

M I N U T E S
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Tuesday, February 16, 2016
8:00 P.M.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER -

Mayor Mignone called the meeting to order at 8:36 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall.

SILENT PRAYER - FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Mignone called for a moment of silent prayer and asked Borough Attorney Tom Sarlo to lead the salute to the flag.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT -

Mayor Mignone read the statement under the Sunshine Law as follows: "Adequate Notice of this meeting has been made by sending notice on December 18, 2015 to THE RECORD NEWSPAPER, by positioning on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Borough Hall and filing a Notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk".

ROLL CALL - Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Papaleo and Mayor Mignone were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council work session and regular meeting of February 1, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes; Councilwoman Davis abstained.

PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS - NONE

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ISSUE ON THE AGENDA -

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to open public comments on any issue on the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ISSUE ON THE AGENDA -

There being no comments by the public, motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to close public comments on any issue on the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES -

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve the hire of Robert Polizzano, 30 Engle Street, Tenafly as a part-time Police Dispatcher, at an hourly rate of \$16.00 with a six-month probationary period, effective February 17, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve the hire of Matthew Jung, 454 Van Renssalaer Court, Ridgefield as a part-time Police Dispatcher, at an hourly rate of \$16.00 with a six-month probationary period, effective February 17, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve the resignation of Mary Davis from the Traffic & Safety Committee, effective February 1, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve the resignation of Bill Haggis from the Planning Board as Alternate #1, effective February 2, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve the increase in salary of Andrew Cimiluca, Esq., the Municipal Prosecutor from an annual salary of \$6,500.00 to \$8,500.00, effective February 17, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to approve the transfer of Carol Byrne, part-time Deputy Court Administrator to the full time Records Clerk in the Police Department, at an annual Step I B Scale salary of \$34,797.00 with a six-month probationary period, effective February 17, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Letter - Board of Chosen Freeholders 2/2/16
Re: Adopted Resolution #88-16, Bus
Stop Relocation in River Edge
Letter - Bill Haggis - 2/1/16
Re: Resignation from Planning Board
Letter - Board of Chosen Freeholders-2/2/16
Re: Adopted Resolution #110-16

MONTHLY REPORTS -

Library Board - February 2016
Board of Health - January 2016
Annual Financial Statement - 2015

ORDINANCES - 1ST READING -

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #1851 as follows:

Ordinance #1851 - A CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE KENNETH B. GEORGE PARK FIELD LIGHTING REPLACEMENT IN SAID BOROUGH AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$54,320.00 FROM BERGEN COUNTY'S 2014 OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION, FARMLAND & HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

Motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve the first reading of Ordinance #1851 as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #1851

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE KENNETH B. GEORGE PARK FIELD LIGHTING REPLACEMENT IN SAID BOROUGH AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$54,320.00 FROM BERGEN COUNTY'S 2014 OPEN SPACE, RECREATION,

FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION, FARMLAND & HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

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. The Borough of River Edge shall undertake the Kenneth B. George Park Field Lighting Replacement. Such improvements shall include all work and appurtenances necessary and suitable for the use and purpose thereof. Such improvements shall be made in accordance with plans to be prepared thereof by the Borough herein authorized to be made.

Section 2. The Borough shall expend \$54,320.00 for the \$54,320.00 improvement authorized in Section 1. hereof. Said sum of \$54,320.00 is a grant from the Bergen County 2014 Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

Section 3. Such improvement is hereby determined and declared to be a Capital Improvement, which the Borough may lawfully make pursuant to law.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner provided by law.

Mayor Edward J. Mignone

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated:

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #1852 as follows:

Ordinance #1852 - AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016

Alan Negreann-explained that the State of New Jersey has a requirement that there is a cap limitation placed on the appropriations of the Borough. There is also a limitation placed on the amount of the levy that we have. He continued to say that in this instance, the cap amount or the amount you're allowed to increase some of your appropriations, is set by the State of New Jersey. It is based on cost of living adjustments and this year the rate of increase that they are permitting for municipalities is zero percent. They do allow, by ordinance, a municipality to go to a higher percentage and the only alternative is 3.5%. This additional percentage does not mean that the Mayor and Council will spend an additional 3.5% and in fact over the past few years although they've passed this ordinance, the Mayor and Council have been substantially below that percentage. He continued to say that what it does provide for is additional flexibility now and in the future for the Mayor and Council to continue services beyond this zero percent. Mr. Negreann said that it is his recommendation that they introduce and adopt this ordinance which would provide an additional spending authority but not necessarily entail the expenditure itself.

Mayor Mignone-stated that in past years he has always advocated that they should adopt the lesser limit that they are allowed by law because the intent of the legislature from all observations is they impose a 2% cap which we should be living under. To now say that that municipalities have a choice between zero and 3.5% doesn't make sense to him and the Mayor feels that they need to take a look at the cap bank situation because it doesn't save any money or make government more accountable.

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, second by Councilwoman Davis to approve the first reading of Ordinance #1852 as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #1852

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 0% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2016 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$374,540.62 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this Governing Body affirmatively concurring that, in the CY 2016 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of River Edge shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$374,540.62 and that the CY 2016 municipal budget for the Borough of River Edge be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced by filed with the Director of the division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Mayor Edward J. Mignone

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated:

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #1853 as follows:

Ordinance #1853 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #1848 TO FIX THE
SALARY, WAGE AND COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE
BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, AND STATE OF NEW
JERSEY FOR THE YEAR 2016

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Papaleo to approve the first reading of Ordinance #1853 as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #1853

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #1848 TO FIX THE SALARY, WAGE AND COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR 2016

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge:

Section 1: The compensation for the part-time positions and officers of the Borough of River Edge for the year 2016 shall be as follows:

	<u>Hourly</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Annually</u>
Prosecutor			\$ 3,300 - \$8,500

Section 2: This ordinance shall take effect immediately after the first publication after final passage as provided by law.

Edward J. Mignone

ATTEST:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated:

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

ORDINANCE - 2ND READING -

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #1850 as follows:

Ordinance #1850 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40:4-53

Ordinance #1850 was introduced by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni as the February 1, 2016 meeting as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #1850

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40:4-53

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 (Chapter 48, P.L. 1956 as amended by Chapter 144, P.L. 1965 and Chapter 38, P.L. 1969) the sum of \$2,500.00 is hereby appropriated for the

A. Preparation of a revision and codification of ordinances.

And shall be deemed a special emergency appropriation as defined and provided for in N.J.S.A. 40A-4-55.

The authorization to finance the appropriation shall be provided for in succeeding annual budgets by the inclusion of at least one fifth of the amount authorized pursuant to this act (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-55).

This ordinance shall take effect when passed and published as required by law.

Mayor Edward J. Mignone

ATTEST:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated:

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ORDINANCE - Ordinance #1850

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Acquafredda to open public hearing on Ordinance #1850.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ORDINANCE - Ordinance #1850

There being no comments by the public, motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to close public hearing on Ordinance #1850.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

ADOPTION - Ordinance #1850

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to adopt Ordinance #1850.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Papaleo to approve resolution #16-92 through #16-97.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

#16-92 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

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

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

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

1. That the public shall be excluded from the March 7, 2016 work session meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session</u>			<u>Statutory</u>
<u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>		<u>Reference</u>

To be determined by reference to the Borough Clerk's Agenda for the above meeting.

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

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

February 16, 2016

#16-93 Authorize the Release of a Performance Bond for 584 Kinderkamack Associates, LLC , Block 619, Lot 3

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge received a performance surety bond from 584 Kinderkamack Road Associates, LLC for the property located at 584 Kinderkamack Road, River Edge, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Performance Surety Bond was dated December 2, 2014 in the amount of \$352,080.00 and increased to \$374,400.00 on December 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Borough also received a check for the cash portion in the amount of \$37,440.00 dated December 19, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Consulting Engineer has certified that the final inspection has been made and approval is given with regard to the project located at 584 Kinderkamack Road, Block 619, Lot 3 and recommends that the Performance Bond be released; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has received a Maintenance Surety Bond in the amount of \$56,616.00 and a check for the cash portion in the amount of \$5,616.00 which will run for a two (2) year period from January 14, 2016 to January 14, 2017; and

WHEREAS, at a work session of the Mayor and Council on January 19, 2016 the recommendation of the Consulting Engineer was considered and reviewed.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from the Trust Other Fund in the amount not to exceed \$37,440.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Performance Surety Bond for 584 Kinderkamack Associates, LLC on file with the Borough of River Edge be released in the amount of \$374,400.00 and the Accounts Supervisor is hereby authorized to release a check for the cash portion in the amount of \$37,440.00 to 52 Church Street 2002, LLC, P.O. Box 276, Norwood, New Jersey 07648.

February 16, 2016

#16-94 Authorize Tax Collector to Reduce and Refund the 2015 Added Assessment Taxes Due to a County Board Judgment

WHEREAS, the Tax Office has received a County Board Judgment for the year 2015 reducing the assessed value and taxes billed for 2015 on the following property; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Added Assessment billed taxes have been paid.

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

Block/Lot	Owner	AA Assessed	Revised AA	Refunded Taxes
611/12	Lukich, Mark & Nobile, Maureen	129,500	119,500	\$134.03

136 Manning Avenue

Please make check payable to: Lukich, Mark & Maureen Nobile
136 Manning Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661

February 16, 2016

#16-95 Authorize Tax Collector to Cancel and Refund the Added Assessment 2015 Taxes Due to County Board Judgment

WHEREAS, the Tax Office has received an Added Assessment County Board Judgment for the year 2015 cancelling the Added Assessment billing on the following property; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Added Assessment billed amount has been paid.

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

Block/Lot	Owner	AA Assessed	Revised AA	Refunded Taxes
108/10	White, Jennifer 912 Poplar Avenue	8,200	0	\$197.85

Please make check payable to: White, Jennifer
912 Poplar Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661

February 16, 2016

#16-96 Rescind Resolution #16-87 - Award Contract to Reggio Construction, Inc. for the 2015 Fifth Avenue Road Improvement Project, Section 3

WHEREAS, resolution #16-87 awarding a contract to Reggio Construction, Inc. for the 2015 Fifth Avenue Road Improvement Project, Section 3 was approved by the Governing Body on February 1, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that resolution #16-87 dated February 1, 2016 is hereby rescinded due to a bid error in calculation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to change her records accordingly.

February 16, 2016

#16-97 Award Contract to Reggio Construction Inc., for the 2015 Fifth Avenue Road Improvement Project, Section 3

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2016 six (6) sealed bids were received for the 2015 Fifth Avenue Road Improvement Project, Section 3; and

WHEREAS, the lowest bid was received from Reggio Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$152,783.00; and

WHEREAS, the bid documents have been reviewed by the Borough Engineer and the Borough Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have discussed this matter at their work session meeting of February 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #04-2150-55-1835-200 of the Capital Fund in the amount not to exceed \$152,783.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the contract is hereby awarded to Reggio Construction, Inc., 1575 West Street, Fort Lee, New

Jersey 07024 in the amount not to exceed \$152,783.00 and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contract for the Borough.

February 16, 2016

Motion by Councilwoman Busted, seconded by Councilman Acquafredda to **table** resolution #16-98.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busted, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

TABLED

TABLED

TABLED

#16-98 Resolution Amending the Borough's Personnel Policy & Procedure Manual to Include a Social Media Policy

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

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend said Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge desire to add a new Subject 23 to Section VI with regard to a Social Media Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council considered at their work session of February 1, 2016 making those changes to the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual; and

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

1. Amending the Borough's Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual by adding the Social Media Policy, which is attached hereto, to Section VI, Work Rules and Standards, Subject 23.
2. The Social Media Policy, which is on file in the Borough Clerk's office, is applicable to all Borough employees, agencies, and departments as well as any affiliated government or non-government agency or officials.
3. This Resolution hereby amends and supersedes all prior Resolutions that are inconsistent herewith.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

February 16, 2016

Councilwoman Busted read resolution #16-99 into the record.

Motion by Councilwoman Busted, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve resolution #16-99.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busted, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

#16-99 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	\$129,251.66
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 1,487.11
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 1,504.94
ANIMAL WELFARE ACCOUNT	\$ 190.80
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 6,329.87

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 times claims would be paid.

February 16, 2016

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

There being no comments by the public, motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to close hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busteed, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS -

Councilman Acquafredda-stated that there are federal occupancy laws that are reflected on multiple dwelling codes that effect the State of New Jersey. He continued to say that they specify a minimum area requirement for apartments including individual rooms in each apartment, as well as the additional square footage required to add occupants to an apartment so it doesn't become overcrowded or a safety hazard. Councilman Acquafredda feels that the problems with these laws are policing them and he doesn't think that we have the policing aspect in place in this town. He also mentioned that people who live in the apartment complexes are parking on surrounding streets. Councilman Acquafredda stated again that enforcement will be difficult.

Councilwoman Davis-stated that the landlords have requirements as well and also agrees that it's difficult to enforce.

Mayor Mignone-stated that the school board tightened up their registration process and found that the amount of school age children in the apartments really wasn't an issue like everyone thought. He doesn't know whether that represented 10% or 80% of all the apartments so they would have to obtain that information from the school district to determine what percentage of the apartments had school age children. The Mayor asked Police Chief Cariddi to provide background information regarding the use of social media by the Police Department in general, his specific feelings on it and how he would or would not be inclined to be a part of the social media policy that the Council had discussed tonight.

Chief Tom Cariddi-stated that it's a subject that has different schools of thought within law enforcement. There are some departments that embrace it whole heartedly, others that get into it with some trepidation and some that won't touch it at all. He knows of several Police Chief's who got into it because they knew someone who was good with computers and offered to do a Facebook page and ultimately there was very little oversight beyond that. The Chief continued to say that when you go to classes that govern these things, you realize that it's the last thing you want to do is have one of the young kids in your department running the web page or Facebook page and you not having oversight and a good handle on what's being put out there. The lines get blurred as to what information is on

Facebook pages and other social media as opposed to what is normally released by the public information officer. There are times when you want to have a message get out to as many people as possible and there are other things that you don't want out there because it may compromise ongoing investigations or public safety. Chief Cariddi explained that that's why only certain people are designated as public safety officers because they've had training and understand what they are or are not obligated to pass along to the press and what can be released at certain junctures. The Chief said that within his department, he doesn't have the time or resources to tackle a specific social media page for the Police Department. He has no reservation about putting together something similar to what's done to the news outlets in terms of a blotter format or something that can be posted to a borough web page or Facebook page. He has a concern about information from the Police Department going out over what is not a dot gov website. He's also concerned about information going out from a privately owned entity on Facebook having the potential at some point in time, to change the operating rules and parameters for a page that has Police information on it. Chief Cariddi explained that it's one of the things that does come up in social media training as an issue that shouldn't go without consideration. His thought was to have a Police Department webpage, not necessarily a Facebook page in its present format, but something along the lines of blotter entries or public information.

Mayor Mignone-asked Chief Cariddi if he would object to a public service announcements or message going out to residents on how to protect themselves and/or vehicles from burglaries, etc.

Chief Cariddi-replied that he would not have a problem with that because those types of messages can be very helpful in terms of affect.

Mayor Mignone-said that it was brought to his attention that some departments publicize specific Police related events, such as burglaries, under the auspice of being a public service announcement. He asked Chief Cariddi if he thought that was a helpful procedure or is it something that he would encourage or not encourage?

Chief Cariddi-explained that depending on what the circumstances are, there's always a weighing of information that goes out especially if it could affect an investigation. Some departments, from what he's read, put out very limited information so it's hard to say what governs their own policy.

Mayor Mignone- asked what other kinds of public outreach can be used by the Police Department to get more information to the public, such as keeping their house safe while they are away. The Mayor asked Chief Cariddi if he has ever spoken at a PTO meeting or at the Library on specific safety tips?

Chief Cariddi-explained that they have had seminars, which they had publicized in the newspaper, at the Library, SCORE and PTO meetings regarding crime prevention initiatives. He said that they also informed everyone that the Police Department does offer a home security survey which is designed to assist residents in taking measures to make their homes more resistant to burglaries. Chief Cariddi stated that in addition to that, they have a resident sticker program which helps Patrol Officers identify vehicles that belong there and those that don't. He stated that these programs are advertised at River Edge Day and the Police Department also utilizes the reach the Rec Commission has as a means to encourage Nixle signups.

Mayor Mignone-asked that as a policy, would the Chief encourage residents to contact the Police Department when they see something unusual?

Chief Cariddi-replied yes and said that there was a burglary a few days ago on Manning Avenue and in the canvass of that burglary after the fact, they came across a neighbor who stated he had seen an individual and provided a description. Chief Cariddi stated that they encourage residents to come forward with information like that when they first see it.

Mayor Mignone-asked if it's fair to say that based on the number of burglaries, could a certain percentage have been prevented if more lighting was in place?

Chief Cariddi-replied yes and explained that they have a comprehensive report that they put together giving them the ability to track what took place at the residence, reconstruct the crime scene and a follow-up investigation. He continued to say that as part of the report, there is a section asking the condition of the structure prior to and subsequent to the burglary. In a majority of the cases, you'll find that the house was very dark, there were newspapers in the driveway, no vehicle in the driveway and mail that wasn't collected. Chief Cariddi explained that usually a burglar does not target the area in advance, they usually drive up and down streets looking for houses that appear to be empty. The Chief said that those types of burglaries do make up a significant percentage of what we have and could be averted by very simple crime prevention measures.

Mayor Mignone-feels that the public uses the terms robbery and burglary

interchangeably and asked if they are considered different crimes?

Chief Cariddi-replied, yes very different.

Mayor Mignone-asked Chief Cariddi for the Police definition of robbery versus a burglary and also asked why it is important for the public to understand?

Chief Cariddi-explained that a robbery is the forcible taking of property from a person either by weapon or threat of physical force or violence. A burglary is the intended entry into a structure where a person has no permit to be with the intent to commit a crime. He said that almost all burglaries take place in an unoccupied structure and in the 30 years that he's been a police officer there was only one burglar in River Edge that went into homes while they were occupied to photograph people sleeping in their beds. He continued to say that most burglars do not want to encounter anyone and if they do, most times it's because the homeowner has come home while the burglar is in the house.

Mayor Mignone-asked if there has been an increase or decrease in burglaries over the years, do they cluster during certain months and do they occur all over town or in certain areas?

Chief Cariddi-explained that they are spread out in different times and different ways. For example, back in 2010 or 2011, there was a huge spree of apartment burglaries which they did eventually make an arrests and for almost half of them, proceeds were recovered. The Chief explained the different types of strategies that burglars use. Typically burglaries increase during winter months when it's darker and then a lull until the summer months when a lot of residents are on vacation. Chief Cariddi stated that on average, River Edge tends to have in the vicinity of 20 to 24 burglaries annually.

Mayor Mignone-thanked the Chief Cariddi for being proactive in trying to engage the public with information especially because things get posted on social media which may or may not be true. The Mayor feels it's important to assure the public that we're not under seize right now and that the Police Department is doing what they can. He continued to say that the public never hears about burglaries that get resolved.

Chief Cariddi-stated that so far this year there have been 4 residential and 2 commercial burglaries. The 2 commercial burglaries have been resolved and they have a suspect for the 4 residential burglaries. The Chief is confident that they will be making an arrest for at least two of them.

Mayor Mignone-again stated that he wants the public to be assured that the Police Department is doing everything they can and that there's nothing unusual about what's occurring in River Edge compared to anywhere else. The Mayor feels it's important that we get as much information out through other venues which could reach more people.

Councilwoman Murphy-said that she has done research about various Police Departments that do have Facebook pages and found that almost every department in Bergen County has one. She found a page from Hasbrouck Heights announcing the arrest of the burglar from Carlstadt and said that River Edge is the only one that is not tagged. She disagrees that there is no need for us to have a Facebook page and said that if every other department can figure it out, our department could.

Mayor Mignone-asked the Chief if he has reviewed those pages, because he has?

Chief Cariddi-replied, yes he has seen some of them.

Mayor Mignone-stated that after looking at Hasbrouck Heights, Moonachie and Carlstadt, there have been over 200 posts that have been made over the past 18 months and you count on one hand those which are crime related. The Mayor said that most of them are public service announcements, general public information items and one in particular had a sketch of someone. Half the town commented on who this sketch looked like.

Councilwoman Murphy-said that sometimes social media has helped the Police to apprehend someone after a mass blast has gone out.

Mayor Mignone-thinks that it might be appropriate if there is an eye witness, or they're looking for a specific car.

Councilwoman Murphy-said that some people post a video when they see someone doing something wrong. She understands that when some things are posted, they take on a life of their own but feels that if you keep on top of it, you can control it. Councilwoman Murphy doesn't think many residents read the Town News so she doesn't feel that's a good outlet for getting information out.

Mayor Mignone-feels that a more widespread public engagement campaign makes more sense and encourages everyone who writes things on Facebook to call the Police Department to ask questions directly.

Chief Cariddi-stated that he's not sure what Councilwoman Murphy means by River Edge not being tagged with that.

Councilwoman Murphy-stated that when a department has a page it would be highlighted on this.

Chief Cariddi-explained that his department was involved in the task force that worked on this case as well as several other cases throughout the

County in the last couple of months.

Councilwoman Murphy-said yes, they've giving us the credit but it's just that ours doesn't pop up because we don't have a page.

Chief Cariddi-replied, that is correct.

Mayor Mignone-thanked the Chief for the information.

Councilman Papaleo-feels that the Chief is doing a great job and they appreciate that they have closed the 2 commercial cases and that of the 4 residential cases, our Detectives, Patrol Officers and Chief are doing a great job in dealing with these issues.

Chief Cariddi-stated that on behalf of the department he has a fantastic group of officers working for him and is proud of their enthusiasm and aggressiveness in pursuing these cases. The Chief said that in terms of burglaries, while he's providing numbers and averages, it's not something that he takes lightly. Aside from a physical assault on a person, the next thing that comes close to that is the violation an individual feels when they find their home has been ransacked. He continued to say that it's a deep wound that lasts a long time and causes people not to feel safe and it's because of that they treat these burglary crimes seriously.

Mayor Mignone-stated that he's not trying to minimize it either but wants the public to understand that there are things that they can do to protect themselves and that we're not specifically targeted by any group or groups. The rates of incidents that have occurred are not out of whack compared to other towns of similar size and demographics.

Chief Cariddi-agreed and said that it's reflected in the uniform crime statistics and all incidents are reported through the State Police to the FBI. They are part of an annual report which should be coming out shortly with statistics from 2015.

Councilwoman Murphy-asked the Chief if he thought there was an increase in burglaries because of the problem with drug use?

Chief Cariddi-stated that most of the burglars that they arrest are drug addicts and the individual who was charged in a burglary in Hasbrouck Heights did have narcotics in his possession at the time he was arrested.

Councilwoman Davis-has noticed that in the area of Kensington, Manning, Voorhis and Concord there have been incidents and feels it's not an area where there is a quick getaway. She wondered if the burglars could be local people who know the houses.

Chief Cariddi-explained that many times burglars won't park adjacent to the house their burglarizing, they'll park on a main thoroughfare and run through backyards.

Mayor Mignone-explained that in order to keep the meetings moving, he has eliminated the liaison reports for specific items. He asked the Council members to bring up any upcoming events or liaison updates during council comments.

ADJOURNMENT - 9:21 P.M.

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busted, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Mayor Edward J. Mignone

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated: