

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019**

PRESENT:

Councilwoman	Ellen Busteed
Councilwoman	Mary Davis
Councilman	Joseph Gautier
Councilwoman	Michelle Kaufman
Councilman	Thomas Papaleo

ALSO PRESENT:

Borough Attorney	Tom Sarlo
Borough Administrator	Ray Poerio
Borough Clerk	Stephanie Evans

ABSENT:

Mayor	Edward J. Mignone
Councilman	Dario Chinigo

Council President Busteed called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Motion to Suspend Work Session and Enter Closed Session @6:02 PM
RESOLUTION #19-265**

**Motion by Councilman Gautier, second by Councilwoman Davis
All in favor 5-0**

CLOSED SESSION TOPICS

Closed Session

<u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory Reference</u>
19-8/12-1	Contract Negotiation 270 John Avenue Brian Chewcaskie, Esq.	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)
19-8/12-2	Contract Negotiation New Bridge Landing Apt.	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7) N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)

Motion to Adjourn Closed Session and Return to Work Session @6:35 PM

**Motion by Councilman Gautier, second by Councilwoman Davis
ALL IN FAVOR 5-0**

**ROLL CALL: Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilman Gautier,
Councilwoman Kaufman, and Councilman Papaleo.**

BOROUGH AMINISTRATOR'S TOPICIS –

Mr. Poerio submitted his written report today. Before he gets into the two additional items he wants to cover tonight he personally wants to thank on behalf of himself and his family to all that reached out to him via email, text, and the staff as well while he was detained in the hospital for a period of time. He very much appreciated it and he thanks everyone for their prayers. The two topics that he has augmenting his report first relates to resolution #19-290.

If you refer to that resolution with the variety of things that are going on, he thinks that policy needs to be revisited by the Mayor and Council at a later point in time. He would not recommend changing it as of today. However when we evaluate many of the policies and procedures that he thinks will be coming about in the near future, this is one of the ones that becomes, resolution #19-29. This one of the ones that we need to go ahead and review. His second item that he has for you hot off the press, as you heard from our esteemed counsel, he was making phone calls while he was in the hospital knowing what a priority dealing with the ADA curbs are to this administration. He know that they have made it priority for him to go ahead and ask the new guy on the block to kind of wrap his hand around it and try and go ahead and move forward. We had several intersections that were in question as he explained at the last council meeting that we would evaluate 4 or 5 of them to go ahead and go ahead and deal with. To receive some quotes on to get a better understanding what the potential cost may be with those individual intersections, which were Elm and Tenney, Millbrook and Adrian, Millbrook and Adams, Jefferson and Fifth. Our Engineer went out and requested from six different contractors to submit a quote on the individual items and we received a quote back from two. Currently right now the Borough has available \$32,000.00 to address these intersections. The intersection of Elm and Tenney, something that Council conveyed to him was a priority, not to say that any of the other ones was any less of a priority but given the fact that school was coming about so on and so forth, it was a big priority to us. If Elm and Tenney is the priority we may be able to go ahead and take some funds from the road program to that one particular intersection revolves around you will have to mill and pave it as well as do the concrete. You put the concrete curbs and the ADA curbs in, curb cuts, and the problem is when you go to do the striping the rest of that road in that intersection is not in good shape. You do all this work to then go ahead putting brand new striping down on a road that is going to have to get milled and paved at a different point in time. It is feasible he thinks if that's a priority to go ahead and address that one this year. On another note, he spoke with the low bidder of the intersection, that particular intersection, the profession staff is not recommending an award of contract to AA Berms LLC because when we discussed a little bit of the means and method that the contractor was going to use to do that little section, his thought process on how he was going to address it really isn't in the best interest of the Borough. So really we are at a point where he needs to get direction from the Council. Do you want to pick 2 or 3 of these off this list? We have the \$32,000.00 as he said we have the \$32,000 available and the balance of the ones that aren't covered you made it very clear to him this is a priority for your 2020 budget to ensure that these items are in that budget. He just needs direction on what you would like to have done. Councilwoman Kaufman questioned you are saying that AA Berms, using them would not be in the best interest. Mr. Poerio replied for Elm and Tenney because the means and methods of what they are doing is that intersection is really a small patch that needs to be done. The right way to do it is to come in with a regular miller, even though it is a small patch, and mill it. What they are purposing to do is get a Bobcat with a little attachment miller and do 7,000 strikes back and forth to and mill out that intersection. At the end of the day that doesn't leave you a good project. You really want to have a company come in with a real milling machine rather than some attachment that you would add onto a Bobcat and mill out that intersection in order to do it the right way. Councilwoman Kaufman said that's why the Zuccaro numbers are higher for everything. Mr. Poerio stated because Zuccaro would go ahead and actually bring in a milling company rather than the Bobcat. Councilwoman Busteed just wanted to comment on something that Mr. Poerio said, the rational or reason, at least her recollection and correct her if she is wrong, that Elm and Tenney was a priority was not because of school starting, but

because we have a larger project that is going to see more foot traffic in the near future. Does anybody else have that, with the Community Center. Councilman Gautier said he believes she is correct. Councilwoman Busted when on to say that since that is a year off, she would suggest that not be priority and some of these others that have been lingering perhaps be the priority. We could accomplish maybe one, maybe two with the \$32,000, plus the extra left over from the road paving project. She would contend that would be the direction we would want to go as long as we were assured that the Elm and Tenney were part of the 2020 capital so it was in place for the completion of the Community Center. Councilman Papaleo said he would agree with that. Councilwoman Busted said we would leave the prioritization of the other 3 to professionals. Mr. Poerio said he would take of it. A motion was made on the ADA curbs and curb cuts as just discussed.

**Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Davis
All in favor 5-0**

Councilwoman Kaufman asked if there was any chance of having a third bidder actually give us some numbers. Mr. Poerio replied it's possible. The issue becomes that Council felt this was an urgency and you wanted to address this as soon as possible. You could delay it and wrap into next year's road program. However, again, that is a Council choice but he knows what a priority you said this to be and going ahead and make some movement on it. We did ask for 6 and we gave them a 2 week turnaround time on it. Maybe if there was a longer turnaround time it might have been different however that is where we are at today. Councilwoman Busted asked if Mr. Poerio had his direction to which replied he did have his direction.

DISCUSSION –

1. Increase in Lease Fee with Temple Shalom for Premises Rental for SCORE

Mr. Poerio explained as he was going through the plans for Community Center it is likely that some part or all of next year it will be necessary to our seniors where they are. For budgetary purposes and for their own mindset the Temple has asked if it would be possible if we enter into that agreement with them as soon as possible so they can go ahead and finalize their budget aspect. They have asked for increase, we are at \$18,000 and they are looking to go to \$19,000. The first two years there was no increase and he doesn't feel that is ridiculous or out of the realm. However obviously this would be subject to funds available in the 2020 budget. We can encumber funds for 2020 now so that is why the resolution is written to say "whereas funds will be, where it is anticipated that funds will be available". Council that is not something that is new that you have not done in the past. Councilwoman Davis asked if there any discussion on the time that they could go and start there? We had some issues, she doesn't have it front of her because she didn't know this was going to be a discussion tonight, but the time that they start could they go a little bit later, those were all part of the new contract. Mr. Poerio said he was happy to go ahead, he wasn't aware of that being an issue, to have that conversation with them. If one of the Council could provide him with those specific details. Councilwoman Davis stated that she would have to look back but instead they wanted, the Temple, wanted them instead of 9^o clock they wanted them to start at 10^o clock or visa-a-versa. Councilwoman Kaufman said she didn't know that. Councilwoman Davis said that was a big discussion and it even came up here also. Councilman Gautier said that was a while back. Councilwoman Davis added also if they could later and then the days if something was going on the Temple would just cancel and we would just try and get things in writing. Councilman Gautier said that if it was a holiday on a

Monday maybe they could have a Wednesday. Councilman Papaleo stated he didn't know we want to enter into a whole year contract, this is a whole year contract. Councilwoman Busted added that was going to be her question, could we do six months to renew for six months. Councilman Papaleo said he wouldn't feel comfortable voting yes on a whole year contract. Councilwoman Kaufman said the current schedule the building is going to be done at the end of November. (simultaneous talking) Councilwoman Busted said they would stay through the end of 2020, to which the majority of Council agreed. Mr. Poerio said perhaps he would make, just so we can move this forward, perhaps for that one resolution we would make it subject to the issues being addressed as the Councilwoman has raised and he will work with the Temple on going ahead and addressing those particular topics before we enter into any agreement. No motion was needed since this was listed on the Regular Public Meeting Agenda.

WORK SESSION CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approve the request from Bergen County Historical Society to place a banner at the corner of Main Street and Kinderkamack Road for a three (3) week period to promote Baronfest – a Celebration of General Von Steuben on September 21.**

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilman Gautier to approve.

All in favor 5-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Councilwoman Busted wanted to ask the Council to bring back to the table the enhancements to the dog barking ordinance that we discussed under second reading and tabled at our last meeting in July. She does believe that the suggested enhancements are just that they build upon on an existing ordinance that we just know has worked but this will provide clearer steps for our residents on how to address nuisance concerns that they have with dog barking. She would ask the Council to consider bring that off the table and list for our next public meeting in September. A motion was made to place this ordinance on the agenda.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Davis

All in favor 5-0

Borough Attorney, Mr. Sarlo stated that he has some minor revisions just to tighten it up. He was talking with Councilman Chinigo and we will circulate that for you. Councilwoman Busted stated that Councilman Chinigo had sent a revision to Mr. Sarlo and they discussed it. Mr. Sarlo added that he is trying to mesh some of his into the one that we initially had to make it work. Councilwoman Busted said we do know that with some minor revisions and clarity that it will work.

NEW BUSINESS –

Councilwoman Busted mentioned that she spoke with Councilwoman Kaufman about if the Clerk could circulate to the Council our list of regularly scheduled recognitions every month and proclamations, whether it be for Senior Citizens Day, Gun Violence Awareness, Pride Month so we as a Council will have an opportunity to review that in advance of our reorganization meeting in January to determine if we want to enhance any of those programs, make sure our Borough departments understand what it is that we asking them to do for those things so it isn't a surprise. If the Clerk could possibly do that and she would ask everybody to take a look that and see if anything is missing or anything we want to enhance if you could bring that back at our next, it doesn't have to September it could be October, so we are

prepared for reorganization.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Kaufman

All in favor 5-0

Margaret Burns, 236 Wales Ave – Her first concern was the paper road between Wales and Woodland. This summer, actually this spring, there were surveyors surveying and her husband happen to go over and chat with them. He asked if they were putting in sidewalks or what they were doing there. He felt that it might be affecting the homeowners on our street. They replied no it has to do with the paper road, they were³ surveying the paper road. Right now the paper road is being used by a lot of young teens riding bikes and all that. There has been a lot of close calls with automobiles from Wales, coming from Elm down to Fifth. They for some reason maybe because there is a lot of foliage at that point they don't see that there is an opening there. Maybe they are visitors in town and are unaware but it's in broad daylight. She catches herself to slow down at the Millbrook Rd Wales intersection because those children that are coming from Woodland to Wales are just shooting through. She would like to maybe see some signage or something done about that. Councilwoman Busted said that the paper street between Concord and Monroe has signage at the end of each of those where it says "children crossing" or something like that. Perhaps we can look at doing something similar. Ms. Burns said she didn't know and she was trying to remember because she forgot to take a look this evening before she came here, she thought a while ago there was a bicycle sign there but she wasn't sure whether there still is or that its noticeable to those that are driving from either direction but it's a concern. Mr. Poerio stated he would look into it. Councilwoman Busted suggested that maybe the DPW Superintendent could take a look at the signage and Traffic and Safety Committee as well. Traffic and Safety first and then if there is anything that DPW could do. Ms. Burns also said they have had a tree on their street, a very mature tree and she believes it's a town tree that dropped a very large branch about 4 weeks ago. It started with a small droop and unfortunately the young lady that was going into the park with a dog noticed the wires were sparking. All the equipment came out, everybody was there and when they left 2 hours later the branch actually drooped over and we started to hear it cracking. Everyone was there when it came down and it was a very large piece. About a week ago another branch came down in the rainstorm we had. It wasn't quite as awesome as the one that fell several weeks ago but I fell. Again in the morning the DPW came, someone pulled it to someone's lawn, DPW came and cleaned it up. It was not a very small branch, it was quite large. It's a concern and she understands that Shade Tree has decisions on this but she is concerned because there are a lot of people that walk on Wales from Fifth to the park, dog walkers, babies, children, bike riders, and you name it. The way that tree is leaning if it should go it's going to take out a transformer and God knows what else. A lot of people are afraid to park their cars in line of direction to that tree. She doesn't know the timeline, but she is sure that Shade Tree is inundated with a lot of requests but she thought maybe if she brought it to the Council's attention. It looks great, plush, it had tons of leaves, acorns the size of walnuts, and it's massive. It is starting to shed big stuff and she doesn't whether their intention is to, it's not marked with an "x". She doesn't know whether their intention is to ever cut it down and she feels it's a liability to the town. Councilwoman Busted asked what is the closest house number address to the tree so we can get a sense of where it can possibly be. Mr. Burns replied it's on the apron between she thinks 230 and 234 on the north side. Councilwoman Busted asked Mr. Poerio to have someone take a look at it, Mr. Poerio replied yup. Ms. Burns added that they have been out,

DPW came out last week at 8⁰⁰ clock and cleaned it all up. It's a concern, it's a valid concern. Now she has another matter that is an eyesore. There is a house that was sold in April of '18 on the cul-de-sac between Elm and the park on Webb Ave. The builder bought it and he cut down a ton of trees in the backyard, prepped for demolition and it is awful. It is just sitting there. The reason she is concerned is because right now there was a house under reconstruction on Wales near Fifth and that house was vacant, it was owned by someone in the community, but vacant for 12 years. It wasn't very noticeable because it was setback a little and had a huge tree in front of it and nobody paid attention. This is right near the park, its 209 Webb. It looks as if with all the rain we had all you need to do is get a good storm or hurricane and it will cave in. She went to the Building Dept. about a month and half ago and spoke to them because the grass was over 2 ft. high. They were able to get a hold of the owner, the builder, and he been cutting she noticed. Someone is cutting it but it looks terrible. All summer we had Rec. Little League followed by summer ball and these are a lot of nice out of towns that come in and she knows they saw it. There are an awful lot of young people that use the courts for basketball into the evening and she is concerned. They said they sent out the Fire Marshall to look at the back of that house because there is a wooden porch on it. Her feeling is all you need is a match. It's just not in keeping the beautiful community that we have here. She just thought she would bring to the Council's attention and maybe you can find out whether he pulled permits, whether something is going to happen, because it's just looks awful. Councilwoman Busted thanked her for reminding them that property needs some attention by Property Maintenance or the Code Enforcer because she agrees with Ms. Burns. It has been in that state way too long. Ms. Burns added idle hands during the summer, they are looking around and maybe they see that and if they could bet in a back window or something, it could be a nice clubhouse. She doesn't know what's been going on in there but she knows it's vacant. Councilman Papaleo asked her to point out the tree on his phone. They had a conversation regarding the tree away from the podium and off mic.

CLOSE TO PUBLIC

Motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, second by Councilman Gautier

All in favor 5-0

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Presentation – Special Needs Basketball Clinic

Marissa Schoenberg addressed the Mayor and Council by thanking them for giving her the opportunity to speak with them tonight. She stated that she will be a freshman in River Dell High School this fall. She recently held a basketball clinic for children with special needs and different abilities from ages 6 to 14. It is a part of her Girl Scout Silver Award, but also a project that she has been thinking about for a long time. She had to say she was greatly inspired by her friend Thomas while creating it. It was always disappointing to her that he was never able to play basketball like all the other boys in her grade just because he has Autism. She decided that all the kids like Thomas finally deserve the chance to play a sport that they were not able to play before but one that has been an immense part of her life. The kids who came all had a variety of abilities and things they may have needed help with. The volunteers and Marissa made sure to give each child the attention that they deserved to be the best they could be. The athletes were able to follow what a normal basketball clinic would entail, that includes stretching, dribbling, shooting drills, and of course a snack after all their hard work. Each kid was also given a teacher so they could be a part of a team. Not many kids attended this year and she knows it's important enough to her and the kids that came to

make this a larger and more permanent part of the Oradell and River Edge community. She plans on meeting with the REgal association and she has already met with the Oradell Mayor and Council. All she asks of the Council is to ensure this basketball program becomes a reality in the future. Councilwoman Busted wondered whether or not it would make sense for Ms. Schoenberg to attend an upcoming Recreation Commission meeting now that you have presented as part of your Silver Project to the governing body. We have a Rec. Commission who makes decisions regarding the recreation programming in our borough and they would be the next step she thinks for Ms. Schoenberg to go speak to understand how we could implement your clinic across the ledges. If you would be willing to do that Councilwoman Busted could ask the Director of Recreation to get your contact information and set that up.

Motion to Adjourn Work Session @7:06 PM

Motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, second by Councilwoman Davis

All in favor 5-0

Stephanie Evans, RMC
Borough Clerk