department have requested a refund; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Director, Joseph Ricca, has reviewed the requests and recommended them for Mayor and Council approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, that the refunds listed below are hereby approved; and

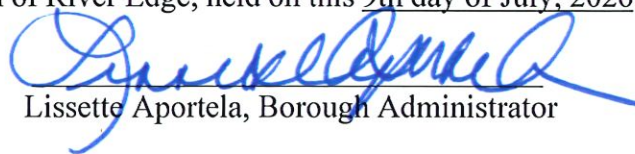
RESIDENT	ADDRESS	PROGRAM	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT #
Grace Flanagan	200 Madison Ave River Edge, NJ 07661	Summer Playground Program Trip	\$12.00	T-18-55-286-003

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department and Department of Recreation.

July 9, 2026

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kinsella			X			
Montisano-Koen	X		X			
Malellari						X
Glass			X			
Dhariwal					X	
Feffer		X	X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 9th day of July, 2026.


Lissette Aportela, Borough Administrator

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #26-200

Approve Refund – Farmers Market

WHEREAS, Caldino's LLC submitted payment to participate as a vendor for the 2026 Farmers Market season; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to issue a refund as the vendor cannot complete the remainder of the 2026 season.

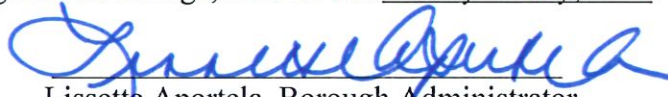
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, that the refund listed below is hereby approved.

VENDOR	ADDRESS	AMOUNT
Caldino's LLC	2432 Bridge Avenue Point Pleasant, NJ 08742	\$578

July 9, 2026

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kinsella			X			
Montisano-Koen	X		X			
Malellari						X
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Feffer		X	X			
Mayor Papaleo						

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Lissette Aportela, Borough Administrator

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #26-201

KENNETH E. DOYLE - APPROVAL OF 100% DISABLED VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION

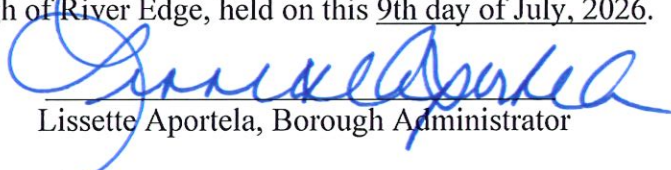
WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has been notified by the Department of Veteran Affairs that Kenneth E. Doyle, residing at 433 The Fenway, River Edge, NJ 07661, also known as Block 909, Lot 10, has been declared 100% totally disabled and has been approved for 100% tax exemption on his dwelling effective May 21, 2026 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 et seq. as amended by P.L. 2019, c.413; N.J.A.C. 18:28-1.1 et seq.;

BE IT RESOLVED, copies of this resolution shall be provided to the Borough Tax Assessor, Borough Tax Collector and Mr. Doyle.

July 9, 2026

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kinsella			X			
Montisano-Koen	X		X			
Malellari						X
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Feffer		X	X			
Mayor Papaleo						

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Lissette Aportela, Borough Administrator

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #26-202

Form of Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation
NJS 40A:4-87

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of River Edge in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2026 in the sum of \$13,112.64 which is now available from "Recycling Tonnage Grant" in the amount of \$13,112.64.

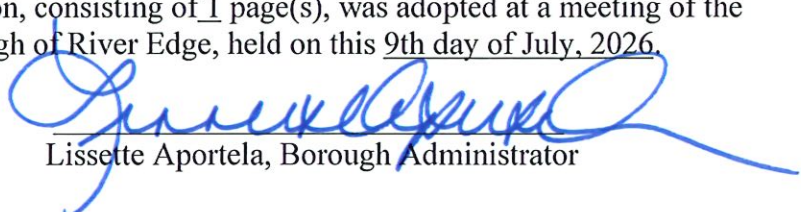
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$13,112.64 is hereby appropriated under the caption "Recycling Tonnage Grant"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is the result of funds from the State Of New Jersey in the amount of \$13,112.64.

July 9, 2026

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kinsella			X			
Montisano-Koen	X		X			
Malellari						X
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Feffer		X	X			
Mayor Papaleo						

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Lisette Aportela, Borough Administrator

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #26-203

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 July 9, 2026.

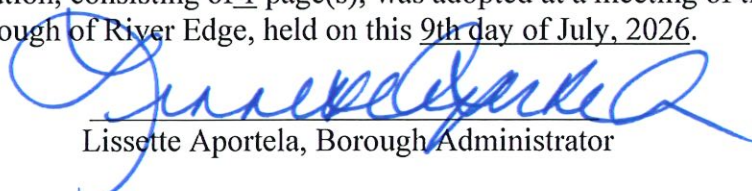
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge approve the following expenditures.

CURRENT FUND	\$	924,551.79
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$	743,009.12
GRANT FUND	\$	164.39
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$	12.00
TRUST OTHER	\$	2,254.77
PAYROLL	\$	25,093.64
DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT	\$	935.00
RECREATION TRUST	\$	7,814.25

July 9, 2026

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kinsella			X			
Montisano-Koen	X		X			
Malellari						X
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Feffer		X	X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 9th day of July, 2026.


Lissette Aportela, Borough Administrator