

# MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
Monday, October 2, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

## CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER –

Mayor Mignone called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

## SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Mignone called for a moment of silent prayer and asked everyone to keep in their prayers all of the victims of the tragedy in Las Vegas. Mayor Mignone asked Tom Sarlo to lead the salute to the flag.

## SUNSHINE STATEMENT -

Mayor Mignone read the statement under the Sunshine Law and asked the Clerk to put it into the minutes. “Adequate Notice of this meeting has been made by sending notice on December 23, 2016 to THE RECORD NEWSPAPER, by positioning on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Borough Hall and filing a Notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk”.

ROLL CALL – Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteded, Councilman Chinigo, Councilwoman Davis and Mayor Mignone; Councilman Papaleo was absent.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council Work Session Meeting of August 15, 2017, the Regular Meeting and Special Meeting of September 5, 2017 and Work Session Meeting of September 18, 2017 were unanimously approved.

## PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS –

Mayor Mignone invited Master Yun to come up and introduce the Team Tigers. Master Yun stated that the team tripled the number of medals compared to last year’s competition and explained that it’s not just a local level competition but a national level competition. He said that every year the competition is held in a different city and this year they traveled to Detroit, Michigan. He said that his students worked very hard and trained more than 10 hours a week to prepare for this and commended them for their perseverance.

Mayor Mignone presented Certificates Recognizing the JS Taekwondo Center’s “Team Tigers” for their Victory in the 2017 USA Taekwondo National Championships as follows: Isaac Chun, Silver Medal in Sparring; Ryan Pak, Gold Medal in Sparring; Junhee Lee, Silver Medal in Kyukpa & Bronze Medal in Poomsae; Kayla Lee, Bronze Medal in Sparring; Nicholas Gilmartin, Bronze medal in Kyukpa; Jackson Lee, Silver Medal in Sparring and Daniel Lin, Silver Medal in Kyukpa and Bronze Medal in Sparring. The following team members received awards for their participation: Adrian Pinos, Aiden Lin and Edwin Chapman III.

Mayor Mignone congratulated Master Yun and his students and feels that it’s a wonderful and successful program and was a pleasure to have them here this evening.

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Mayor Mignone read the proclamation declaring October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month as follows:

## *PROCLAMATION*

*WHEREAS, in the United States, Breast Cancer is the third most common cause of cancer deaths after lung cancer and colon cancer; and*

*WHEREAS, during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we renew our*

*commitment to fighting this disease, raising awareness and supporting those affected by breast cancer; and*

*WHEREAS, death rates from breast cancer have been declining and this change is believed to be the result of earlier detection and improved treatment; and*

*WHEREAS, mammography, an "x-ray" of the breast, is recognized as the single most effective method of detecting breast changes that may be cancer long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt; and*

*WHEREAS, October 20, 2017 is National Mammography Day, a day set aside to promote the importance of regular screenings in the early detection and prompt treatment of breast cancer; and*

*WHEREAS, we recognize the innovative, lifesaving work of medical professionals, through their efforts to prevent, detect and treat make a difference in the lives of our citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, it is important to continue the fight against breast cancer and to reduce the risk of this disease among our citizens.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Edward J. Mignone, Mayor of the Borough of River Edge and on behalf of the Council do proclaim:*

**OCTOBER 2017**

*as*

***National Breast Cancer Awareness Month***

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*Mayor Edward J. Mignone*

*Dated: October 2, 2017*

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Mayor Mignone read the proclamation declaring the week of October 8 – 14, 2017 as Fire Prevention Week as follows:

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, cooking, heating, and electrical fires represent three of the nation's leading causes of home fires, and are collectively responsible for nearly half of all home fires and almost one-third of the associated fire deaths; and*

*WHEREAS, the vast majority of home cooking, heating, and electrical fires can be prevented by taking simple safety precautions; and*

*WHEREAS, developing a home fire escape plan and practicing it at least twice a year are critical to escaping a fire safely; and*

*WHEREAS, proper installation, testing, and maintenance of smoke alarms are part of a thorough home fire escape plan; and*

*WHEREAS, by preventing the leading causes of home fires, and by developing and practicing a thorough home fire escape plan, people can greatly reduce their risk to fire; and*

*WHEREAS, the Fire Prevention Week 2017 theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" encourages the public to develop a home fire escape plan and make sure they have working smoke alarms; and*

*WHEREAS, the fire service of the Borough of River Edge is dedicated to the safety of life and property from the devastating effects of fire; and*

*WHEREAS, the members of the fire service are joined by other concerned citizens of this Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as well as other emergency service providers and safety advocates, businesses, schools, service clubs, and organizations in their fire safety efforts; and*

*WHEREAS, I Edward J. Mignone, Mayor of the Borough of River Edge, do hereby proclaim the week of*

**October 8 – 14, 2017**

**as**

**Fire Prevention Week**

*This week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed more than 250 persons, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 buildings.*

*WHEREAS, I call upon the people of the Borough of River Edge to participate in fire prevention activities at home, work, and school, and to take the steps needed to make their homes and families safe from the leading causes of home fires, which include cooking, heating and electrical fires and plan and practice their home fire escape.*

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*Edward J. Mignone, Mayor*

*Dated: October 2, 2017*

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Mayor Mignone read the proclamation declaring October 2017 as Italian American Heritage Month and asked Councilman Chinigo to accept the proclamation which read as follows:

### **PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, since our nation's inception and throughout our history, brave men, women and children, yearning for freedom and opportunity, made the journey to the United States in search of a better life; and*

*WHEREAS, from early explorers to the 5.5 million immigrants of the early twentieth century, Italian Americans have helped shaped and develop our nation; and*

*WHEREAS, coinciding with festivities surrounding Columbus Day, National Italian American Heritage Month recognizes the many achievements, contributions and successes of Americans of Italian descent; and*

*WHEREAS, Italian American citizens have made significant economic and cultural contributions to our nation, state and community, and their influences can be found in every walk of life.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Edward J. Mignone, Mayor of the Borough of River Edge, in recognition thereof, do hereby proclaim:*

**The Month of October 2017**

**as**

**Italian American Heritage Month**

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*Mayor Edward J. Mignone*

*Dated: October 2, 2017*

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**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ISSUE ON THE AGENDA –**

On motion by Councilman Acquafredda, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to open public comments on any issue on the agenda was unanimously approved.

**CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ISSUE ON THE AGENDA –**

There being no comments by the public, on motion by Councilwoman Busteded, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to close public comments on any issue on the agenda was unanimously approved.

**APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES –**

On motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to approve the salary increase of Lisa Sulikowski, Deputy Court Administrator from a Step I hourly rate of \$19.56 to Step II - \$20.63, effective October 5, 2017 was unanimously approved.

On motion by Councilwoman Busteded, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to approve the salary increase of Peter DeVries, Fire Inspector from an hourly Step II rate of \$24.23 to Step III - \$25.48, effective October 15, 2017 was unanimously approved.

On motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to approve the salary increase of Adrienne Capasso, Construction Department Clerk from a Step II hourly rate of \$20.63 to Step III - \$21.73 effective October 20, 2017 was unanimously approved.

On motion by Councilman Acquafredda, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to approve the salary increase of Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk from an annual Step III salary of \$66,646.00 to Step IV - \$70,154.00 effective October 22, 2017 was unanimously approved.

On motion by Councilwoman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to approve the appointment of David Stucke to the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department, effective October 3, 2017 was unanimously approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE –**

- Notice - River Edge Board of Education – 9/5/17  
Re: Meeting Notice – 9/6/17
- Letter - BCUA – 9/17/17  
Re: 2017 BCUA Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant
- Report - Alan P. Negreann, Admin/CFO – 9/21/17  
Re: Damage to Public Property
- Report - Alan P. Negreann, Administrator/CFO - 9/22/17  
Re: Farmer’s Market Monthly Report
- Notice - River Edge Board of Education – 9/22/17  
Re: Meeting Notice – September 27, 2017
- Report - Alan P. Negreann, Administrator/CFO-9/26/17  
Re: Revenue Report

**MONTHLY REPORTS –**

- Tax Collector - August 2017
- Library Board - September 2017
- Recreation Commission - April, May, June & July 2017
- Land Use Board - June & July 2017
- Board of Health - September 2017

**ORDINANCES – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING –**

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #17-23 into the record as follows:

Ordinance #17-23 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, COUNTY OF

BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 400, OF THE RIVER EDGE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC".

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilman Chinigo, the first reading of Ordinance #18-23 was approved unanimously as follows:

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE  
ORDINANCE #17-23**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 400, OF THE RIVER EDGE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC".**

**WHEREAS**, based upon the advice of the Chief of Police and the Borough’s Traffic and Safety Committee, the Governing Body has deemed it in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare to supplement, amend and revise its Vehicles and Traffic Ordinance as codified in Chapter 400 of the River Edge Borough Code:

**WHEREAS**, Article II, §400-7, entitled “Parking prohibited during certain hours” provides that “No person shall park a vehicle between the hours specified on any day, except Sundays and public holidays, upon any of the streets or parts of streets described in Schedule II (§400-28), attached to and made a part of this chapter.” and

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

**SECTION 1.** §400-28. Schedule II: Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours is hereby amended to add certain streets as follows:

**§400-28. Schedule II: Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours**

In accordance with the provisions of §400-7, no person shall park a vehicle between the hours specified upon any of the following described streets or parts of streets:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Sides</u>	<u>Days/Hours</u>	<u>Location</u>
Continental Avenue	South	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. school days except to pick up and discharge students only	From a point 56 feet west of Bogert Road to a point 282 feet west of Bogert Road

**SECTION 2.** Except as set forth in Sections 1, the balance of Chapter 400 shall not be affected by this Ordinance.

**SECTION 3.** This chapter is intended to supplement existing ordinances and other laws pertaining to Chapter 400, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” of the River Edge Borough Code and shall not be construed to excuse any person from complying with such other ordinances and laws.

**SECTION 4.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5.** If any part, sections, provisions, or total of any of the aforementioned sections are held to be invalid or unenforceable by any court, the findings or judgments of which court are applicable in the State of New Jersey, that the balance and remainder of such sections shall remain in full force and effect as an Ordinance of the Borough of River Edge.

**SECTION 6.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption and publication according to law.

ATTEST:

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Stephanie Evans  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED:

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Edward Mignone  
Mayor

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Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance # 17-24 into the record as follows:

Ordinance #17-24 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 382, OF THE RIVER EDGE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "TOWING".

Mayor Mignone-explained that last year there were quite a few issues with towing and inconsistent application of the ordinance in terms of assessing fees to the residents so Mr. Sarlo and Chief Cariddi, they've clarified some of the language. The Mayor asked Chief Cariddi to come up and highlight some of the changes.

Chief Cariddi-stated that as the Mayor had stated they ran into problems last winter with some of the fees that were charged. The ordinance seemed prone to too much interpretation on the part of the tow service leading to widely varying tow fees depending on which tow service performed the actual towing. They tried to tighten up some of those ambiguities and kept the fees essentially the same and made the language quite clear in certain sections as to what is allowable for charging and what some of the definitions of services actually are. The Chief explained that there was also a change made to the storage section defining the storage period allowing for a three hour window so when the person returned, they would not be charged.

Tom Sarlo, Esq.-stated they've seen where once it hits the lot, the storage fee starts to accrue so this would allow a 3 hour window to retrieve the vehicle without a storage fee.

Mayor Mignone-asked if this is the time of year that they would be renewing towing contracts?

Chief Cariddi-replied yes, and that he's receiving applications from the different towing companies.

Tom Sarlo, Esq.-explained that they eliminated some of the fees such as the yard fee because people were getting charged a storage fee and a yard fee and every time a vehicle was move within the yard they were charged again. He also explained some of the other changes that they are suggesting and feels that they've made it as clear as possible to hopefully avoid any problems in the future.

Mayor Mignone-stated that it would be interesting to go back to the analysis that the Chief did over the winter to see how the rates would have been different if this ordinance was in place.

Chief Cariddi-said that he spoke with Mr. Sarlo today and they may offer a few other amendments to this ordinance before the final adoption.

On motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Busteed, the first reading of Ordinance #17-24 was unanimously approved as follows:

**THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE  
ORDINANCE #17-24**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 382, OF THE RIVER EDGE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "TOWING".**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 382 of the Code of the Borough of River Edge entitled "Towing" provides standards, regulations and rates for all police-requested towing and roadside repair services on roadways with the Borough of River Edge; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Police of the Borough of River Edge, the Mayor and Council deems it in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Borough and its residents to amend Chapter 382 of the Code of the Borough of River Edge entitled "Towers", specifically §382-8. Fees.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge hereby amend §382-8 of the Borough Code as follows:

**SECTION 1.**

The fees permitted by the following fee schedules are promulgated in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.49 and N.J.A.C. 11:3-38. The maximum fees permitted by this chapter will be the same as allowed by the statute and regulation, as they may be amended. This chapter will be interpreted to provide for the same maximum fees, as said statute and regulation will permit, without further amendment hereof. The following is the fee schedule for basic automobile towing services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.49:

- A. Vehicles under 6,000 pounds:

**Description**

**Fee**

Towing	\$125.00
Mileage (out of town or not to yard (within N.J.), per mile rate	\$5.00
Road Service	\$60.00
Storage (per calendar day)	\$40.00
Winching/recovery (beyond right of way)	\$150.00

The fees set forth above are the maximum charges that shall apply to private passenger automobiles for basic towing services. There shall be no additional charges other than those provided herein, including but not limited to, flatbedding, waiting time, winching (except as described below) and additional labor when only basic towing services are required.

B. Vehicles 6,001 pounds to 10,000 pounds:

Description	Fee
Towing (per hour)	\$175.00
Road Service	\$75.00
Storage (per calendar day)	\$75.00
Winching/recovery (per hour, per truck)	\$200.00

C. Vehicles over 10,001 pounds:

Description	Fee
Towing (per hour)	\$325.00
Road Service	\$100.00
Storage (per calendar day)	\$100.00
Winching/recovery (per hour, per truck)	\$425.00

D. Clean-up:

Description	Fee
Clean-up at accident scene	\$35.00
Speedi-Dri (per bag)	\$15.00
Extra personnel; (per hour/per person) (Additional work requiring extra personnel shall be billed at a per hour rate per person)	\$85.00

Description	Fee
Crash wrap (front, rear)	\$40.00
Crash wrap (side)	\$25.00

Waiting time (initial 30 minutes on arrival, no charge; thereafter \$100.00 billed at 30 minute increments at a per hourly rate)

E. Release of vehicles.

(1) The towing operator must have, at a minimum, the following hours for releasing of vehicles: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Winching service charges:** Winching is described as the process of moving a motor vehicle by the use of the cable from a position that is not accessible for direct hook up by conventional means for loading onto a tow vehicle. Winching shall not include the pulling a vehicle onto a tilt bed or carrier nor lifting a motor vehicle with a conventional sling. There will be no additional charge for winching to facilitate the tow. Winching service charges apply to, but are not limited to, vehicle that are positioned in embankments, overturned or position in such a precarious manner that normal winching to facilitate the tow is unsuitable.

**Storage charges:** Storage charges shall not be charged if the vehicle owner is on site at the storage facility and can perform all acts necessary to retrieve the vehicle within the first three hours of the tow. The fees set forth on the schedule for storage fees are the maximum storage charges per twenty-four (24) hour period or a part thereof that shall apply to a vehicle that is stored. A new twenty-four hour period begins at 12:01 a.m.

Additional storage shall not accrue if the vehicle has been released by the River Edge Police Department but the towing operator is not available to release it. The towing operator shall assume and be solely responsible for all costs incident to moving vehicles from one storage area to another storage area owned and operated by the towing operator.

**SECTION 2.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby

repealed.

**SECTION 3.** If any part, sections, provisions, or total of any of the aforementioned sections are held to be invalid or unenforceable by any court, the findings or judgments of which court are applicable in the State of New Jersey, that the balance and remainder of such sections shall remain in full force and effect as an Ordinance of the Borough of River Edge.

**SECTION 4.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption and publication according to law.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Evans  
Borough Clerk

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Edward Mignone  
Mayor

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**ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – NONE**

**RESOLUTIONS - By Consent**

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis resolution #17-323 through #17-333 and resolution #17-335 and #17-336 were unanimously approved.

#17-323 Amend Agreement with Robert Costa, Borough Engineer for Professional Services Related to the 2017 Riverside Road Resurfacing Program – Inspection

WHEREAS, there exists a need for expert professional engineering services related to the Riverside Road Resurfacing Program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has previously awarded a contract to Robert Costa, Borough Engineer via resolution #17-76 dated July 11, 2017 in the amount of \$10,000.00; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is required for professional services related to the 2017 Riverside Road Resurfacing Program; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #04-2150-55-1712-100 of the Capital Fund in the amount not to exceed \$1,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, Robert Costa has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Robert Costa has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Robert Costa from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have examined resumes, biographies, work experience; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed price and other factors when considering supporting reasons for awarding this contract; and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed \$65.00 per hour as Borough Engineer and per hour rates as follows:

Principal/Project Engineer.....	\$ 65.00
Principal Land Surveyor.....	\$ 75.00
Survey Field Crew.....	\$150.00
Senior Designer.....	\$ 65.00
Senior Drafter.....	\$ 55.00
Computer Drafting .....	\$ 75.00
Technical/Administrative Assistant .....	\$ 65.00

Field Inspector..... \$ 80.00

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Robert Costa, Costa Engineering Corp., 325 South River Street, Suite 302, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 in the amount not to exceed \$1,000.00; and
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.

October 2, 2017

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#17-324 Amend Agreement with Robert Costa, Borough Engineer for Professional Services Related to Community Development Block Grant Street/Curb/Sidewalk Improvements, Phase II – Design & Inspect

WHEREAS, there exists a need for expert professional engineering services related to Community Development Block Grant Street/Curb/Sidewalk Improvements, Phase II - Design and Inspect; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has previously awarded a contract to Robert Costa, Borough Engineer via resolution #15-287 dated August 3, 2015 in the amount of \$2,000.00 and amended via resolution #16-411 dated December 5, 2016 in the amount of \$5,700.00; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is required for professional services related to Community Development Block Grant Street/Curb/Sidewalk Improvements, Phase II - Design and Inspect; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1652-100 of the Current Fund in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed \$65.00 per hour; and

WHEREAS, Robert Costa has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Robert Costa has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Robert Costa from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed this matter at a work session on October 2, 2017; and

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached amended agreement with Robert Costa, Costa Engineering Corp., 325 South River Street, Suite 302, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00; and
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.

October 2, 2017

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#17-325 Resolution Urging the State Legislature to Extend the 2% Cap on Police and Fire Arbitration Contract Awards

WHEREAS, local municipalities require specific tools to address the rising cost of municipal government; and

WHEREAS, in July 2010 the Governor and New Jersey State Legislature enacted a permanent 2% cap on municipal and school board tax levies with limited exceptions that did not include police and fire arbitration contract awards; and

WHEREAS, salary costs, to a great extent, drive property tax increases; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010 the Legislature unanimously approved and the Governor enacted a temporary 2% cap on police and fire arbitration contract awards in an effort to control increasing salary costs and provide a solution to assist local governments in keeping property taxes down and cost under control; and

WHEREAS, the December 2010 legislation included an April 1, 2014 sunset on the 2% arbitration cap while the 2% property tax levy remained permanent for municipalities and school boards; and

WHEREAS, in June 2014 the Legislature unanimously approved and the Governor enacted an extension to December 31, 2017 for the 2 % arbitration cap, however, the 2% property tax levy cap continues to remain permanent, without an exemption for police and fire arbitration contract awards; and

WHEREAS, municipalities continue efforts to contain costs and provide vital services to residents within the 2% property tax levy while the New Jersey economy remains sluggish and taxpayers struggle to keep their homes and pay their taxes; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that this change in arbitration reform needs a longer time to mature in order to see the benefits of a legislation and its actual impact on the cost of local government budgets and the impact on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the final report and recommendations of the Police and Fire Public Interest Arbitration Impact Task Force, which was established in the December 2010 legislation, is not due until the same day as the expiration of the cap on interest arbitration awards, December 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, we recognize it is now time for our taxpayers to benefit directly from these cost saving measures as many police and fire contracts will come due for negotiation after the sunset date; and

WHEREAS, if the cap on arbitration expires while the 2% levy cap remains in effect, municipalities will be forced to reduce or eliminate municipal services in order to fund interest arbitration awards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of River Edge urges the State Legislature to extend the 2% cap on Police and Fire Arbitration Contract Awards for 5 more years at which time the Legislature will have hard data to examine and then make a final decision as to whether this law should be made permanent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to District 38 Assemblymen Timothy Eustace and Joseph Lagana, Senator Robert Gordon, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor of the State of New Jersey and the League of Municipalities.

October 2, 2017

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#17-326 Award of Contract to Joseph Smentkowski, Inc., 3 New York Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307 for Complete Solid Waste Collection Services from 1-4 Family Residences as Part of a Shared Service with New Milford, Option Year 4

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2014 bids were received by the Borough of New Milford for Complete Solid Waste Collection Service for New Milford and River Edge; and

WHEREAS, four (4) bids were received, the lowest from Joseph Smentkowski, Inc., 3 York Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07306 in the amount of \$3,500,000.00 for a five (5) year contract total representing Options 1,2,3; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge and Borough of New Milford have agreed to share the cost of such service for all years and during the first year of the contract it will be calculated at the following percentages: River Edge (44.5%), New Milford (55.5%) based upon the 2017 Table of Aggregates.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-26-3050-100 of the Current Fund in the amount not to exceed \$310,800.00 for the 1st year from October 16, 2014 to October 15, 2015; a pro-rata share of \$311,500.00 for the 2nd year from October 16, 2015 to October 15, 2016; a pro-rata share of \$311,500.00 for the 3rd year from October 16, 2016 to October 15, 2017; a pro-rata share of \$311,500.00 for the 4th year from October 16, 2017 to October 15, 2018 and a pro-rata share of \$311,500.00 for the 5th year from October 16, 2018 to October 15, 2019. All amounts are contingent upon the Governing Body passing and including an appropriation in those current fund budgets and subject to all of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.3 with respect to multi-year contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid for a one year contract Option Year 4 for Complete Solid Waste Collection Service from 1-4 Family Residences is hereby awarded to Joseph Smentkowski, Inc., 3 New York Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07307 and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contract for the Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this award of contract is subject to the Borough of New Milford making a similar award since they are the Lead Agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to Joseph Smentkowski, Inc. and the Borough of New Milford.

October 2, 2017

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#17-327 Purchase of Sony Camera and Pinnacle Dazzle DVD Recorder Through State Contract

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge desires to purchase one (1) Sony Analog Minidome Camera and one (1) Pinnacle Dazzle DVD Recorder from Adorama, Inc., 42 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011; and

WHEREAS, the vendor, Adorama, Inc. is an approved State Contract participant, bearing the State Contract #88796; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1012-140 of the Current Fund in the amount not to exceed \$369.99; 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 Contract bid on one (1) Sony Analog Minidome Camera and one (1) Pinnacle Dazzle DVD Recorder as per the State's specifications in an amount not to exceed \$369.99.

October 2, 2017

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#17-328 Cancel Unexpended and Dedicated Balances

WHEREAS, certain General Capital Improvement appropriation balances remain dedicated to projects now completed; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended

balances may be returned to each respective Capital Improvement Fund or credited to Fund Balance and unused debt authorized may be canceled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge that the following unexpended and dedicated balances of General Capital Appropriation be canceled:

<u>ORDINANCE</u>	<u>CAPITAL ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT</u>	<u>ORDINANCE #1873 AUTHORIZATION</u>
1873 (Community Development Block Grant) Curb & Sidewalk Improvements, Phase II – Oxford/Rutgers	\$23,637.00	\$23,637.00

October 2, 2017

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#17-329 Resolution Permitting the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at a Block Party of Monroe Avenue

WHEREAS, on or about October 2, 2017, the Borough of River Edge granted permission to Jaimee Strasser, 220 Monroe Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey, to hold a block party on Monroe Avenue between Elm Avenue and Fifth Avenue on Saturday, October 28, 2017 starting at 3:00 p.m. in accordance with Borough Ordinance #1678; and

WHEREAS, Jaimee Strasser has requested that the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages be permitted in connection with said block party; and

WHEREAS, Borough Code Section 114-15 allows the Governing Body to permit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in or on a public street or sidewalk in connection with an authorized block party.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that persons age 21 and over be and hereby are permitted to possess and consume alcoholic beverages at the block party described above, on the date and time specified herein.

October 2, 2017

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#17-330 Authorize Mayor and Clerk to Sign a Shared Services Agreement with the River Edge Board of Education for Snow Clearance and Ice Control

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge wishes to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the River Edge Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this agreement is to engage the Borough of River Edge Department of Public Works to provide snow clearance and ice control on River Edge Board of Education property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that the Borough of River Edge shall enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the River Edge Board of Education for snow clearance and ice control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Shared Services Agreement pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, subject to the approval and review of the agreement by the Borough Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the River Edge Board of Education.

October 2, 2017

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#17-331 Enter Into Agreement with Robert Costa, Borough Engineer, for Professional Services Related to Community Development Block Grant – Oxford 4, Oxford Circle – Engineering Estimate & Design

WHEREAS, there exists a need for expert professional engineering services related to Community Development Block Grant – Oxford 4, Oxford Circle – Engineering Estimate & Design; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1652-100 of the Current Fund in the amount of \$2,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, Robert Costa has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Robert Costa has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Robert Costa from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have examined resumes, biographies, work experience; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed price and other factors when considering supporting reasons for awarding this contract; and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed \$65.00 per hour as Borough Engineer and per hour rates as follows:

Principal Engineer.....	\$ 65.00
Principal Land Surveyor.....	\$ 75.00
Survey Field Crew.....	\$150.00
Senior Designer.....	\$ 65.00
Senior Drafter.....	\$ 55.00
Computer Drafting.....	\$ 75.00
Technical/Administrative Assistant.....	\$ 65.00
Field Inspector.....	\$ 80.00

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Robert Costa, Costa Engineering Corp., 325 South River Street, Suite 302, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 in the amount not to exceed \$2,500.00; and
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.
4. That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS for publication.

October 2, 2017

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#17-332 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2017 Municipal Aid Application for Bogert Road, Section 1 Improvements

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge continues to develop projects that will improve access and maintenance on public roads; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge's Engineering Department has provided plans

specifically designed to address and improve traffic flow/safety issues and maintenance on our roads; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has submitted plans to the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation for Municipal Aid and will continue to do so in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has identified Bogert Road, Section 1 in desperate need of repair.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey formally approves the grant application for \$2,068,034.35.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2018, River Edge Borough, Bogert Road, Section 1, Application #00397 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of River Edge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of River Edge and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

My signature and the Clerk’s seal serve to acknowledge the above resolution and constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement as authorized by the resolution above.

ATTEST and AFFIX SEAL \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Borough Clerk

October 2, 2017

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#17-333 Change Order #2 Approval and Amendatory Contract for the 2017 Riverside Cooperative Road Improvement Program to D & L Paving Contractors, Inc., 675 Franklin Avenue, Nutley, New Jersey 07110

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-4.2 lists the requirements for all Change Orders; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge awarded a contract to D & L Paving Contractors, Inc., on May 15, 2017 via resolution #17-182 and amended via resolution #17-320 dated September 18, 2017; and

WHEREAS Change Order #2 reflects a decrease in quantities for a total amount not to exceed (\$4,770.00); and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has recommended the above change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of River Edge shall enter into a written amendatory contract with D & L Paving Contractors, Inc., Change Order #2 for a decrease of (\$4,770.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the exact form of this amendatory contract shall be at the discretion of the Borough Attorney and the Mayor and the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to execute said contract, and Change Order #2.

October 2, 2017

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On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to approve resolution #17-334 was unanimously approved.

#17-334 Payment of Bills

WHEREAS, vouchers for the payment of goods and services rendered to the Borough of River Edge have been received; and

WHEREAS, each bill has been checked by the receiving department, approved by the Chief

Financial Officer and Borough Clerk and reviewed by the three members of the Finance Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that bills as listed now be confirmed for payment from the appropriate funds as follows:

CURRENT ACCOUNT	\$1,749,893.63
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 463,549.84
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 4,807.82
SELF INSURANCE ACCOUNT	\$ 1,142.79
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 59,119.22
OPEN SPACE ACCOUNT	\$ 5,048.96
TRUST OTHER DEVELOPERS ACCOUNT	\$ 10,440.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that claims read and approved by the Governing Body at a Council meeting will be dated the day after the reading of those claims and will appear on the following bill list at the next public meeting of the Mayor and Council at which time claims would be paid.

October 2, 2017

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#17-335 Resolution to Refund Planning Board Escrow Money to Route 4 Main Street, LLC for Block 1404, Lots 1.01, 3.01 and 5

WHEREAS, the following application has been made to the Planning Board for Site Plan approvals and has since received such approval; and

WHEREAS, all professional have been paid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to refund the following to:

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name &amp; Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1404/1.04, 3.01 & 5	Route 4 Main Street, LLC 574 Grand Avenue Englewood, NJ 07631	\$816.09

October 2, 2017

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#17-336 Resolution to Refund Planning Board Escrow Money for Total Wine to Connell Foley ITF Total Wine, c/o Timothy Corriston, Esq., Connell, Foley LLP, 85 Livingston Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068 for Block 1404, Lots 1.04, 3.01 and 5

WHEREAS, the following application has been made to the Planning Board for Site Plan approvals and has since received such approval; and

WHEREAS, all professional have been paid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to refund the following to:

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name &amp; Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1404/1.04, 3.01 & 5	Connell Foley ITF Total Wine c/o Timothy Corriston, Esq. Connell, Foley LLP 85 Livingston Avenue Roseland, NJ 07068	\$1,137.45

October 2, 2017

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## **OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC –**

On motion by Councilman Acquafredda, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to open the hearing of the public was unanimously approved.

## **CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC –**

On motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to close the hearing of the public was unanimously approved.

Casey Connors - 259 Adams Avenue-asked Mr. Sarlo if he has returned the letters that the New Jersey Disability Rights lawyer has asked about?

Tom Sarlo, Esq.-replied that he's in the process of replying to it but is waiting to receive additional information from the engineer.

Casey Connors-stated that it's been 3 years.

Tom Sarlo, Esq.-replied that it hasn't been 3 years, it was resolved 3 years ago with his letter to her as to what we were going to do. There was no activity from a legal point for him to do anything further and his last letter to her explained the Borough's position. In light of Mr. Connor's inquiry, we have not heard back from disability group after his letter 3 years ago. We just have Mr. Connor's email to Alan Negreann. Mr. Sarlo cannot communicate with Mr. Connor's because he's represented by an attorney. He as our attorney, can only communicate with the other attorney, not Mr. Connors.

Casey Connors- feels that he's been discriminated against because he brought these issues up over 10 years ago and still nothing has been done.

Mayor Mignone-asked Mr. Sarlo if he is going to reach out to the attorney?

Tom Sarlo, Esq.-replied yes. He said that they've had a closed session on the matter and they've authorized the Borough Engineer to go out and do another inspection so see if we're in compliance or not. Once Mr. Sarlo receives that information, he will reach out to his attorney.

Casey Connors-stated that Costa Engineering did a land survey on several curb ramps and that there was \$17,500 available to make repairs. He hasn't seen any of the curb cuts repaired except where they've paved on Fifth Avenue.

Mayor Mignone-asked if the \$17,500 was for CDBG or the Kinderkamack Road paving.

Alan Negreann-stated that he can't respond to that because he doesn't have the documentation in front of him. He'll try and research it.

Casey Connors-asked if the County has been notified about Lincoln Avenue?

Mayor Mignone-replied that he thinks that's one of the curbs that Mr. Costa is evaluating.

Casey Connors-commented that it's been 10 years. The very first time he came to a meeting Mayor Watkins response to that was that it's not our responsibility, it's the County's and he feels the town needs to contact the County.

Mayor Mignone-said that it's not a matter of responsibility, the adjacent property owners are responsible for ramps. The ramps were re-done prior to the paving of Kinderkamack Road. There are legitimate engineering exceptions that prevent complete per letter compliance, especially if you have a 15% hill you can't have a 0% crosswalk. It just doesn't work.

Casey Connors-asked the Mayor if he has seen it?

Mayor Mignone-replied, yes.

Casey Connors-said that with the light stanchion, you can't get by.

Mayor Mignone-said that he's not going to comment on that aspect. He again stated that Mr. Costa will do a full evaluation and if there needs to be remedial action, then we will look into it.

Casey Connors-asked if Mr. Sarlo would contact Ms. Reilly?

Tom Sarlo, Esq.- stated that although he has not received any correspondence from Ms. Reilly, he will send an update.

Casey Connors-stated that he has documentation that the responsibility lies with the municipality not the homeowner and feels that the curb cuts should be redone because of the liability.

Tom Sarlo, Esq.-again stated that once he receives the additional documentation from Mr. Costa, he will give an update and address them. He is not making any guarantee that they're going to be done because it may not be the Borough's responsibility but that will be Mr. Costa's call.

Casey Connors-again stated that it's the town's responsibility.

Mayor Mignone-said that he doesn't want to get into a technical discussion but you can look back to see in some locations where we put in retaining walls or additional curbing to get the proper grade and encroach on private property.

Casey Connors-asked if someone would go around with him and take a look at the curb cuts.

Mayor Mignone-said that when you look at whether you can meet stringent requirements of the current code and field conditions, that's where there could be discrepancies.

Casey Connors-said that all this could have been avoided over the years if they continued the policy of

having someone go around and marking the sidewalks. He feels very frustrated because he's been complaining about these issues for over 10 years.

Ted L'Estrange-6 Geoffrey Court, Otisville, NY- asked the Mayor and Council to pass a resolution condemning China's forced live organ harvesting and distributed detailed information for them to review.

Mayor Mignone-explained to Mr. L'Estrange that the Council will review the information and if they feel it is something that they want to put on a future agenda they'll do that through a work session.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS –**

Councilman Chinigo-extended a thank you to our Recreation Director, Bobbi Conway who will be retiring at the end of the year. Her contribution to the town has been amazing over the years and she will be sorely missed. He offered condolences to the victims and families who were affected by yesterday's horror in Las Vegas. Councilman Chinigo attended River Edge Day yesterday and said that it was wonderful seeing all of our residents and children enjoying the great activities and felt that it was a fantastic event. He reminded everyone that we have a living history at New Bridge Landing and encouraged everyone to check out the ongoing events and feels that it rivals anything with respect to American history and is a very important site. He also encouraged everyone to check out the programs that the Library offers our community and commended the Director and Library Board for their hard work in putting these programs together.

Councilwoman Davis-also felt that River Edge Day was very successful and was pleased that they had such a great turnout. Councilwoman Davis feels that it will be a great loss to the town to have Bobbi Conway retire but after so many years, she definitely deserves it. She reported that our public health nurse, Arlene Faustini is working on another program for SCORE and continues to try and entice new members. Councilwoman Davis reported that the last day for the Farmer's Market will be Halloween and the committee will be meeting to see if they can come up with something special for that day.

Councilman Acquafredda-was very sorry to receive Bobbi's letter but feels that it gives the Council a wonderful opportunity to insure that there's a smooth transition as well as take a good hard look at the Recreation Commission and what the Bobbi's retirement will mean to them. He said that unfortunately the news has taken over our lives again with killings in Las Vegas and has no words to describe the madness that we find ourselves in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He enjoyed River Edge Day very much. He attended a River Edge Board of Education meeting in September and doesn't really have anything special to report. There were a few questions by residents regarding school matters and the school board announced that they will be sending out a statement to the community informing them that they will not go out for a school expansion project at this time. They will take time to review all 4 options that were presented earlier this year by DiCara Architects. He will not be able to attend Wednesday's meeting and asked if anyone would like to go in his place.

Councilman Bartelloni – reported that the Traffic & Safety Committee did meet last week and one of the topics of discussion was a crosswalk at Wayne and Kinderkamack. It was the recommendation of the committee that the crosswalk be installed. Councilman Bartelloni spoke with the Chief of Police to determine whether it should be installed prior to a sidewalk being installed. It was the Chief's opinion that the crosswalk could go in now before the sidewalk is in place. Councilman Bartelloni asked that the topic be listed for the next work session. He understands that we'll have to contact the County, but feels it's a worthwhile project.

Mayor Mignone-doesn't necessarily agree with not having the sidewalk and would like Mr. Costa to check the regulations. The Mayor said that if there's mud there and someone tries to get across, there may be an issue. He continued to say that there will be a sidewalk there eventually because it's within the scope of the Safe Routes to School grant but they've also talked about maybe placing a ramp on that side and a pad by the bus stop. He would feel more comfortable if there was a hard surface on that side.

Councilman Bartelloni-again suggested that it be listed for a work session and would like to ask Mr. Costa to take a look to see what the cost would be to put a pad down. Councilman Bartelloni congratulated all of the students from the Taekwondo Academy on their achievements. He also attended River Edge Day and felt that it was a well attended event. He announced that in New Jersey Magazine, River Edge was listed as the 16<sup>th</sup> top town in the State. He feels that it speaks to the quality of people that live here and what a great place it is to raise a family and retire. He found it interesting when you look at the numbers, and as a credit to the Mayor and Council, they noted that River Edge has made a fantastic effort to have significantly less debt per person than surrounding communities. He feels that it's been a tremendous effort by the Mayor and Council to have a responsible fiscal picture and encouraged everyone to take a look at the magazine to get a better sense of what a great job we've been doing finance wise. Councilman Bartelloni feels that it's quite an accomplishment to be ranked 16<sup>th</sup> out of 572-576 municipalities in the state.

