

M I N U T E S
Meeting of the Mayor and Council
March 19, 2012
8:00 P.M.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER -

Mayor Moscaritolo called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall.

SILENT PRAYER - FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Moscaritolo called for a moment of silent prayer and asked Councilman Bartelloni to lead the salute to the flag.

MISSION STATEMENT & OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS -

Mayor Moscaritolo read the Mission Statement into the record as follows:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and attend any meetings of public bodies at which any business effecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with this act the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge have caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Borough Hall and notices have been sent to the Record and the Ridgewood News.

The mission of this governing body is to provide essential services through the establishment and implementation of public policy that will safeguard our infrastructure, provide honest, courteous and professional services; and establish a sense of trust and accomplishment with our residents. Through research and prudent planning we seek to minimize risks while improving our services. We are sensitive to the needs of our taxpayers while realizing that this governing body cannot be all things to all people within the revenue constraints imposed by state mandates, economic conditions and prevailing attitudes about taxation.

ROLL CALL - Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Papaleo and Mayor Moscaritolo were present; Councilman Porco was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Cordts to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council work session and regular meeting of March 5, 2012.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS -

Mayor Moscaritolo read the Proclamation Declaring the Month of April, 2012 as National Autism Awareness Month into the record as follows:

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive development disorder affecting the social, learning and behavioral skills of those affected by it; and

WHEREAS, as more health professionals become proficient in diagnosing autism, more children are being diagnosed on the autistic spectrum, resulting in rates as high as one in 100 children nationally and one in 94 in New Jersey and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if an individual with autism receives treatment early in their lives, it often is possible for those individuals to lead significantly improved lives; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support serviced to ensure their health and safety and to support families'

resilience s they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism presents; and

WHEREAS, Autism New Jersey, is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the general public about autism and its effects.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sandy Moscaritolo, Mayor of the Borough of River Edge do hereby proclaim:

April, 2012

as

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in the Borough of River Edge and urge all employees and residents to participate in our Autism Awareness Month activities, in order to become better educated on the subject of autistic spectrum disorders.

Sandy Moscaritolo, Mayor

Dated: March 19, 2012

Jeff & Kathy DeSavino accepted the proclamation for Autism Awareness Month.

Mayor Moscaritolo presented the Proclamation Declaring March, 2012 as Women's History Month to Ellen Busted, a representative of the League of Women Voters as follows:

P R O C L A M A T I O N

Whereas, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

Whereas, American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

Whereas, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation; and

Whereas, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation; and

Whereas, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

Whereas, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

Whereas, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that I, Sandy Moscaritolo, Mayor of the Borough of River Edge, in recognition thereof, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2012 as:

"Women's History Month"

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Borough of River Edge to be affixed this February 21, 2012.

Mayor Sandy Moscaritolo

Dated: February 21, 2012

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES -

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Mignone to approve the appointment of Scott Fletcher, 152 Monroe Avenue, to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to fill the unexpired term of Robert Teunisen to December 31, 2012.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve the appointment of Matt Clemente, 17 River Edge Road, to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Alternate #2 to finish the unexpired term of Scott Fletcher to 12/31/12.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

Motion by councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve the resignation of Della Carroll from the Beautification Committee, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Mignone to approve the resignation of Ann and Evergisto Ramos from the Beautification Committee, Effective immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

Motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilman Mignone to approve the change in liaison to the Beautification Committee from Councilman Bartelloni to Councilman Cordts; Green Team from Councilman Bartelloni to Councilman Mignone.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Letter	-	County of Bergen, Community Development-3/2/12 Re: Library Service Desk - Compliance
Notice	-	Borough of Paramus - 3/6/12 Re: Planning Board Public Hearing
E-mail	-	Della Carroll - 3/9/12 Re: Resignation from Beautification
Notice	-	River Edge Board of Education - 3/12/12 Re: Meeting - 3/14/12
Letter	-	State of New Jersey - DEP - 3/12/12 Re: Suspected Hazardous Discharge Notice, Huffman Koos Property
Letter	-	State of New Jersey - DEP - 3/12/12 Re: Suspected Hazardous Discharge Notice, Sunoco Station, 957 Kinderkamack Road
Letter	-	Ann & Evergisto Ramos - 3/13/12 Re: Resignation from Beautification
Letter	-	State of New Jersey- Dept. of Education-3/15/12 Re: 2012-2013 Municipal Percentage Shares for Tax Levies for Regional Schools and Districts Merged

LIAISON REPORTS -

Councilwoman Murphy-informed everyone that she met with members of the Shade Tree Commission last week. She mentioned that she had attended the Planning Board

meeting and it seems that the Board will take some of the considerations into account for the development of the property on Kinderkamack Road. Councilwoman Murphy distributed a flyer from the July 4th Committee and informed everyone that Senator Gordon will be at the Library this Thursday evening to meet with the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" group. They are also having a historical virtual tour on Wednesday, March 20th from 1 to 2 p.m. Councilwoman Murphy stated that she is 90% complete with the technology survey regarding the computer systems in the Borough. She stated that the only departments that she hasn't received at this point are Emergency Management and the Ambulance Service.

Councilman Mignone-informed everyone that he attended the Planning Board meeting last week and they had a second hearing on the Now Atkins application on Kinderkamack Road. Councilman Mignone stated that the meeting came to an abrupt ending because they ran out of tapes for the recorder. The application will continue at the next meeting on April 5th when the attorney will make a closing argument and the Board will vote on the application. Councilman Mignone spoke with Chief Cariddi who informed him that the training for the new Police Officers is progressing well and he hopes to have them fully integrated into the schedule sometime in April or early May.

Councilman Bartelloni-stated that he will be meeting with Bobbi Conway tomorrow afternoon to get an update on what's going on with the Recreation Commission and also stated that Bobbi had given him copies of minutes to help him get caught up. He explained the reason they requested a change in liaisons for Beautification and Recreation.

Councilman Papaleo-informed everyone that the Fire Department continues to meet three times a month for training and continue to maintain all fire equipment on Sundays. He stated that the Chairperson for the Municipal Alliance Against Drugs met with Alan, Judy Forman, the representative from the County and a former Alliance chairperson. They are looking to recruit a senior citizen to join the committee in hopes that they may obtain grants for those who may be suffering from prescription drug or painkiller addictions.

MONTHLY REPORTS -

Beautification Committee	-	February 2012
Zoning Board of Adjustment	-	December 2011
Zoning Board of Adjustment	-	January 2012
Tax Collector	-	January 2012
Planning Board	-	January 2012
Planning Board	-	February 2012
Zoning Board of Adjustment	-	February 2012

ORDINANCES - 1st Reading

Denise Dondiego, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance # 1760 as follows:

Ordinance #1760 - BOND ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 4. OF BOND ORDINANCE #1656 ENTITLED "BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,611,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS".

Alan Negreann-gave a brief description of Ordinance #1760.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve the first reading of Ordinance #1760 as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #1760

BOND ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 4. OF BOND ORDINANCE #1656 ENTITLED "BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,611,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS".

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. Section 4. of Ordinance #1656 entitled: BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW

ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,611,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS" adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey on June 26, 2009 is hereby amended to add acquisition and installation of a permanent generator [Section 4.] I. for the Public Safety Building and appurtenances and shall hereafter read as follows:

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$1,611,000
Down payment Appropriated	\$ 81,000
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$1,530,000
Period of Usefulness	17.79 years

Section 2. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this amendatory bond ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

Mayor Sandy Moscaritolo

Denise A. Dondiego, Borough Clerk

Dated:

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

ORDINANCES - 2nd Reading - NONE

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve resolution #12-119 through #12-129.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

#12-119 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 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 March 19, 2012 meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

Closed Session Docket #	Item Title or Description	Statutory Reference
12-3/19-1	Litigation - Tax Appeals - Great Outdoors v River Edge, Riverside Medical v River Edge	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)
12-3/19-2	Personnel - Hiring of Redevelopment Attorney	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)

2. Any non-attorney client privilege communications will be released at the conclusion of the litigation subject of any orders of the court.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

March 19, 2012

#12-120 Change in Personnel Policy & Procedure Manual- Section VI, Subject 9, Use of Borough Property and Telephones

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge adopted a Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual on March 7, 1983 via resolution #83-58; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the borough of River Edge desire to change Section VI, Subject 9, with regard to Work Rules and Standards, Use of Borough Property and Telephones; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council considered at their work session of February 27, 2012 making those changes to the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual of the Borough of River Edge shall be changed in the following manner:

1. Delete the following paragraph to Section VI, Work Rules, Subject 9, Use of Borough Property and Telephones

Use of Fuel

The Emergency Management Coordinator and the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator may receive one (1) full tank of gas per month for their personal vehicles which are used by them during the year for emergency management purposes.

2. Add the following paragraph to Section VI, Work Rules, Subject 9, Use of Borough Property and Telephones

Use of Fuel

The Emergency Management Coordinator and the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator are permitted to receive a full tank of gas 48 hours prior to an impending event and during an event allowed refills as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this change in the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual is effective April 2, 2012.

March 19, 2012

#12-121 Transfer of Funds in the Budget Appropriation Reserve

WHEREAS, various 2011 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills were not covered by a purchase order number and/or recorded at the time of transfer between the 2011 Budget Appropriation Reserve in the last two months of 2011; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the year are available, until lapsed at the close incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made from unexpended balances which are expected to be insufficient during the first three months on the succeeding year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the transfer in the amount of \$22,000.00 be made between the 2011 Budget Appropriation Reserves as follows:

FROM: PUBLIC WORK REPAIR S/W	01-2030-26-2901-011	5,000.00
TO: LEGAL SERVICES OE	01-2030-20-1552-174	5,000.00
FROM: PUBLIC WORK REPAIR S/W	01-2030-26-2901-011	2,000.00
TO: ENGINEERING SERVICES OE	01-2030-20-1652-170	2,000.00
FROM: PUBLIC WORK REPAIR S/W	01-2030-26-2901-011	3,000.00
TO: FIRE OE	01-2030-25-2552-184	3,000.00
FROM: PUBLIC WORK REPAIR S/W	01-2030-26-2901-011	10,000.00
TO: PUBLIC REPAIR MAINT OE	01-2030-26-2902-178	10,000.00

FROM: REVENUE ADMIN OE 01-2030-20-1452-036 2,000.00
TO: POLICE DEPT OE 01-2030-25-2402-023 2,000.00

March 19, 2012

#12-122 Authorize Refund of Parking Permit

WHEREAS, a yearly parking permit for the River Edge Road Train Lot was issued and then returned to the Borough of River Edge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue a pro-rated refund in the amount of \$132.00 for the yearly permit to:

<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Permit #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hany Rizkalla 265 Dorchester Road River Edge, NJ 07661	#032	\$132.00

March 19, 2012

#12-123 Resolution Supporting Assembly Bill #2444 Urging the State Legislature to Alter Eligibility Requirements for Unemployment Insurance for School Crossing Guards

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-154.1 provides that the Governing Body of any municipality may appoint adult school crossing guards for terms not exceeding one (1) year and specifies the qualifications, training and other work conditions; and

WHEREAS, many municipal part-time or hourly jobs in the State are offered for several weeks in a given year such as school crossing guards due to the school schedule; and

WHEREAS, there should be no expectation by an employee who has applied for a part-time or hourly job that when the work schedule ends that there would be continued employment, in fact, that individual consciously made the choice to apply for and accept a part-time or hourly job rather than seeking year-round employment; and

WHEREAS, when the length of employment is clearly defined by the public entity as a part-time or hourly job with a specific beginning and ending date, this job should not be included in unemployment calculations for individuals working other jobs during the unemployment period of eligible benefits; and

WHEREAS, unlike private employers, municipalities and other public entities are unique in that unemployment claims arising from part-time or hourly employment require the expenditure of taxpayers funds to pay unemployment claims for these individuals thereby burdening the already overwhelmed taxpayer in the Borough of River Edge and the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in many cases municipalities and other public entities pay claims quarterly and do not pay into the unemployment compensation fund due to budgetary constraints and the high cost of unemployment insurance; and

WHEREAS, these unexpected quarterly payments have forced some municipalities to do special emergency appropriations just to pay this year's claims thereby affecting next year's municipal budget which by all accounts will be equally as difficult as the present year's; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill #2444 has been introduced on February 21, 2012 concerning the eligibility of unemployment insurance benefits for crossing guards and would accomplish the relief that the Borough of River Edge is seeking and do so in a fair manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of River Edge urges the legislature to alter the benefit eligibility conditions of unemployment insurance (UI) for individuals employed in the crossing of school children by any municipality or other public entity of the State to preclude them as statutorily defined from receiving unemployment benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the legislature is urged to adopt Assembly Bill #2444 which would alter eligibility requirements for unemployment insurance for school crossing guards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is instructed to send a copy of this resolution to its State Legislative Representatives, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

March 19, 2012

#12-124 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund Duplicate 1st Quarter 2012 Tax Payment

WHEREAS, a duplicate 1st Quarter 2012 payment was received on 123 Valley Road from Mak and Law Associates, LLC, closing attorney for the buyer, Jie Bai and Ming Shi; and

WHEREAS, the tax office has received a written request from Mak and Law Associates to refund the overpaid amount to Bonnie K. Epstein, the seller.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue a refund check in the following amount and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

Block/Lot	Name Address	Refund Amount
1202/5	Bonnie K. Epstein 123 Valley Road	3,427.56

Make check payable to: Bonnie K. Epstein

Mail to: Mak & Law Associates, LLC
35 Plaza Professional Center
E. 81 Route 4 West, Suite 404
Paramus, NJ 07652

March 19, 2012

#12-125 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund Duplicate 1st Quarter 2012 Tax Payments

WHEREAS, the tax office has received duplicate tax payments for the 1st Quarter 2012 taxes on the following properties; and

WHEREAS, a written request was received from their mortgage company to refund the overpaid amount directly to the mortgage company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue refund check in the following amount and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

BLOCK/LOT	HOMEOWNER/ADDRESS	AMOUNT
105	3 LLOYD, JOSEPH F. 935 Myrtle Avenue	42.74
114	10 CASTELLARI, RICARDO 853 Bogert Road	32.72
203	7 KHOURY, CHARLES 112 Midland Avenue	504.82
204	1 CONLIN, THOMAS 894 Bogert Road	133.55
204	24.02 MATIS, LOUIS 888 Bogert Road	3,633.90
211	9 SALADIN, JOSE 841 Park Avenue	2,403.90
212	15 POPOVIC, MILENKO 795 Park Avenue	36.73
301	2 CAPANELLI, PAUL A. 803 7 th Avenue	286.47
304	4 FARANDA, TIMOTHY 257 Wales Avenue	148.91
304	24 NG, KENNETH 800 5 th Avenue	243.73
311	23 CHEN, XING 730 5 th Avenue	966.91
401	5 DIDONATO, RICHARD 795 Bogert Road	1,124.49
407	20 WETTERING, BRIAN 180 Tenney Avenue	489.46
411	2.01 DAIBES, ASSAD 749 Williams Avenue	1,110.47

604	6.01	CHAMBERS, MICHAEL 163 Madison Avenue	15.36
614	1	RUSSO, JOHN 650 Bogert Road	46.75
617	5	GROVER, SUSAN 29 Madison Avenue	8.02
701	19.08	CABANA, ROLANDO 510 Manning Court	30.05
701.01	26	ALOSTAZ, YOUSEF 288 Voorhis Avenue	26.71
708	25	O'TOOLE, WILLIAM 240 Dorchester Road	36.06
803	11	ROSA, ROBERT 118 Voorhis Avenue	279.79
809	28	MOCK, ALLEN 418 Windsor Road	602.31
810	10	FORSTER, TIMOTHY 164 Dorchester Road	68.78
901	19	BARTON, JOAN 210 Manchester Road	36.06
907	5	KRAUTHEIM, KENNETH 217 Beech Drive North	25.38
909	35	PARK, HYUK 240 Howland Avenue	42.74
1003	16	HUMS, JEFFREY 418 Lafayette Avenue	38.73
1205	7	GELBERG-GOFF, LOREN 200 Oak Avenue	74.12
1207	23	AGRESTA, RUDOLPH 96 Lakeview Street	2,403.24

TOTAL: \$14,892.90

Make check payable to:

CORE LOGIC TAX SERVICES
Mail Code: DFW 1-3
One Corelogic Drive
Westlake, TX 76262
Attn: Tax Refunds

March 19, 2012

#12-126 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund 1st Quarter Duplicate 2012 Tax Payments

WHEREAS, the tax office has received duplicate tax payments and tax overpayments due to homestead rebate credits for the 2012 1st Quarter taxes on the following properties; and

WHEREAS, a written request was received from the homeowner to refund the overpaid amount directly to the homeowner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue checks in the following amounts and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Refund Amount</u>
301/11	Bruce Ian & Rosemary Murphy 761 7 th Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	667.00
306/21	Joseph & Diane Pinto 790 Elm Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	500.00
403/1.02	Jeffrey Tolin 782 Summit Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	6,309.57
406/12	William Voorhis 710 Summit Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	610.80
501/2	Frank & Genevieve Chabza 1 Kimberly Way River Edge, NJ 07661	1,050.00

501/3	Steven Neil Silver 3 Kimberly Way River Edge, NJ 07661	1,000.00
506/13	Judith Kelly 207 Adams Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	907.36
602/9	Edward & Janet Meller 184 Jefferson Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	734.92
607/3	Henny Krone 157 Adams Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	789.94
701/9	Ellen M. Hamann 2950 SE Ocean Blvd., #124-2 Stuart, FL 34996	1,012.73
704/19	Roberto & Marsha E. Dominguez 232 Concord Drive River Edge, NJ 07661	1,000.00
706/29	Gerard & Noranne O'Meara 264 Voorhis Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	776.51
808/25	Zhijian & Yonghong Yang 432 Windsor Road River Edge, NJ 07661	2,868.43
809/8	James & Nicki Claffey 445 Kinderkamack Road River Edge, NJ 07661	1,050.00
906/4	Craig & Nancy Conk 259 Berkeley Road River Edge, NJ 07661	1,000.00
1002/19	Anca Kinonian 392 Mercer Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	1,000.00
1108/7	Adolph Orlando 700 Village Green Ct., H205 Palm Springs, FL 33461	865.54
1202/7	Lila Cohen 10 Barry Drive Ashland, MA 01721	918.84

March 19, 2012

#12-127 Authorize Refund from Recreation Dedicated Account

WHEREAS, a resident had signed up for the Rutgers Safety Certification Clinic and was unable to participate; and

WHEREAS, the resident had paid in full for this program; and

WHEREAS, a refund will be made to the following:

Robert T. Higgins	\$40.00
696 Center Avenue	
River Edge, NJ 07661	

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a total of \$40.00 be refunded from the Recreation Dedicated Account to the above listed resident.

March 19, 2012

#12-128 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	\$1,324,321.96
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 24,843.00
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 1,138.60
ANIMAL WELFARE ACCOUNT	\$ 240.60
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 153.92
TRUST OTHER DEVELOPERS ACCOUNT	\$ 6,219.70

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.

March 19, 2012

#12-129 Enter Into Agreement with Melvin Wyns, Wyns Consulting, LLC, 22 Mark Twain Drive, Hamilton Square, New Jersey 08690-20110 for Expert Consulting Services Pertaining to Oradell's Petition to the Commissioner of Education

WHEREAS, there exists a need to retain expert consulting services pertaining to Oradell's Petition to the Commissioner of Education; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Wyns, of Wyns Consulting, LLC meets the criteria for a professional service contract under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1; 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 #01-2010-20-1552-028 of the Current Fund in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Wyns has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Melvin Wyns 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 Melvin Wyns from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; 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;

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed \$200.00 per hour:

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 Melvin Wyns, Wyns Consulting, LLC, 22 Mark Twain Drive, Hamilton Square, New Jersey 08690-2110 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.
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 a "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 this resolution be forwarded to the RIDGEWOOD NEWS for

publication.

March 19, 2012

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Cordts to open hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

James Teehan-179 Howland Avenue-stated that a representative from the reassessment firm came into his home and looked through the entire house. His issue is that he doesn't think it's fair that some homes were entered into and some weren't.

James Anzevino-Tax Assessor-explained the difference between a reassessment and a revaluation. With a revaluation, they mandate 3 inspections and upon the third inspection they make an estimate. If they don't get in, they estimate high. A reassessment doesn't have that parameter. Mr. Anzevino explained the process that the appraisal company goes through before they come up with a market value. Mr. Anzevino explained that the reason the Mayor and Council decided on a reassessment is because there is a two year back log on getting revaluation approved. He asked Mr. Teehan if he checked his property card when he met with the gentleman from the appraisal company and if so, was the information correct? James Teehan-replied, yes he did check property card and the information was correct.

Jim Anzevino- feels that firm that performed the reassessment is a very reputable company and stated that 95% of his dealings with them were accurate.

Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that Mr. Teehan did raise a point which several others have also, that the appraisal company went into some homes but for the most part only took outside measurements of the rest of the homes. He stated that many people feel that they were penalized because they opened up their homes to the appraisal company.

Jim Anzevino-stated that no, that's not the case and in actuality, they received an accurate assessment. He feels that the homes that were not entered into may have received a higher value because the appraiser has to estimate what's inside and will automatically feel that updates have been made.

James Teehan-explained that his neighbor has a larger home, on a bigger piece of property and his assessment went down. He doesn't understand why that would happen.

Jim Anzevino-stated that it's important not to compare assessments and offered to meet with Mr. Teehan and discuss particulars.

James Teehan-feels that someone from the Borough should have been present for the informal hearings that were held last week with the appraisal company.

Jim Anzevino-responded that the State doesn't allow you to do that. He explained that what happens is the independent appraisal company is authorized and contracted by the town through State standards mandating that it has to be an independent evaluation. The fear is that if someone from the Borough was there, it might taint the values. The purpose of the hearing is for the appraisal officer to inform the resident what the value of their property is.

Michael Gorn-182 Oak Avenue-thanked Jim for explaining the process and stated that from what he can determine, it seems like the value of empty land went down. He feels that because he has a larger home compared to someone who has the same size property with a smaller home, there is a big difference because his land value is taking up such a small part of the overall assessment making the building value drive up the assessment. He doesn't feel that's fair.

Jim Anzevino-stated that what it comes down to is total market value and everyone was not assessed for the same land value. He gave several examples and explained that older homes that have not been updated are assessed differently than those who have updated.

Wilbur Paes-238 Van Saun Drive-stated that his taxes have gone through the roof. He feels that many residents whose assessments went down are under the impression that their taxes will go down, when in fact that's not the case because the tax rate has increased.

Councilman Bartelloni-explained that that's precisely what it was intended to do. He continued to explain that the total tax levy remains the same on a reassessment.

Wilbur Paes-asked what the point of a reassessment is because it's not going to benefit anyone, especially since it's not going to reduce taxes.

Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that the town needs a certain amount of money to run and that money is raised through property taxes. Even though a reassessment was done and assessments have changed, the town still needs the same amount of money to operate.

Councilman Bartelloni-explained that the smaller houses were subsidizing the larger houses under the old system. The people with smaller homes were paying an increased amount of taxes because of the people with the larger homes.

Jim Anzevino-explained that the value is 100% of market value of all properties.

Wilbur Paes-feels that as a Realtor, this is unfair because it will reduce the buyer pool when trying to sell a larger home.

Ray Frost-160 Lozier Terrace-he feels that someone is blatantly incompetent and feels that he was lied to by his realtor by not giving the correct dollar figure for the real estate taxes at the time he purchased his home. He stated that if he knew that the town was doing a reassessment and realized what the implication would be, he would never have purchased his home. He agrees with Councilman Bartelloni's comments that smaller homes have been subsidizing larger homes, but argues about transparency. He is upset that he cannot sell his home for what he purchased it for in 2008.

Robin Baron-569 Monroe Court-stated that she was born and raised in River Edge and the taxes on her home have doubled since she bought it. As a real estate agent she feels that this will make it difficult to find buyers who will be able to afford to live here. She stated that at the 3.035% tax rate, we have one of the highest tax rates in Bergen County other than Ridgefield Park. She explained that she had a contract on a home on Valley Road which fell through because the taxes are going up to \$29,000.

Councilman Bartelloni-asked how large of a home is this?

Robin Baron-replied, 5,000 square feet. She explained that there are several larger homes being built in the same area on a 75 x 100 piece of property and is very concerned that they will never sell.

Councilman Bartelloni-commented that that home is probably three times the size of the average cape cod in town.

Jim Anzevino-explained that the assessment for that particular house will be reduced to approximately 829,000. He continued to explain that you can't assess something less than the value of the property.

Joseph Caleka-834 Park Avenue-sub-divided a piece of property on Park Avenue that he was looking to develop and is concerned about resale. He feels the taxes on new construction are cost prohibitive in that location.

Elaine Gibbons-220 Dorchester Road-stated that she is a longtime resident of River Edge and is also a real estate agent. She stated that she knows for a fact that residents who have a 75 x 100 piece of property have been killed with high taxes since the last assessment. She explained that she has several listings where older residents are getting a reduction which will enable her to sell their homes. She stated that while she really does understand the plight of the big new homes, she feels that most people are really assessed properly at fair market value. She feels that they need to look at the whole picture and thinks that the appraisal company did a very good job.

Tim Riecken-240 Madison Avenue-feels that they should reconsider the reassessment based on what he's hearing tonight because we're basically discouraging people from renovating and updating their homes.

Greg Ogden-296 Wales Avenue-stated that he and his neighbor both have reis colonials that were built in 1942. His neighbors house is 300 square feet larger and his assessed value was reduced. He doesn't understand why that would happen.

Jim Anzevino-asked Mr. Ogden for his contact information and said that he would get back to him tomorrow.

Liz Serednick-290 Monroe Court-is also a real estate agent and feels that the unexpected consequence to this reassessment is that people will be afraid to improve their homes. She thinks it's unfair because people were not made aware of the reassessment and the impact it would have on their taxes. Ms. Serednick feels that the town will lose the revenue stream of people getting permits and adding on to their homes.

Jim Leon-728 Summit Avenue-arrived at the meeting late and asked why 92.5% of the town's market value decreased while 7 1/2% market value increased. He is one of the homeowners whose value had increased. He feels that people who have more square footage are being penalized and agrees that they are discouraging people from making home improvements. He feels that it's basically class warfare.

Jim Anzevino-explained that it all goes back to market value and disagrees with his comment of class warfare. He told Mr. Leon that he would look into it further if he would like.

Cindy Bequeath-745 7th Avenue-was born and raised in River Edge and feels that nothing is perfect and suggested that the only way to fix things is to look at issues on a one-by-one basis. She continued by saying that River Edge is not a community that is known for its 5,000 square foot houses but known for small to average sized homes.

Mayor Moscaritolo-suggested that people contact Jim Anzevino to meet one-on-one to either work it out or file an appeal.

Councilman Bartelloni-responded to a question that was asked about the number of other towns that are doing this and he gave a listing of towns in Bergen County.

Eileen Tummino-293 Jefferson Avenue-who is also a real estate agent asked if all of the other towns had the same impact.

Jim Anzevino-replied that this is pretty typical.

Gregg Cariddi-193 Wayne Avenue-stated that last year there was a small home in his neighborhood that was torn down and replaced with a large home. When they had an open house, he and his wife went in and noticed that on the sheet from the Realtor, the taxes were listed as \$11,000. Mr. Cariddi pays \$13,000 in taxes for his home and was sure that the realtor was giving out tax information on the old house and not the new larger home.

Ray Frost-160 Lozier Terrace-asked if the Mayor and Council are happy that we have the second highest tax rate in Bergen County?

Councilman Bartelloni-stated that overall, he feels that everyone is paying too much in taxes and explained that his home is 1,300 square feet and he pays close to \$12,000 per year in taxes. When you compare that a 5,000 square foot home is only

paying twice the amount of a 1,300 square foot home, he questions whether that is fair. Councilman Bartelloni again stated that no, he is not happy that people are paying an exorbitant amount for taxes. He feels that they should let the market dictate the values and hope that five years down the road, we're out of this recessed housing market. Councilman Bartelloni feels that the Mayor and Council needed to take this step in order to offset the extreme amount of tax appeals.

Jacinta Zuniga-246 Madison Avenue-stated that he felt that there was a discrepancy on his square footage. He said that he called the appraisal company and never received a return phone call. He feels that the significant increases have come at a really bad time and also feels that for the future, there is no incentive for contractors to build in town.

Michael Gorn-182 Oak Avenue-stated that the reason people move to River Edge is because it's a nice town and has a great school system and realizes that there is a price to pay for that. He feels that the higher priced homes subsidize those who live in River Edge.

Councilman Mignone-asked how many residents came in to meet with the appraisal company?

Jim Anzevino-replied, not more than 150.

Councilman Mignone-stated that it would be prudent to see how things pan out because if 150 came in and 150 receive deductions, it might work itself out.

Jim Anzevino-doesn't necessarily agree and feels that you may only see minimal reductions. He addressed the comment about River Edge having the highest tax rate and explained that the official tax rate for 2012 has not officially been struck nor has it be struck for any of the other twenty towns that are doing a reassessment. He continued to explain that once you lower the market value, the tax rate goes up and disagrees with the statement that River Edge will have the highest tax rate in the County. He informed everyone that the official tax rates will not be struck until possibly July.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Motion by Councilman Mignone, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to close hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

COUNCIL COMMENTS -

Mayor Moscaritolo-thanked everyone for coming to the meeting this evening.

ADJOURNMENT - 10:10 P.M.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes, Councilman Porco was absent.

Mayor Sandy Moscaritolo

Attest:

Denise A. Dondiego, Borough Clerk

Dated: