

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017**

PRESENT:

Mayor	Edward J. Mignone
Councilman	Alphonse Bartelloni
Councilwoman	Ellen Busted
Councilman	Dario Chinigo
Councilwoman	Mary Davis
Councilman	Thomas Papaleo

ALSO PRESENT:

Borough Attorney	Thomas Sarlo
Borough Administrator	Alan Negreann
Borough Clerk	Stephanie Evans

ABSENT:

Councilman	Vito Acquafredda
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Mayor Mignone called the meeting to order @ 6:30 PM by reading the Open Public Meetings Act and asking for a roll call.

MOTION TO SUSPEND WORK & ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION @ 6:30 PM

**Motion by Councilwoman Busted, second by Councilman Bartelloni to approve
All in favor 5-0**

CLOSED SESSION TOPIC

Closed Session

Docket #	Item Title or Description	Statutory Reference
17-7/11-1	Litigation-7-Eleven, Inc. and 584 Kinderkamack Road Assoc.	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)

MOTION TO ADJOURN CLOSE SESSION AND RESUME WORK SESSION @ 7:20 pm

**Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilman Bartelloni to approve.
All in favor 5-0**

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR'S TOPICS

1. **Temple Avodat Shalom** – Mr. Negreann placed it on the agenda to remind the council that we needed to renew this agreement and the Mayor could speak on several detail on where we are at this point. Mayor Mignone explained that we have been doing this on a biannual basis for a number of years now and the Temple has been very accommodating and not increasing the fees for the past few years. A couple of issues have been raised by the members of SCORE. One was they had asked for the time to shift from 9 to 3 to 8:30 to 3:30 or something to that effect and the Temple was certainly willing to accommodate that. Another issue that arose is that we are limited to Monday and Tuesdays and when you actually look at the calendar government holidays and secular holidays and a lot of religious holidays fall on Mondays and Tuesdays so it pretty much preempting the use by the seniors for many weeks. He thinks he counted at least 15 weeks out of the year which is a significant number. He had asked the Temple to give us for the next two years all the

calendar dates of the religious holidays and we throw together the secular and government holidays and he asked the Temple if consideration would be given for whether in the weeks where they are closed on a Monday and/or Tuesday if they would be willing to let the seniors go on a Wednesday or a Thursday or something to that effect. They haven't gotten back to me with a final answer on that and I told them what would do is I would still recommend to council authorizing entering into the lease with a memorandum with the understanding that they will work with us on a schedule or some criteria for those other weeks to see if SCORE can be accommodated either that same calendar week or a different calendar week just so they have more time. That is where it is right now. Councilman Papaleo asked when the lease expired, Mayor Mignone replied in December. Councilman Papaleo stated it didn't have to be decided right now. Councilwoman Davis stated they are looking for an answer. Councilman Papaleo mentioned the Mayor would be signing a contract now that wouldn't be going into effect until December or January, Mayor Mignone replied yes, but the condition we are asking for was never in any of the long standing relationship we had its never been there, this is something we have asked them to do, to accommodate us another time. He is fairly confident if there is the ability to let them go on other days they will accommodate them. It is hard to write that into a contract. SCORE may be told its closed this Monday and Tuesday of this week and they may not know today of that particular if they can offer them a Wednesday or Thursday of that said or maybe the week after or the week before. Councilman Papaleo asked if the language would state they are granted two days every week presuming its Monday and Tuesday. Mayor Mignone said that was the way it was always written but than if its exempt or preempted they don't get to use it. Councilman Papaleo asked so they give them the two weeks back, Mayor Mignone stated that was correct and they general were not there most of the summer to which Councilwoman Davis confirmed. A motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease agreement with Temple Avodat Shalom for SCORE with a memorandum of understanding.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Busted to approve.
All in favor 5-0

2. **Review of RFP's for Utility Audit Services** – Mr. Negreann explained that we went out to advertise on RFP for Utility Audit on June 5th and we receive two proposals on July 6th. One was from Allan Rotto Consultants and the other one was from Troy and Banks. He looked them over and they are both responsive and they will be referred tomorrow to the Borough Attorney for his review. Copies have been provided to the Mayor and Council tonight for your review and to take home. It is our intention to provide you with a recommendation at the August 15th meeting with the possibility of making an award if one of these meets our criteria. That is where we stand tonight, he just wanted to report the progress.

FOR DISCUSSION

WORK SESSION CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Award Contract to Costa Engineering for Services Related to the DOT Municipal Aid Application – Bogert Road (route 4 to Howland Avenue) in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.**

Mr. Negreann explained that it was anticipated that the State of New Jersey Dept. of Transportation will announce their Municipal Aid Application process in the near future. In order to do that we need some preliminary engineering work to look at the right-of-way location of various things within and next to the roadway to be able to make an

application for the next round of funding. We are looking at Bogert Rd. from Rt. 4 to Howland Ave. to do replacement of curbs, sidewalks, and resurfacing of the street. We would also like to look at changing the parking configuration to make it more efficient to provide more parking which would involve looking at the traffic flow, some safety issues, and things of that nature. But in order to do that we need the engineer to make some preliminary accesses and be able to answer some questions in that regard. Mayor Mignone said so the hope is that in some sections if not all we would be able to get some angled spaces and generally for every one we will get three angled spaces. We could significantly increase the number of parking we have in the area. But Mr. Costa has to do some survey work to see where the right-of-way is to make sure there is no issues with regard to infringement to private property and we have sufficient backing distances and things like that and that is why we are asking for this preliminary study.

2. Approval to Waive a Portion of the Police Outside Duty Rate for St. Peter the Apostle Parish for the Carnival on September 21-24, 2017.

Mayor Mignone explained that this was an annual request for outside groups using officers for security the Borough waives the administrative portion of the outside duty fee and they are just responsible for the payment of the direct salary.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Davis to approve.

All in favor 5-0

MAYOR'S REPORT

Nothing at this time.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Nothing

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Borough of River Edge Senior/Community Center – Mayor Mignone provided a brief update by stating Mr. Costa's office has completed all the survey work and topographical survey information and forwarded that to the architect. He is incorporating that into his concepts. Hopefully in the next couple of weeks the sub-committee will meet with the architect to finalize the concept plan and hopefully get a realistic and very tight probable cost estimate. At that point if it is still in line with what we were talking about in terms of potential budgets then we will have a presentation to the council as the next step hopefully by the August meeting.

Shade Tree Commission – No update.

Councilman Papaleo wasn't sure if this fell under old or new business but we have the tree farm which has been a concern for us. We brought it up and granted permission to our Eagle Scout Matthew Haggerty and 60 or 70 volunteers with about 300 hours' worth of work and a lot of the work has been undone due to natural processes. He asked that Laurie Haggerty come before the council to discuss it. Councilman Papaleo went on to say that he met with Michele Cariddi and Laurie Haggerty last Friday, and has spoken with Liz Stewart from the Shade Tree Commission, while at the tree farm it was overgrown and completely inaccessible due to the weeds. There was some action he took as liaison by asking John Lynch to come down to see the situation and discuss options. John has taken some actions which will be talked about in a minute. While there we noticed there was a rather dramatic erosion problem that occurred in the park between where we have made some remediation due to erosion and the tree farm and he would

like to talk about that also. Laurie Haggerty started by thanking the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speaking with them about the tree farm. She had two main points she wanted to discuss, the maintenance of the farm and in part Cherry Blossom Park on a long term basis and the removal of the Redbud trees that she was told wasn't suitable as curb trees. About 4 or 5 months ago this Mayor and Council approved and Eagle Scout project that her son presented which involved the rehabilitation of the tree farm. As you may know one of the main requirements of an Eagle Scout project is that the end result of a project is long lasting. Once the project was approved by all of you Matthew started planning his project. Over the course of about six weeks Matt and his volunteers built the shed, cleaned all the overgrown weeds and grass, arranged for DPW to pick up the piles of brush, painted the shed, and fixed the water irrigation system of leaks, in all Matt and all of his fellow scouts, volunteers, adults and friends spent just under 400 hours to complete the project. At the completion her son asked the DPW through Michele Cariddi of Beautification to go in and spray weed killer at the footpaths and along the fence so the weeds would be kept at bay. She was just there on July 7th and was heartbroken to see that you could barely get up to the gates without stepping through poison ivy and the weeds inside and around the farm were now pass her ankles and ivy was covering a portion of the fence. All that time and work and it appears as if nothing was done other than the shed being built. Although the tree farm in Cherry Blossom Park are owned by the town there doesn't seem to be a plan for taking care of this Open Space area. She knows that the farm and park predates this administration however her feeling is that this Mayor and Council approved her son's service project to rehabilitate the farm therefore it seems that this administration is ready to see the value in the Open Space and what it can be for generations. You all have the ability to oversee and make sure these two areas maintained as beautiful spots in town well after her great grandchildren visit River Edge. She has some suggestions about what can be done and she hopes they are open to the possibilities. As everyone was working on the project she became familiar with some of the history of tree farm, such as the Redbud trees which were a grant or a gift to the town are not suitable for planting at the curb. This bit of information made her think what can be done with these pretty trees in the farm that her son just spent all his time on and she decided to make some phone calls. On Friday she had two meetings at the tree farm, the first was with Michele Cariddi of Beautification and Councilman Papaleo, and later joined by Tom Lynch from DPW. We discussed the issue of the weeds and poison ivy and asked if Mr. Lynch would be able to mow the high weeds and spray to keep the weeds down and get rid of the poison ivy to which he agreed but couldn't give us clear cut view of what could be done moving forward. This first meeting ended by DPW saying yes to mowing and spraying the weeds by end of this week so for the immediate problem we seem to have a short term plan and she is happy to report that Mr. Lynch has already cleared all of the weeds and vines as of yesterday. The next part of the tree farm puzzle is what to do with almost 200 Redbud trees that we were told are not suitable as curb trees. She was also told they cannot be sold since the trees were a gift or a grant well she may have taken care of this if the Mayor and Council agrees to her proposal. The second meeting she had on Friday was with the Bergen County Director of Parks, Jim Koth and Councilman Papaleo, after looking at the trees Mr. Koth is confident that the county would be able to house all the trees in various parks through the county. He also said that he would make sure a few were placed in Van Saun Park right here in our own backyard. Director Koth said the best time to move the trees would be September October which means there is some time to plan what the next steps would be. The county is also aware that the responsibility of removing and moving the trees is all theirs. Director Koth said after the donation was approved by the Mayor and Council he would request a resolution from the Freeholder Board making note of the very generous

donation that River Edge is making to our county parks. She felt this was a very successful meeting but the Director had more information to share, he gave some great points on how to proceed with the tree farm and most tree farms act as a source of emergency tree replacement but could also be used as yearly curb tree replanting. One last point the Director brought up involved Cherry Blossom Park, Director Koth wondered why the school board hasn't taken over the park to use as an outdoor learning classroom. This could be a great way to help maintain the park if the school agrees to use it this way. If possible she would be happy to work with this Mayor and Council to present this alternative to the River Edge School Board. The first point removing the Redbud trees can be corrected with the help of Bergen County, the second point coming up with a real plan to make the tree farm all it can be is something she feels can happen with the help of all of you. The River Edge tree farm has the potential to become that insurance policy if you will for emergency tree replacement. The town would also have ongoing support of Boy Scout Troop 2295 to help long term as the scouts continually need service hours to fulfill. With a concrete plan her son's Boy Scout Eagle project would become the starting point of bring this tree farm full cycle and making it a cost effective and smart way for our town to maintain and replant our curb trees. She realizes all things take time and planning and she is willing to help in any way she can to keep the ball rolling. She is hoping tonight the Mayor and Council will agree to the donation of the trees to Bergen County which will mean your support in the future of the tree farm and in a way Cherry Blossom Park. She thanked everyone for their time. Councilwoman Davis asked Ms. Haggerty if Mr. Koth contacted his brother Michael regarding the Board of Education taking the... Ms. Haggerty replied he made a call to his brother that day and we are hoping that they will but she needs to make the presentation this evening before she presents to the school board with Jim and Michael's help. Mayor Mignone stated that there are limits on what can and can't be done there since its Green Acres restricted. We can't enter into an Interlocal and make them provide any monetary support or labor support, it's just not permitted under Green Acres rules. Which is one of the reasons with the tree farm you can't sell the trees which is a whole different issue which isn't to say if they want to use it they should certainly use it because it isn't getting used anyway, they should use it for something. Mayor Mignone thinks it's fine that the county takes these trees they are nothing but troublesome for us at this point so if they can have a bigger benefit they should. Going forward he thinks there are a lot of challenges if that becomes a true tree farm and it's a matter of as Councilman Papaleo spoke about briefly, if Shade Tree Commission doesn't want any participation than they shouldn't have any issues if those trees are used curbside. But then we need estimates from Mr. Lynch about what level of effort he thinks it's going to take in terms of man power whatever else. Mr. Negreann had one question, it wasn't clear to him who would transport the 200 trees to the county parks and who would plant those trees. Ms. Haggerty stated it would be the county. Councilman Papaleo also stated that Jim said there would be no obligation on part of the borough. Ms. Haggerty said Mr. Koth did say that if Tom Lynch were in the area and did want to lend a hand but the county realizes to acquire these trees they would have to bring all the man power to remove them from the farm and take them to where they will ultimately be replanted. Councilman Papaleo wanted to reiterate the timeline so there was no confusion. He had an email from Michele Cariddi about two weeks ago mentioning she ran into Paramus' Shade Tree and they had a discussion and there was some interest in the Redbud trees. That person has a good relationship with Liz Steward who she reached out and they spoke at great detail and Liz sent him and email. He responded by asking Michele to reach out to Liz and he thinks they had a good conversation. He asked Liz and Shade Tree if they are good with whatever we do with it and they have said yes. We are not building a farm to do a 100 tree planting, we are

talking about emergency tree planting replacement which is what Laurie Haggerty mentioned in her comments. On Friday I met with Laurie and Michele and what we were seeing was the erosion and he called John to come down to talk about the tree farm and also bring the erosion to his attention. John came down and he asked him if there would be an addition cost to the borough if we had them clean it out and maintain it, and he wasn't holding them to it, and he said no and it wouldn't be a budgetary issue we wouldn't need to looking to put money into his budget items. At that point John said he could come in and do that and he has yesterday. In addition to that he also asked him and he hopes that council doesn't think he went beyond his authority by asking him to turn off the water. The trees are all mature, they are not in danger of dying. They create a micro-environment and retain the water simply by their shading by a great degree. Since they need to be planted sometime soon because they are at the point where they can't grow past this and be viable to move because they would be too big. Councilman Bartelloni brought up a very good point during the budget meeting that we had a lot of water use and Councilman Papaleo suggested at the same budget meeting we reduce the amount of water but at this point he asked John to turn the water off and he has done that. If the trees go into distress we could always turn it back on but he doesn't think they will. He also met with Jim Koth and Laurie Haggerty and everything that she reported is correct and they are willing to do this. Councilman Papaleo asked Michele Cariddi if Paramus was still interested Paramus was still interested and they were. He went on to say we right now have a tree farm that needs to be planted and not an abundant use for it. Yesterday he met with Bobbi Conway and John Lynch, and he also called Councilwoman Busted who is the liaison to Recreation, who wasn't able to attend due to work obligations. We discussed at this point if there were any trees that we could plant and Bobbi stated that they would want 3 Redbuds for Brookside. Michele and John felt that 3 were needed for the embankment at Cherry Blossom, which Bobbi agreed with. He asked if there was any objections to him asking John to turn off the water or any objection to him asking John to return the park to the state that the Eagle Scout left it in. There was no objection to the turning off the water. Mayor Mignone stated that he had that discussion with John to at least do that amount of minimum maintenance from this point forward. Councilman Papaleo wanted to address the how we get to the next issue, how can we do that. He with John and there is summer help that does watering of the trees sack and he is part time for 29 hours, his sole responsibility being paid by Open Space is to go around and water our borough street trees. He asked John if 3 or 4 hours a week if we asked if directed by council to have him do some maintenance and attention to the tree farm so we didn't have bring a whole crew of 4 in again to clear it out to maintain our promise to our Eagle Scout and John said it was doable. Zack would go down there and do some trimming, weed whacking, maybe herbicide so the weeds won't grow and also turning off the water, we were watering the weeds we really weren't watering the trees. What he is asking is if as a council he is making a motion that we direct John to have Zack work approximately 3 or 4 hours per week or less. Mayor Mignone said he doesn't think a directive was needed from the council, but if you want to just say that we believe the tree farm should be maintained and left to John's judgment to utilize this person. Mr. Negreann agreed it should be left to the superintendent to allocate his time. Councilman Papaleo said John just wanted to make sure the council was on board and we are and we don't need to have any sort of vote. While Mr. Koth was there he did say that part of the problem with the tree farm is we have twice as many trees as is practical for a farm. There is no room for John's equipment to come in say remove a back row of trees. Also another problem Jim Koth brought up is we planted all at once when we should be planting a few trees on the first year some more on the second year and so on this way you have constant growth and therefore every year you don't have get

rid of 200 trees instead we would have 5 trees at the state of readiness for whatever use we wanted, either park or curbside. Or maybe 10 trees or whatever a reasonable amount. If the council doesn't object what he is going to ask John to do is after the county and Paramus comes in and removes the trees and John has planted the 6 we want to keep then we would remove half the rows. He asked if there were any objections to this potential plan. Mayor Mignone said there are 200 and some add trees, how many trees are the county taking, Ms. Haggerty's her reply was as many as they want. Mayor Mignone rephrased he question by asking how many will be left and Councilman Papaleo stated 6 and they will be planted, pretty much everything will be gone. Mayor Mignone said we will be starting fresh and there will be plenty of time to come up with a plan...Councilman Papaleo said but in general if this was something that you would not object to and he would go back to Liz and Michele. There are plenty of experts that have offered their, including Laurie, Jim offered someone's name to help plan the tree farm. The Mayor asked if it was Bill Cameron, he's retired but he still...Councilman Papaleo said he thinks that's the guy and if the Mayor had no objections the discussions could move forward during August and September, spending no money, this will be all voluntary. Mayor Mignone said lets come up with a plan and implement it. Councilman Papaleo said the third thing is and we do need a motion for this is, to offer the trees to the county at no cost with the understanding that we would not incur any cost of the trees they took offering them all but 6 trees at this time. All the trees that are left after the borough and Paramus should come and take that. Councilwoman Davis asked if this is a done deal why are we...Mayor Mignone said it was a formality (inaudible) agreement that's all...Councilman Papaleo said because Jim wants documentation, paperwork so that he can go to the Freeholders. Mr. Negreann said he would appreciate if the Borough Attorney would draft a resolution since this was a donation of assets of the borough and there should a record that we are getting rid of. Mayor Mignone asked for a motion for Mr. Sarlo to prepare a motion to that effect. A motion was made.

**Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilman Chinigo to approve.
All in favor 5-0**

Councilman Papaleo wanted to bring up a question of erosion. He spoke to a couple of people about this already. While he was out there on Friday he said to John does this need to be fix and he replied yes. This is an ongoing erosion problem that absolutely needs to be addressed. He asked if it needed to be addressed immediately or next year and John said it was something that we need, and Councilman Papaleo asked if he could say that to the council and John replied absolutely. John is available via phone along with Bobbi Conway. He asked John but also said he wouldn't hold him to it what would a ballpark with labor...Mayor Mignone said he just wanted to move it along and there was a proposal. Councilman Papaleo said John estimated \$8,000, Bobbi independently asked the person who had the maintenance on the work that was already done to ask him and we have this in front us now, DTS Trucking, what they did is working but what happens is more water flowing. What they did is not fail. John thought it would cost about \$8,000 and here we have Jeffrey Mortenson from DTS saying \$7,250 for a concrete basis, perforated pipe and 3/4 inch stone. What he wanted to add to that is he believes Mr. Negreann will check this, we have \$5,000 left over from KGB, \$2,125.20 from Cherry Blossom Park Open Space 2015 which is 15-308DOE. Councilman Papaleo did speak briefly with Mr. Negreann before the council meeting and he would check that. It would mean that \$7,125.20 of the \$7,250.00 to address this immediate issue of erosion. There is a question whether we should be asking the Church to remedy this problem or not, he knows the Mayor will address this later, possibly. Councilman Papaleo went down and

looked at their parking lot. Right now they have nowhere for the water to go in their parking lot, they have no drainage, no basin. Secondly the parking lot slopes downward by more than six inches, and he measured the height of the current stones. He isn't an expert but it looks like water comes basically two different directions, a 90 degree of water. He thinks this needs to be addressed immediately and this is the only proposal he has to address the erosion. It is beginning to wash away the path that we paved to have put in. His thought is, and maybe the council could find possibly find a better solution, that we move forward with the proposal that we have and get the work done before we have more erosion occurring because as you know we get these sudden strong downpours. There is already silt or dirt collecting at the corner where it is overflowing. He personally believes it would be an issue. Mayor Mignone said that he doesn't dispute it, but on the face of it again he is looking at the proposal and to have 2 two foot by two foot catch basins seems extremely excessive for the area. We don't even have those on the street that seems very high. He isn't telling us where he is placing these catch basins and or water he is intending to intercept. Furthermore when he went out there you have problems this not going to address, there is the erosion on the upper pad itself, you can see the gulls in the stone dust itself. Also he isn't so sure the parking lot could be part of the problem, it's not the whole problem because if you look in the actual trench where the erosion is there is stone dust, it is coming off the paths. It is not only eroding from over the parking lot so he thinks there is more to this than just this, but he would presume that the shot-rock that they did last time has mitigated the impact from that corner. The question comes should we go back to the Church because basically their run-off is impacting our property. Again if this was a homeowner and not us, there would be an issue that Property Maintenance would be addressing. Again as he told Councilman Papaleo personally he doesn't want something that just mitigates the problem, he wants something that solves the problem. He would rather find a solution that is going to stop the erosion rather than redirecting the water somewhere, which this seems intending to do. That being said he will listen to whatever to the proposal but there isn't information to understand what they are trying to address and whether that's going to address these other issues that he saw while he was out there. Councilman Papaleo said that he certainly couldn't speak for Jeffrey Mortenson, he can only talk about what his conversation was with John Lynch and Bobbi Conway, it was everyone's understanding that these catch basins would be placed just below where we currently have the stones, that the 8 foot perforated piping would run along the path and there would be more stones underneath and above the perforation so it would not only be dealing with what was caught in the catch basin but also what is permeating through the ground and would be released through the ground before, it's simply not a movement, but it also, John used the word "diffusion" of the water and whatever water could not be diffused before it got to the end of the 8 feet would than fall upon clean stone. Mayor Mignone apologized that the audience couldn't see the picture he took, but you can see the gulls in the path itself, that is not going to address that and that is a different problem. There is also the lower path you can see that's what causing the erosion on the downstream embankment, it's not the water coming from the top. There are multiple issues that need to be addressed. To him it is simple grading in a lot of respects and to put in a whole perforated system in there to be blunt is overkill. Councilman Papaleo said that the majority of the erosion followed the stones...Mayor Mignone said it's not coming from there because there is stone dust in the trench and normally stone dust gets in the trench if it's coming from off the path, it not coming from the stones. Councilman Papaleo said from his point of view and he's not an expert, and he wasn't there, he thinks what happened was water was picking up momentum coming off the hill and it moved out to the stone path because the part of the stone path that is missing shows a curvature of movement as if the water was

coming in. Mayor Mignone said it also shows erosion along the upper part on the side of that path itself. So it is coming over that path running along the side of the path and then going down to the bottom. Councilman Papaleo said that he believed that Michele Cariddi has a picture of the water coming over blocks...Mayor Mignone said that was a different issue, as he said you can't get stone dust in there unless the path is eroded. There is only stone dust on the paths. Councilman Papaleo was saying from the side, from the embankments coming, its directing over the path...Mayor Mignone said it was too high up, it's at the bottom of the stone. Councilman Papaleo replied it didn't look like that to him. But the bottom line is what should we do to deal with this immediate problem if you don't want to do this. Mayor Mignone answered by saying one he would not approve of this \$7,000 proposal without a minimum of a sketch of what we were doing. Two 24x24 seems excessive to him, if he were designing he would not be using 24inch by 24inch, it's the size not the cost. Mr. Negreann wanted to mention a technical point the council will need two more quotations since this exceeds \$6,000.00 to comply with the Local Public Contracts Law. Councilman Papaleo commented isn't this an emergency. Mr. Negreann didn't think so, if you had a rut you could fill it with some stone or soil, it could occur again but it can be monitored. Councilman Papaleo said the path has been washed away. Mr. Negreann said there is a rut in the path that we could correct with some stone temporarily...Councilman Papaleo said that was the only rut he was talking about. There is a whole portion missing. Mr. Negreann mentioned it being the lower portion because he was down there today and took a look, Councilman Papaleo agreed, there is a temporary fix to ensure the safety to anybody using it and it gives us plenty of time to go out and get two more quotations and take the lowest quote if that was what the council wants to do. Mayor Mignone stated it wouldn't hurt to have Mr. Lynch have Rob Costa look at it also. Councilman Papaleo was just concerned and wanted to address it August. Mayor Mignone said it could be addressed in August. This isn't a six month study. If we are going to spend money let's make sure we are going to fix the problem. A motion was made to obtain two more quotes and have Rob Costa look at the erosion at Cherry Blossom Park.

Laurie Haggerty stated that she would make herself available to get the tree farm into something that is working as it should and long lasting. Most of that planning can be done before the trees are removed and once they are removed and we have a plan in place we should be able to start. That is what she would love to see happen. Mayor Mignone said he is sure she will stay in touch with either Michele or Councilman Papaleo. The council welcomes her involvement and her willingness. Ms. Haggerty wished that the Shade Tree Commission would get back on board with it as well. Mayor Mignone said he thinks those conversations can be had as well.

Mayor Mignone asked if there was anything else, Councilman Papaleo said that there was one other thing he thought Councilman Chinigo wanted to bring up.

Councilman Chinigo stated going along with the discussion that we just had for the past few months there has been a lot of discussion in town about issues that affect our citizens about decisions being made by our town governing bodies, more specifically by the River Edge Board of Education and the River Edge Council. By way of example he will point to REGAL's request for a shed and a batting cage to be placed at Roosevelt School which we discussed at last month's meeting. Also the passive pocket park next to Cherry Hill as to whether the town and school might be well serviced to discuss Interlocal agreement relating to the park so school can utilize the park for the benefit of the students. Another example is parking or the lack thereof for teachers of our elementary schools. He is sure there are other issues that fall within the prewise of one of two of the governing bodies

but that none the less equally deeply affects all of the citizens of River Edge and that deserves discussion. Given that these issues not only bear consideration but will likely require Interlocal shared services to bring them to fruition or to a final resolution one way or another he would like to propose we reach out to the River Edge Board of Education and request that we schedule and hold a joint shared services meeting with the River Edge Board of Education fore with. At the meeting we can hold a multi-governmental discussion over potential shared services ideas and plans for the future. Such meetings not only help government entities to cut excess waste, they provides our citizens with an opportunity in a public forum to get input while allowing the Board and Council to take suggestions on possible public sector shared services opportunities that had not previously been considered or that may financially benefit the community as a whole. The meeting will provide us with an opportunity to have everybody together so we can engage in an open and honest conversation about issues that affect not only the school board and council but every citizen here in River Edge. Thus he would request that we contact the River Edge Board of Education and request that this meeting be scheduled at a neutral location such as the River Edge Library. Mayor Mignone thanked Councilman Chinigo and stated that was already being done. We are in active negotiation with the School Board for well over a year regarding issues as traffic, parking, Interlocal regarding use of the fields. They have draft language for an Interlocal agreement which we are close to finalizing. If there are other aspects of shared services you want to explore that is certainly welcomed, a Shared Service Sub-Committee of the Council and you could certainly invite a representative of the Board to meet with you on those if you had specific ideas on other areas outside of ones you mentioned because the ones you mentioned should be addressed within the current frame work we are working on. Councilman Chinigo stated it would behoove us to explore the possibility of a joint meeting with the entire Board and the entire Council. Mayor Mignone said he didn't see what purpose that would serve unless you have ideas to offer and we already have preexisting agreements on these existing specific issues currently under negotiation right now. Councilman Chinigo stated he understood why the Mayor might not see the purpose of it but he thinks he does and he thinks other people may as well so he is going to make that motion. Mayor Mignone said you have a Sub-Committee, you can certainly work under your sub-committee. Councilman Papaleo seconded the motion. Mayor Mignone said there is no reason, through the sub-committee that you work through...Councilman Papaleo stated that Councilman Chinigo was making a motion for the full council to meet with the full BOE, that is what he is making the motion for, which Councilman Chinigo agreed. Councilwoman Davis stated that we already have a process with Sub-Committees why are we changing it. Councilwoman Busted asked if he was recommending it be a one-time discussion. Councilman Chinigo replied he didn't mean for it to be regular thing, a one-time discussion so we can bring out all issues so the entire Board and the entire Council can speak to it. He believes there is some support in the council for this and he believes there is some support in the Board of Education for this. Councilman Papaleo said so basically, he is second guessing, that it is time for us to get together and communicate directly and not necessarily to make any decisions but to just have a point of dialog to discuss, because of a lot of this stuff is coming back to us especially the parking, residents are concerned about that. I brought this up before snow removal and there are other issues and in particular the batting cage that cost far more. The original cost was \$2,000 and the one the Superintendent referred to was \$15,000, I was leading that meeting and his argument was, his point was is this coming from the BOE or is this coming from the Superintendent of Schools or is this simply the wish list of the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and that was unclear. He felt we were being asked to spend another \$15,000 to \$17,000 for a permanent structure and we really

don't know who it's coming from. At that time Councilman Chinigo and he talked about it. Councilman Papaleo just thought it would be good if maybe yearly or bi-yearly we just met as a whole group and just kind of talked about the over-lapped a little so that we can get a sense of where they are at. He didn't see anything wrong (inaudible). Mayor Mignone said that are active discussions going on with regard to all those issues and you have a liaison to both school boards and that is the process that the council uses. The only time we would do this is, we have had meetings like that regarding overall budgets and things like that. But to come for a free for all to talk about topics which are actively in discussion, we have a Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee has been reporting back to the council, if somebody else would like to... Councilman Papaleo said he doesn't know what the Sub-Committee is doing. He can not tell you one specific detail, and he wasn't asking anyone to do it in public, he is just simply saying... Mayor Mignone said there is nothing discussed in secret, we talk about all the issues you mentioned. We are talking about renegotiating our shared service agreement for access to the fields, maintenance of the fields, access to the gymnasium, it's going to cover the snow plowing, it's also going to cover the request by the Borough to allow construction of a storage shed on Roosevelt School property and the batting cage. The reason the cost came in more is because they had some security concerns and the wanted a specific fencing around the area, that's all that was about. The choice the borough can make as he has said to them and he is saying to the council here, it is not our property, so if they have conditions they want us to follow to do something on property we either accept it, negotiate it, or we don't do it. That is where you are with that in terms of asking to use their property. Councilwoman Davis asked Councilman Chinigo were all these complaints came from, was it from that website. Councilman Chinigo replied it wasn't a website it was conversations from around town after the School Board announced they were looking into restructuring the field at Cherry Hill to add some parking people were very upset and we were told the meeting that Dr. Ben Dov and the School Board had a couple of months ago there would be discussion. He had rumors, and he doesn't know if it's true, but now they are moving forward with parking. He hasn't received any Sub-Committee reports and he wasn't quite sure where (simultaneous talking) Councilman Bartelloni stated that wasn't the goal of the Sub-Committee, that is a strict Board of Education issue. That is not our purview. Councilman Chinigo said that is why he is saying why not all get together in a room and talk about these things. Mayor Mignone stated again it was not our purview. We have no say on what the school does on their property. Councilman Chinigo said he understood but we talk to them about certain ones of these things since we are asking them certain things we want to know. There are certain things we can do, if parking is an issue maybe we can explore parking alternatives on Bogert. Mayor Mignone said with all due respect to Councilman Chinigo this has been going on for 15 years the parking, there are multiple, multiple times where committees have met, experts have been hired, the Chief of Police has been involved, they asked for dedicated on-street parking for teachers and we told them we can't do that legally, that is the simple answer. They can't park on the pocket park because it is Green Acres restricted and we know that isn't allowed. So if they want to look to solve their problem by putting stuff on their own property that is their prerogative and the property venue would be to discuss it at a Board of Education meeting. If residents are concern about the Board of Ed. building a parking lot that is where they express their concern. It is the same difference when people come and complain about their taxes and not want to differentiate that we only control the municipal portion of the taxes. Same thing here, they can come here to us and complain that the Board of Education wants to put a parking lot but if the Board of Ed wants to put a parking lot we can't stop them by law. They are not subject to zoning, they are not subject to our rules or you can do politically or the public can put pressure on them to not

make a certain decision but there is nothing this council can do to prevent that. Councilman Bartelloni said he wasn't looking to override nor should any of us the authority of the Board of Education, they are a separate governmental body and he wouldn't want them saying hey we need to come over and start interfering in the council's business either. He didn't think anyone wanted that. Councilman Chinigo asked if he said override, he didn't recall saying the word override (simultaneous talking) Councilman Bartelloni addressed Councilman Chinigo by saying he wanted to know what they were thinking with respect to the parking over at Cherry Hill, the simple answer is go a Board of Education meeting. Councilman Chinigo stated that Councilman Bartelloni was editorializing now what he just said. He said he wanted a joint meeting of the board. Mayor Mignone said we have a liaison. If some else wants to be the liaison they certainly can take that role and go the meetings and report back. That is the proper way the council handles this. Councilwoman Davis said she didn't know anything at all about what you just brought up. You are the liaison (referring to Councilman Papaleo and Shade Tree). She stated that as a council person she knew nothing of anything about this water running down. Her point is that we have liaisons, they do the job the same way the liaisons do here, and we get the information at the meetings. This was all new to her tonight. Councilman Papaleo wanted to talk to her about this by saying everyone handles being a liaison different. What his style is that as things are going along he calls up people and says listen, he can't call up more than 2 people because then he reaches the threshold of 4 and he isn't allowed to do that. He calls up people and says listen this is a concern. He called the Mayor...(simultaneous talking) Councilwoman Davis felt that no further explanation was needed, that Councilman Chinigo was acting and that Councilman Papaleo was acting like he knew nothing about what was going on (simultaneous talking). Councilman Papaleo stated he understood that and he was answering her question. He was just saying that he has no details on what's going on. We hear about this from the residents and he doesn't think it's wrong to simply say we should meet as a body occasionally and just get a sense of where the other group how they see us. Again this came because I was sitting in Ed's chair at the last meeting and Al said they wanted to do this and we were going from a \$2,000 improvement on BOE land using borough money to a \$15,000-\$20,000 and he isn't trying to blame Councilman Bartelloni. He asked if this was only coming from the Superintendent or if it was coming from Building and Grounds or was it coming from the Superintendent of Schools, does the BOE know about it. Councilwoman Davis mentioned she was here for the meeting. Councilman Papaleo responded yea, and continued by saying does the BOE know about this, does the BOE approve this. Since then no one has shared any, those questions that I asked in public. Mayor Mignone replied that there has been no answers. Councilman Papaleo said that was what he was saying. He didn't see the harm in just having a meeting just to communicate where everybody is standing in general. Councilman Bartelloni said we haven't gotten to any committee reports yet, we haven't gotten to that portion of the meeting yet. If you want to ask me what happened at the last meeting I would be happy to tell you now. Mayor Mignone said again we have a liaison process and that is when we get in trouble when that is not followed. We have a liaison to both school boards. Councilman Papaleo was willing to withdraw his second but even after all this is done he thinks it's a good idea. Even if you want to wait until after these negotiations are done he believes we as a council should sit down with the BOE on an annual basis or bi-annual basis just to get a sense because he doesn't know if a lot of these issues are coming from the Superintendent Ben Dov, these issues are coming from the BOE or these issues are maybe coming from, especially the fields and our girls and the in equal that Councilman Bartelloni brought up between what our Little League gets versus what our Regal girls get. He doesn't really know where all this is coming from.

Mayor Mignone said this has nothing to do with the Board of Education, that's... Councilman Papaleo said the tipping point for him was at our last meeting and he was willing to withdraw his second and (simultaneous talking) Mayor Mignone stated that we had those meeting. Councilman Bartelloni stated that he could tell the council from the last meeting the President of the Board of Education was there also in addition to Superintendent Ben Dov and the Superintendent of Grounds. He has to assume that based on the fact that the President of the Board of Education was there she was representing the will of the Board of Education. So it wasn't just the Superintendent. He doesn't want to speak for her but she was there and it's a negotiation. Mayor Mignone stated that she says exactly what we say I have to go back to the full board and discuss it just like we say we have to go back to the council and discuss it. Councilman Chinigo asked why can't we discuss it together....since there were no comments Councilman Chinigo said he wasn't withdrawing his motion, it can fail, but he wasn't withdrawing it. Mayor Mignone asked Councilman Papaleo if he was withdrawing his second and Councilman Papaleo replied he was, he was withdrawing his second, but he absolutely believed...Mayor Mignone stated that we have had those meeting in the past years, Councilman Papaleo stated not in the 6 years he has been on...Mayor Mignone believed we did have them a bunch of times. Councilman Bartelloni stated it was part of the "Best Practice". Councilman Papaleo asked if it was the full council, and Mayor Mignone answered yes we have, it was the full council with the full board. Councilman Papaleo stated he had no recollection of this and asked Mr. Negreann when did we do this. Councilman Bartelloni said it was stated during the budget. Mr. Negreann said he couldn't tell him when the last time was but it was the custom of both River Dell and River Edge (simultaneous talking) Mayor Mignone stated that we have done it and it is a good practice and he isn't saying it's not but he doesn't think...Councilman Papaleo said he is good with that, he isn't saying anything other than he thinks it's something we need to do on a yearly or bi-yearly basis. Mayor Mignone said that's fine no one is going to dispute it, it's one of the Best Practices and it's certainly something we can do. Councilman Papaleo is saying to his recollection and he has been on this council for six years he has not done that. Maybe it happened the year before he came on the council, you were on the council before me, but he has no recollection of this ever happening. Mayor Mignone stated he isn't saying this is something we should not do, he agrees, he doesn't think it should be a free for all kind of discussion. He thinks if there is specific questions you have a liaison, he can go back to the Boards and report just like we do with every other body. There is no difference in the school board, whether one of the commissions, it's no different than the county today asking for permission to take the trees, it operates the same way no body was privy to those discussions, you brought it back to us. We always thing (simultaneous talking) Councilman Papaleo said they had be negotiating for quite a while a long time we haven't even talked about this in closed session. Mayor Mignone said there isn't anything to talk about. Councilman Papaleo said it wouldn't be but he thinks there is a difference between him calling as many of the council as he can under the law for something that came up since Friday and negotiations that have been going on for weeks. Councilman Bartelloni stated that he could be asked anything and again he explained it at the last meeting where we were at and you can ask me now where we are at. It's not a secret. Councilman Papaleo said he thinks there is a difference between an overview and details. Councilman Bartelloni replied it depends upon the specificities of your questioning he guesses. He wasn't trying to be snarky, if you want to know something ask him here. Mayor Mignone said if it suits the Councilman we have 3 representatives on the Sub-Committee, one of us...Councilman Bartelloni mentioned he wasn't the only one there...Mayor Mignone continued with let somebody else if you want to attend in my stead Councilman I would be more than happy

to. Councilwoman Busteed also made this statement about being happy to open up her seat. Councilman Bartelloni also stated that if you guys feel as though you need (inaudible) liaison to the schools (simultaneous talking) Councilman Papaleo wasn't saying that at all and as council saw he withdraw his motion. He was just simply saying this is a good practice and it is something we should do. He gave a specific reason why he thought it was something we should do. We are on the record that he asked Councilman Bartelloni many questions he wasn't able to answer at that time and it lead him at that moment to wonder who is this really coming from, is this coming from the Board of Education or this coming from a few individuals because a \$15,000 to \$17,000 difference in a structure struck him as excessive especially since we were kind of asked to vote on that. He is responding in a timely fashion to a specific issue with what he thinks what would be a good practice. You all agreed this is a good practice and he thinks it is wrong of you to say he lost confidence in our liaisons (simultaneous talking) Councilman Bartelloni addressed Councilman Papaleo just say if you want somebody else to be there. Councilman Papaleo said he is not making a broad statement, he mentioned a specific incident with a specific reason. He is not questioning the liaisons and it is wrong of him to suggest it. Mayor Mignone stated that was not what he said and not to put words in his mouth. What he said was, what we have is a liaison, if you have a specific question you want directed to the School Board that is the proper conduit to do it, that is what he said. And what he said was if you want a different liaison that is certainly your prerogative. Councilman Papaleo stated that is where it now gets characterized as a lack of confidence. Mayor Mignone stated but you didn't say I asked my liaison, you didn't bring the liaison in to it at all so I am just saying you... Councilman Papaleo said that as soon as you say I want a different liaison...(simultaneous talking) Mayor Mignone stated that when Councilman Papaleo is saying you don't trust the Sub-Committee and you want to have a 17 person meeting to talk about a batting cage... Councilman Papaleo stated that wasn't what he said he was very clear we should have a general discussion of where their standing in general towards their expectations towards us and our expectations towards them. Councilman Bartelloni could tell the council right now that in regards to that structure the request was made in the presents of President of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Grounds, the Business Administrator, and the Superintendent of Schools, so he has to assume... Councilman Papaleo said that was his problem, he has to assume that the entire Board is in favor, he doesn't have to assume. He would like to know because it didn't come with a letter of request, it did not come with anything other than it was verbal and that is where his doubt comes from. Mayor Mignone said it's no different than Councilman Papaleo bring him a proposal for \$8,000... Councilman Papaleo voiced that he was on this body... Mayor Mignone stated that he didn't get any answers on that either and tried to call the meeting to order. Councilman Papaleo felt it was comparing apples to oranges and was trying to be attacked on this. Mayor Mignone replied he was attacking him on anything, he started this and what the Mayor was trying to... Councilman Papaleo said he was trying to show in good faith that he was not trying to undermine the process and he asked for the council to do this on a yearly or bi-yearly basis, you agreed and then you went the opposite by saying he wanted to get rid of the liaison. Mayor Mignone stated the issue with regard to the batting cage was an issue of safety raised by their Director of Buildings and Grounds, he explained his reasoning, did he not. Councilman Bartelloni agreed and said he explained his reasoning and... Mayor Mignone added it was a concern of safety that's what that is and the added cost was for that. So to say it's the Board, not the Board... Councilman Papaleo stated that the Mayor was not at the meeting and if he watch the, he was talking about the council meeting, which this was all stemming from. At this meeting he asked the batting cage, do we have one at KGB, the answer was yes, is

it this sort of structure that we are now being asked or is it the type of structure we were considering. The answer was it was the \$2,000 one. He then asked has there been any incident of injury or accident, he asked Mr. Negreann and Mr. Negreann answered to the best of ability (inaudible). So he understands that somebody said this is an issue of safety but at the meeting that he was at he asked that question is there any grounds or evidence to support that we need to spend an extra \$15,000 to \$17,000 because of any incidents because of an existing batting cage at a public facility and the answer was no. In addition one of the reasons that it was requested was because the grounds keeper needed to lift the fence or something...Councilman Bartelloni said yes that was part of the reason, he was concerned at the time it would take to lift the netting...Councilman Papaleo continued by saying he didn't turn this into a big issue. He was very clear about why he seconded the motion, he was very clear why he withdraw the motion, he was very clear why he was not looking to undermine the negotiations, he was looking to have a dialog or discussion so we have a general understanding where they can speak to us and we can speak to them. He was clear about all those things and he in no way said he wanted a new liaison and he in no way impeded the reputation of our liaison and so you know he would ask that we just move on from this because he thinks we need to agree to disagree. Mayor Mignone agreed that and said that the whole thing from his perspective was very calculated Councilman the way you handed it off. Councilman Papaleo disagreed and said that Councilman Chinigo told him he wanted to do this and he could understand it and he apologizes if that is the way it appeared. He simply knew that he had two pieces of new business and that Councilman Chinigo had one and he thought it was a good new business. Councilman Chinigo wanted to make it clear that it was his motion and his idea and he doesn't take kindly to the fact that the Mayor is implying that he is Councilman Papaleo's puppet in some way. Mayor Mignone stated that he didn't say that. Councilman Chinigo made reference to the comment of hand it off to Dario, he didn't know the Mayor was talking about. Mayor Mignone said exactly he didn't even say anything before Councilman Papaleo said he thinks Dario has something to bring up, that was exactly what he said. (simultaneous talking) Mayor Mignone mentioned the question about the parking and all that stuff, you've known all these issues are under discussions and you know the council protocol is to bring to the liaison so...Councilman Chinigo said we will talk about that protocol in a few minutes.

Mayor Mignone stated that the information for the chairs had been passed around and was looking for a motion to purchase them.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilman Bartelloni to approve.
All in favor 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilman Bartelloni
All in favor 5-0

Peter Dunsay, 446 Oak Avenue – The car show was a great success and he wanted to thank everyone for help. Will start planning next year's show earlier.

Phyllis Angelo, 594 Elm Avenue – She wanted to ask about the Historic component to the Master Plan, which is necessary and there were procedural issues. What is the status. Mayor Mignone explained that Mr. Chewcaskie indicted at point that a letter was sent to

the Commission, which he hasn't seen since it didn't come from him, to make a determination as to whether the process that we followed were the missteps that occurred were fatal defects in the process. Meaning that are there things that aren't, administrative nature that may not affect us to claim we legally adopted the Master Plan Element. The first time they had a public hearing without public notice, so obviously that became null and void. The first time was ten years ago and it didn't become obvious until much later on. This time there was some issues about certain things not being noticed properly or whatever procedurally. No one has any issue with the text itself and in fact he did again email Mr. Chewcaskie today and he has responded to him. Mr. Sarlo maybe could reach out to him and just an answer. If everything is ok, if it's not it would be literally one rehearing at the Planning Board if that would be the case. Mr. Sarlo replied he would reached out to Mr. Chewcaskie. Ms. Angelo said you can't have a Historic Commission without a Historic (inaudible), that's just the way it is. We can't keep saying to the State its procedural at some stage they'll going to ask what's the problem. The Mayor agreed and said it will be clarified.

Cindy Bequieaith, 745 Seventh Avenue – She wished that the car show was able to use Memorial Park. Also she recommended a vendor for Cherry Blossom Park's erosion. She was appalled by the actions of the council tonight. Liaisons should post private notes for the Mayor and Council to read regarding their meetings from the Boards/Commissions/Committees they represent.

Laurie Haggerty, 850 Summit Avenue – She just wanted to verify that a letter would be drafted to the Director of County Parks. Mr. Sarlo said he was preparing a resolution. Councilman Bartelloni asked how many trees Paramus may want, Ms. Haggerty referred to Michele Cariddi, who stated that she knows she has ten places that want trees. Councilman Bartelloni stated it was best that Paramus come before the county did to take the amount of trees they wanted first.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, second by Councilman Bartelloni to close.

All in favor 5-0

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE WORK SESSION AT 8:46 PM

Motion by Councilwoman Busted, second by Councilman Papaleo to adjourn.

All in favor 4-0

Stephanie Evans. RMC
Borough Clerk