Councilwoman Busted-thanked all of the volunteers and residents who came out to make River Edge Day a successful community event and to Bobbi for her leadership. She also thanked the Lion's Club and other community groups that are organizing hurricane relief efforts for the collection yesterday.

Councilwoman Busted read the following statement:

Last week my husband and I were in Washington DC as we have been many times and the grandness and importance of this place never wanes. On this visit, I was granted passes to the US House of Representative Gallery. Little did I know that during my time in the Gallery, Representative Steve Scalise from Louisiana would be returning for the first time since being the victim of gun violence last June. It was an incredibly moving and triumphant return met with well-deserved applause from a full gallery of legislators. I sat there so moved by what Representative Scalise, his family, colleagues and first responders had endured to get him to this moment. What an opportunity the country has to address gun violence I thought. Today, America woke up to another senseless tragedy involving guns. You can be sure that I will pray for the victims, their families and all of the first responders. But you can also be sure that I will do what I can to take action. I will call my legislators in Washington and demand that they address common sense gun measures, I will support local organizations that advocate for common sense gun measures and I will encourage my colleagues in this body to recognize Gun Violence Awareness and consider taking action as well. Furthermore, I will continue to advocate for quality mental health services. The victims, their families and the first responders will need access of quality mental health services as the aftermath of this tragedy unfolds. River Edge through its Stigma Free Initiative, strives to bring mental illness and mental health into our everyday conversations through programming and advocacy. We are fortunate enough to have a Police Department that has been specifically trained in law enforcement specific mental health training. These are important efforts and I thank those involved for your commitment to them. Our citizens deserve no less.

Mayor Mignone thanked Councilwoman Busted for her comments and thinks that they all agree with her sentiments. The Mayor attended and enjoyed River Edge Day and told Bobbi Conway that he almost needed the AED after reading her letter of resignation on Friday. Although it was a shock to all of us, he agreed with Councilman Acquafredda that it gives the Council an opportunity to look at everything with a fresh perspective. He feels that it's not something that should be done rashly or is a position that should be filled quickly because Bobbi has been with us for 24 years. He feels that this is a position that we have to look at the person we're hiring as someone who may be with us for a decade or two. Mayor Mignone wanted to make a comment about the schools because he was told by a resident that this Mayor & Council is being blamed for the increase in enrollment in the schools because of over development. The Mayor has been telling people "what has been built in the last 10 years that added anything". There may have been two or three sub-divisions but that's it. They can speculate about what may come from the New Bridge Apartments but to date, he doesn't know why this keeps being proffered and felt he had to set the record straight because it's not factual. He suggested that people should remind the school board and Superintendent that no one on this Council was here when the previous Councils approved three redevelopment plans that could bring in 400 – 600 apartment units. They were signed, sealed and delivered and all they have to do is be funded and we could have that. The Mayor stated that the schools need to plan for that eventuality and we don't know what will happen with COAH and what our ultimate obligation will be. The school has to be willing to partner with the Borough to address this. As we look to the future and what was done in the past, in his opinion, was not done very prudently. The Mayor feels that they need to recognize the situation for what it is and not make it 'us versus them' and accusing us of doing something incorrect. Mayor Mignone understands that people are concerned about taxes and as they've said all along, we've been trying to control it since we came into a very dire strait situation in 2010. As he looks to our surrounding towns, from 2014 to 2017, Oradell's tax levy has increased 11%, their budget has increased 11%, their debt has increased 15% and the amount of surplus that they've used as revenue has gone up 53% over that time period. During the same period of time New Milford's tax levy went up 2.7%, and their budget went up only 8% because they used surplus. Their surplus is now at 110% more than it was 3 years ago. They went from using \$700,000 to \$1,500,000 this current year to offset that increase. That's what got this Borough into deep trouble in the earlier part of the 2000's. During that period of time from 2014-2017 our tax levy went up 5%, the budget went up 4%, our debt went up 4% and the surplus used increased 0%. He feels that this Council has done a great job in trying to stabilize taxes. The Mayor stated that we all acknowledge that the work is not done but we're trending the right way and we should all be proud of the financial position of the Borough.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:12 P.M.**

On motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. was unanimously approved.

**MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to approve resolution #17-322 was unanimously approved.

#17-322 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain enumerated circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances will or presently exist.

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

1. That the public shall be excluded from the October 2, 2017 regular session meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session</u> <u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Reference</u>
17-10/2-1	Litigation – 7 Eleven, Inc., & 584 Kinderkamack Road Associates	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)
17-10/2-2	Personnel - Amendment N.J.A.C. 5:30-15.4 Accumulated Absence Borough Administrator- Alan Negreann	N.J.S.A.10:4-12(8)

2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public within a reasonable time, the substance of which will be released after the Mayor and Council or the specific authorized public body has reviewed and specifically accepted the data.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

October 2, 2017

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**CLOSED SESSION TOPICS**

<u>Closed Session</u> <u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Reference</u>
17-10/2-1	Litigation – 7 Eleven, Inc. & 584 Kinderkamack Road Associates	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)
17-10/2-2	Personnel - Amendment N.J.A.C. 5:30-15.4 Accumulated Absence Borough Administrator- Alan Negreann	N.J.S.A.10:4-12(8)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION -**

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilman Acquafredda to adjourn the closed session meeting was unanimously approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward J. Mignone, Mayor

Attest:

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Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk  
Dated: