

**BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023
8:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Marc Pascual and Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, and Ora Kornbluth

ABSENT: Council members Domingo Almonte and Hernando Rivera

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo
Borough Attorney John Schettino
Deputy Borough Clerk Hilda Tavitian

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Notice is sent to the Record, Star Ledger, Twin Boro News, and Cablevision, placed on two Municipal Bulletin Boards and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Notice of this meeting dated Friday, December 15, 2023 was published in the Record and sent to the Star Ledger, Twin Boro News, and Cablevision, placed on two Municipal Bulletin Boards and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Lodato.

AGENDA CHANGES

Councilperson Kornbluth requested the following to be added to Consent Agenda Resolution 23-379 To Approve License Agreement – Employee Parking Spaces – Office Superstore East LLC and Resolution 23-380 To Approve Hire – Part-Time Laborer -Tyler Caraccio. Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Council President Pascual. All present voting in favor, none oppose.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Council President Pascual to approve minutes of the October 17, 2023 Regular Public Meeting and October 17, 2023 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released), November 2, 2023 Work Session Meeting and November 2, 2023 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released), December 5, 2023 Work Session Meeting and December 5, 2023 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS I

Mayor Amatorio opened the meeting and invited the public for comments on agenda items only, limited to five minutes per speaker.

No one came forward.

There being no one else who wishes to be heard, Mayor Amatorio closed Verbal Communications I.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Veterans Committee/VFW

VFW 6467 Post Commander Warren Williams presented a donation of \$1000 to Dr. Timmons and the Bergenfield Marching Band for everything they have done for veterans in 2023. Dr. Timmons was happy to support the veterans and the experience the students received in supporting veterans events.

VFW 6467 Post Commander Warren Williams also presented the winners of the Patriot Pen Essay contest. Tylar Guevarra won third place, Liam Garcia won second place, and David Lora won first place. Each student attends Roy Brown Middle School and wrote essays that were reviewed by the Veteran's Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

a). Naylis/Board of Fire Officers

RE: Personnel Action Letters dated December 10, 2023 and December 12, 2023

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth to accept Correspondence Item A. Council President Pascual seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

ORDINANCES

None.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 23-367. All matters listed below are considered by the Governing Body to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by the Governing Body, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- a. **23-368/**To Approve Bill List
- b. **23-369/**To Schedule the 2024 Reorganization Meeting
- c. **23-370/**To Approve Cancellation of Outstanding Checks
- d. **23-371/**To Authorize Tax Refund for Tax Court Judgement – 20 New Bridge Road
- e. **23-372/**To Approve Purchase Turnout Gear for Fire Department – New Jersey Fire Equipment Company
- f. **23-373/**To Authorize Retainer Agreement for Hearing Officer – Joseph A. Dickson, U.S.M.J.
- g. **23-374/**To Award Contract for Project Management, Programming, and Installation for New Municipal Building– Sharp Business Systems
- h. **23-375/**To Award Bid and Approve Contract – Natural Gas Supply Services - UGI Energy Services, LLC
- i. **23-376/**To Approve Raffle Application - RA1408
- j. **23-377/**To Approve Access Agreement for Installation of Catch Basin - 15 Regent Street
- k. **23-378/**To Authorize Proposal – FEMA BRIC Grant Implementation for Stormwater Management and Metzler's Brook Improvements – T&M Associates
- l. **23-379/**To Approve License Agreement – Employee Parking Spaces – Office Superstore East, LLC.

Motion by Council President Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Kornbluth to approve Consent Resolution #23-367 as amended.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

B. Resolution

23-380/To Approve Hire – Part-Time Laborer – Tyler Caraccio

Motion by Council President Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Deauna to approve Resolution #23-380.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>absent</i>	Council President Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Pascual that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Councilperson Kornbluth seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS II

Mayor Amatorio opened the meeting to Verbal Communications II and invited the public to comment on any subject, limited to five minutes per speaker.

John Smith, resident, stated in regards to Resolution 23-377, the proposed storm-drain and catch basin do not match the current ordinance. He stated the location was supposed to be in the rear of the property. Mr. Smith stated the residents make changes and there aren't any engineers checking the work done or following up. The catch basins are very important, but they are not being followed through and changes are made after approval is received.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the original catch basin was not the correct size and had to be changed. There is not enough capacity for the seepage pit. He explained the redesign will run a line and storm drain down the street for the entire block, which will tie into another block. Mr. Gallo stated the Borough will eventually maintain it, but the resident is paying for the installation.

James McGuire, builder, stated everything was put in as was approved by the Zoning Board. The pits cannot contain the amount of water for the site. He explained there will be an installation of a catch basin on Regent Street that will connect to another 100 plus feet connecting to Thames Street. The project is going beyond what was approved to help benefit the town.

There being no one else who wishes to be heard, Mayor Amatorio closed Verbal Communications II.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The council members thanked all for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mayor Amatorio stated the 2024 Reorganization meeting will be on January 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the new municipal building. He thanked all for coming and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **23-381**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

A. Personnel


1. Police Department Personnel Matters Update

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Executive Chambers to adjourn this public meeting.

On a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Council President Pascual, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 8:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Council President Pascual, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Hilda Tavitian
Deputy Borough Clerk