

**BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD**  
**MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**8:00 p.m.**  
**March 15, 2016**

PRESENT: Mayor Norman Schmelz and Council President Charlie Steinel, Council members Arvin Amatorio, Thomas Lodato, Ora Kornbluth, and Hernando Rivera

ABSENT: Councilmember P. Christopher Tully

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo  
Borough Attorney John Schettino  
Acting Borough Clerk Marie Quinones

Mayor Schmelz called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm 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."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Schmelz.

#### AGENDA CHANGES

None.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, to approve minutes of the minutes of the February 16, 2016 Regular Meeting, February 16, 2016 Closed Session (not to be released), March 1, 2016 Work Session, and March 1, 2016 Closed Session (not to be released). All members present voting in favor, none opposed.

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### A. Police Department Promotions

- ❖ Biography of Detective Richard Ramos read by Chief Madalone.

Chief Madalone thanked the Council for approving the promotion for Detective Ramos in becoming Sergeant. Detective Richard Ramos grew up in Paterson, NJ where he worked at his parent's family restaurant.

He studied Criminal Justice at William Paterson University. In 2002, Detective Ramos was hired by the Paterson Police Department, where he was assigned to the patrol bureau.

Detective Ramos transferred to the Bergenfield Police Department in 2005. Detective Ramos was assigned to the patrol bureau and assisted with the field training program. In November of 2012, Richard was assigned to the detective bureau where some of his duties include conducting

investigates for various crimes, conducting firearms applicant investigations, and conducting interview and interrogations.

Detective Ramos has received several awards and commendations including an Honorable Service Citation, a Unit Citation.

Detective Ramos has attended numerous training courses throughout his career.

He is here with his wife Luisa and their two children, Shania and Jeremy.

On a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Amatorio, to approve Resolution #16-092 promoting Richard Ramos to the Rank of Sergeant in the Police Department.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Amatorio:	aye	Councilperson Tully:	absent
Council President Steinel:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye

Oath was administered by Attorney John Schettino.

B. Bergen County Clerk, John S. Hogan “Around the County” Historical Presentation

Mr. John Hogan thanked the Mayor and the Governing Body for allowing him to return to speak again. Mr. Hogan stated that they have been setting up temporary offices around Bergen County and would like to set one up in Bergenfield if allowed to rather than have the residents come to Hackensack. Mr. Hogan stated that there has been a back log of passports that are coming up for renewal of passports that will take over two months to process. It would be a lot easier and quicker and beneficial for Bergenfield residents if they would be able to set up an office in Bergenfield temporarily. The hours of service would be on three consecutive days of the week from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Mr. Hogan stated that they provide free photocards for veterans and seniors. Mr. Hogan stated that it is a presidential election year and are encouraging people to vote by doing presentations at high schools. Mr. Hogan stated that they would be willing to do presentations at Bergenfield High School if invited to to encourage seniors to vote in the elections this year.

Mr. Hogan stated that Bergen County is responsible for keeping all original records. Mr. Hogan explained that they even have the original first petition from Bergenfield when Bergenfield wanted to become a town. Most of these documents have not been seen before the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. Mr. Hogan stated that all of the documents have now been scanned and placed in acid free sleeves. The purpose is to preserve and share these documents. These towns have their own pride and character. Mr. Hogan presented to the governing body a collage of different town documents that can be displayed in Borough Hall. This collage included the Outline of Proposed Bergenfield, the original petition to incorporate Bergenfield, early election returns from 1894, and original firefighter certificates from January 31, 1912.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Lodato congratulated Sergeant Ramos on his promotion.

Councilperson Amatorio congratulated Sergeant Ramos on his promotion and wished him good luck for a long service with the Bergenfield Police Department.

Councilperson Steinel congratulated Sergeant Ramos on his promotion and commended Ramos' family for their support.

Councilperson Kornbluth congratulated Sergeant Ramos on his promotion, wished him a safe and long career with the Bergenfield Police Department, and stated that he has a lovely, supportive family.

Councilperson Rivera congratulated Sergeant Ramos and commended his family for their support.

Mayor Schmelz congratulated Sergeant Ramos and wished him a long, successful, and safe career.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, Second by Council President Steinel, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was recessed. The meeting was reopened at 8:18 p.m.

#### VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS I

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

John Smith, inquired as to why the residents do not get to see the complete budget. He stated it would be nice to see it prior to April 19, 2016. Mr. Smith asked why taxes were increased when there was a cut of \$80,000 from the library. The salary of the previous library director was \$95,000. He stated that the new director should not be getting as much as she is new. Mr. inquired as what was cut as \$80,000 makes up the salaries of the library employees and that when people get promoted, it is only a \$2,000 increase in their salary.

Administrator Gallo stated that he would be able to see the complete budget on the Bergenfield website tomorrow and would also be able to get a copy of it tomorrow from the administration office.

Barry Doll, thanked the council for getting rid of the steel. Mr. Doll stated that he noticed there will a \$55 increase in taxes based on the budget being introduced and inquired about the school budget.

Attorney John Schettino stated the school budget would be introduced soon.

Mr. Doll stated that \$55 is not the total increase in taxes since the school budget affects their taxes also and would like to see no budget increases. He stated that he had seen in the Bergen Record that there was only a 1.4% increase in taxes in Tenafly. Mr. Doll explained that there was only an \$81 increase in taxes. Tenafly is doing a better job in controlling their costs. Mr. Doll stated that homes in Tenafly are assessed to be over \$800,000 and Tenafly residents would only have a \$81 increase in taxes. Whereas, homes in Bergenfield are assessed for only \$3200, 000, on average, and Bergenfield residents have an increase of \$55 in their taxes. Something is not right. Mr. Doll stated that a lot of people are hurting because of the taxes in Bergenfield. It is almost impossible to buy a house and be able to pay the taxes. Mr. Doll wanted to encourage the Council to be more effective and efficient in keeping the taxes down.

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

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- |    |                                    |     |   |
|----|------------------------------------|-----|---|
| A. | Torres/BHS Football & Cheerleading | Re: | Coin Toss Request – Saturday, June 18, 2016 and Saturday, July 16, 2016 – Clinton, Main Street, Prospect, New Bridge - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. |
| B. | Aguasvivas/Democratic Committee    | Re: | Request to use Cooper’s Pond – March 17, 2016 at 8:00 p.m., April 28, 2016 7:30 p.m., June 7, 2016 all day, & November 8, 2016 all day        |

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| C. Lodato/Board of Fire Directors | Re: Personnel Action for Council Approval           |
| D. Fromm/Fire Prevention          | Re: Letter of Resignation – Effective April 1, 2016 |

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and all other members voting in favor, that items A through D are approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

**CONSENT RESOLUTION 16-093.** 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. **16-094/**To Pay Bills
- b. **16-095/**To Approve Raffle Application 1299
- c. **16-096/**To Approve Temporary Budget Amendment
- d. **16-097/**To Authorize Transfer of Appropriation Reserves
- e. **16-098/**To Approve Retirement Proposal – Lieutenant Frank Figel
- f. ~~**16-099/**To Authorize Bergenfield Fire and Ambulance Departments Annual LOSAP Payment~~
- g. **16-100/**To Authorize Bid – IT Consultant
- h. **16-101/**To Approve Proposal – Phoenix Advisors
- i. **16-102/**To Authorize Tax Refund – 50 S. First Street Unit 6A
- j. **16-103/**To Authorize Tax Refund – 115 E. Clinton Avenue Unit 5A

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Amatorio to approve the Consent Resolution as amended.

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

Councilperson Lodato: aye	Councilperson Kornbluth: aye
Councilperson Amatorio: aye	Councilperson Tully: absent
Council President Steinel: aye	Councilperson Rivera: aye

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Council President Steinel, to approve Resolution #16-099.

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

Councilperson Lodato: abstain	Councilperson Kornbluth: aye
Councilperson Amatorio: aye	Councilperson Tully: absent
Council President Steinel: aye	Councilperson Rivera: aye

B. 2016 Temporary Capital Budget

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Council President Steinel, that Resolution #16-104 to approve 2016 Temporary Capital Budget be approved.

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

Councilperson Lodato: aye	Councilperson Kornbluth: aye
Councilperson Amatorio: aye	Councilperson Tully: absent
Council President Steinel: aye	Councilperson Rivera: aye

C. Introduction of Ordinances

Motion that the following ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading and setting April 5, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard as the date and time and the Council Chambers of the Bergenfield Borough as the place for a hearing on said ordinances.

ORDINANCE 16-2490 – BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$5,500,000 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.

ORDINANCE 16-2491 – CALENDAR YEAR 2016 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Rivera, that the ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Amatorio:	aye	Councilperson Tully:	absent
Council President Steinel:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye

#### D. 2016 Municipal Budget

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Amatorio, that Resolution #16-105 be approved.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Amatorio:	aye	Councilperson Tully:	absent
Council President Steinel:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. Swim Club

Councilperson Lodato stated there is no report.

##### B. Taping of Council Meetings

Mayor Schmelz stated that he has been getting quotes for the stationary camera. He will go through the quotes and present them for the next work session meeting.

##### C. Commercial Garbage Collection

Council President Steinel stated that there will one more DPW meeting regarding the commercial garbage collection before the proposal is presented to the Council.

D. Resolution 16-086/To Approve Shared Services Agreement – Fire Apparatus – County of Bergen (*Tabled 3-1-16*)

Administrator Gallo stated that he had reached out to the county and did not get a response yet. He is working on it.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Recommendations and Nominations for Boards and Committee

#### **LIBRARY BOARD**

Mayor recommends and nominates Rafael Marte to serve on the Library Board of Trustees for an unexpired five-year term, term expiring December 31, 2020.

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Rivera, that the nomination be confirmed. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

## VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS II

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

Chief Saito, thanked the Council for approving the Bergenfield Fire Department LOSAP payment.

Mary Sullivan, inquired as to why the minutes were not posted on the website. The last minutes posted on the website were from February 2, 2016. Ms. Sullivan also stated there was an abandoned boat in the yard behind her property, which is Arlington Avenue. She had previously brought it to the attention of DPW and the police department. However, no one was able to determine who the owner was at the time and nothing was done about it. There are always boys that are playing on the boat and taking selfies. Ms. Sullivan is concerned that these boys are going to get hurt and there is a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Barry Doll, inquired who is on the swim club committee and whether there are any meetings scheduled.

Councilperson Lodato stated that it was determined by the Borough engineer that the cost of repairs to the swim club would be more money than anticipated. The question of whether there is enough interest by the public to move forward with the repairs would be addressed soon.

Councilperson Amatorio explained that they are trying to resolve existing issues, one being that the swim club is under bankruptcy, prior to moving forward. Councilperson Amatorio stated the swim club will be put on the agenda and discussed once a final resolution is made.

Mr. Barry Doll stated that he hopes the issues with the swim club will be resolved by April.

Councilperson Amatorio stated that it depends on when they get an answer and it is important to remain patient in order to make things right.

Mr. Barry Doll stated that not doing anything is not a viable solution. Not having enough interest is just not good enough. Mr. Doll stated that they have to cut their losses at some point. Mr. Doll asked if the town wants to take over and if there is any formal plan of what it would cost to run the pool. Mr. Doll stated that it should be written in paper and pencil as to what it would cost each member and what it would cost the town.

Fred Clark, stated that he was in contact with Councilperson Tully regarding his proposal for the Cooper's Pond project and asked if the Mayor and Council had any questions for him.

Councilperson Kornbluth told Mr. Clark that he should prepare a presentation about his presentation for the Mayor and Council and have it put on the agenda at the next work session meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

John Smith, stated that he was confused as to how the swim club is considered to be an asset. Mr. Smith inquired as to why the pool hasn't been drained. He stated that he's seen 15 geese sitting on top of the pool. He stated that it is such a waste. Mr. Smith stated that he is happy to see the steel gone. It only took 4 years to get rid of it. Mr. Smith inquired to whether the community center is being billed to clean Whittaker Park. Why does the DPW have to clean it. The PAL is responsible for that complex. Why use DPW equipment? Mr. Smith stated that he noticed two DPW workers walking on the Avenue picking up the garbage. Mr. Smith stated that it looked like a war zone. Mr. Smith stated that they were cleaning up the areas owned by businesses only and why these businesses don't have a place for their garbage. Mr. Smith asked if it is residents fault that DPW has to go and clean up after these businesses.

Kathy Strogba, stated that she was here last week standing in front of the judge asking for help. Ms. Strogba stated she has been harassed over the course of two years, being beaten up and hospitalized. Ms. Strogba stated that she has a witness but is too afraid to come forward in fear of being killed by these people. Ms. Strogba stated that she has pleaded with the police, including the chief, for help and no one has the decency to help her. Ms. Strogba thanked her neighbors for their support, especially Charlie, for having a big heart and showing that the police can help people in need.

Ed Kochakian, stated that he was here today representing other people that live on Fairview Avenue and that Fairview Avenue is plagued with drugs and violence everyday. This must come to an end soon. Lincoln school is just down the block. The police have been called and nothing is done about it. He stated that he lives in a home that's boarded up because of the kids smoking. Section 8 people are always coming in and out. Mr. Kochakian stated that he has been a resident of Bergenfield for 40 years, involved in church and various sports and that they need the support of the police as well as their presence. Mr. Kochakian stated that he doesn't know who lives in these homes. Not even the tenants know.

Councilperson Kornbluth inquired what happened when the police was called?

Chief Madalone stated that the police have already been there a few times and will follow up with surveillance.

Councilman Rivera stated that other tactics are needed.

Chief Madalone stated that there are logs and records kept. However, it is difficult to resolve the problem when all the calls made are anonymous and the police need to be directed to the right area at the exact time in order to make an arrest.

Councilman Amatorio stated that it is difficult for the police department to do anything without the cooperation of the residents. Councilman Amatorio stated that you have to trust the police department to do their jobs.

Mayor Schmelz stated that residents do not need to wait for a meeting to bring these issues up. Mayor Schmelz stated that the governing body and the mayor all have emails if a resident wants to get in touch with a council member to discuss an issue.

Simon Walter, stated that there are repeat offenders that are selling drugs right by the schools and there is no law in place that they can't sell drugs in a school zone. Mr. Walter stated that he has been living on the same block for 23 years and that something needs to be done. Mr. Walter stated he lives on a dead end block where everyone knows each other. Perhaps, a specific police officer can be assigned to this block.

Councilperson Kornbluth stated that Mr. Walter should speak to Chief Madalone more regarding this issue.

John Grauberd, stated that he sees drug interactions taking place down the alley way close to his home. Mr. Grauberd that he has three children under the age of eight and can not let his children play outside as he often finds items that are used for drugs. There are drug activities 10-20 feet away from his children's sandbox. Mr. Grauberd stated that he has previously called the police department. Initially, their response time was good but then the response time became longer and longer until it was too late to catch anyone dealing drugs. Mr. Grauberd stated that he is concerned for the safety of his family since there is a dangerous drug dealer living down two houses from his. The situation is out of control and is just going to get worse if nothing is done.

Gina Jean-Baptiste, told the mayor and governing body that they should be outraged that their neighbors are being terrorized and not sit there stone cold. Ms. Jean-Baptiste stated that residents shouldn't have to pay \$13,000 in taxes to be terrorized by their neighbors. There are police promotions every other week and they do not do anything. Ms. Jean-Baptiste again asked why the mayor and council were not outraged? Ms. Jean-Baptiste stated that kids can't even play in their backyard. All the mayor and council were talking about was the swim pool instead. Ms. Jean-Baptiste asked the mayor and council where their priorities were and shame on everyone sitting up there.

Edward Kochakian, stated that the police have done a terrible job in controlling the drug problem in Bergenfield. He stated he there has been ongoing drug problems his entire life growing up in Bergenfield. The police are failing in catching the drug dealers. They are being paid a great amount of money by the taxpayers and don't even know how to do surveillance properly. It isn't so hard. There is plenty of evidence to arrest the drug dealers.

Diana Flagg, stated that it is absolutely unbelievable and unreal as to what she was hearing about the drug violence and dealers in town. People can't enjoy their homes. If a home is burned down, at least demolish it. People are afraid for their kids because of the drug dealers. Why do we have problems with the police department not taking care of the drug dealers. Why not put a dummy police car on the block where there is drug activity for starters. Ms. Flagg stated that she has noticed that there are street lights out again on Washington Avenue. The electric bill is astronomical. There are also a few out on New Bridge Road. Ms. Flagg feels that she should go around town looking for lights that are out. Ms. Flagg inquired as to why the swimming pool doesn't just get demolished. It's been years since payment was received from them. Ms. Flagg asked why they didn't have an increase in taxes as residents did. The time has come to do what you are supposed to do. Ms. Flagg stated that she has not seen a report from recreation for the past three months.

Anthony Bruno, stated that it's not just in one area that there are drug problems. It is going on all over town. A couple of years ago there was a drug deal on Westside Avenue that had gone bad. There was also a 19 year old who lives on Deerfield Street that was arrested for having an assault rifle. Mr. Bruno stated that he has been seeing day laborers hanging around all over town and that something needs to be done. He has seen them in front of St. John's Church, 7-11, and the Stop and Shop in Dumont. Mr. Bruno stated that he knows that vegetation pick up starts up the first week in April. However, Mr. Bruno would appreciate it if it can be boosted up earlier since the weather has been nice.

Gerry Naylis, asked that Ordinance #03-02307 be repealed. Mr. Naylis stated that he did notice that the rental registration application was revised and that the tenant information was removed. Mr. Naylis stated that based on the comments made from the residents tonight, enforcing this ordinance does not work. The program has never achieved its intended purpose. Mr. Naylis stated that the Borough does not want to do away with this because they get \$50 for each rental registration and do not go out to do the inspections. It is a violation of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> amendments of the constitution and of a person's constitutional rights.

Reverend Terrence Johnson, pastor of the new N. Hill Church in the Bergenfield area wanted to introduce himself and the church to the community publicly.

Charles Yannetti, stated that he has taken on Cathy's case pro-bono when she was beaten on two occasions. The assailants were charged with assault. There should have been a police investigation instead. The police department reported it as a neighborhood dispute when she got beat up. Mr. Yannetti stated that he had spoken to the police chief about 5 times about this issue and she lied to my face. Mr. Yannetti stated that he doesn't have any confidence in the police chief who is supposed to provide quality of life for the people of Bergenfield. Mr. Yannetti stated that she is supposed to provide service and protection to Cathy Strogba. The drug dealers were dealing on top of a parked police car once when there was a medical emergency and the police had to leave their car there. The police have lost complete control of Fairview Avenue. These residents deserve better service than you are giving them.

Chief Madalone thanked everyone from Fairview Avenue for presenting these issues at the meeting. Chief Madalone stated that the police department has been looking into the drug problems and will follow up. Chief Madalone asked everyone to give her their information so she can get in touch with them.

Ray Johnson, stated that he has attended more meetings than anyone on the governing body. Mr. Johnson stated that he had knocked on a resident's door on Deerfield Street in 2011. The resident had opened the door and had invited him in. They had discussed problems in Bergenfield, such as deterioration of roads. She stated that her husband had felt exactly the same way about issues as he did. The Mayor had told Mr. Johnson that he was aware of the drug problems as his former father in law was in the police department and that it was just criminal. Mr. Johnson stated that the Mayor was even the founding member of the concerned citizens of Bergenfield. Everyone who has touched the Bible has changed. He was supposed to be an advocate. Many people tell Mr. Johnson that they thought he and Norman were friends but he speaks of horrible things. They ask him why he turned on him. He turned on Bergenfield. Mr. Johnson suggested that he would not leave the meeting tonight until one person from the governing council raised their hand and told him that they will meet him on Fairview Avenue. Mr. Johnson stated that he was responsible for everyone being present tonight and there were still many residents that were afraid to come to the meeting.

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

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Lodato stated that he found everyone's comments disturbing and was unaware of the drug problems in town. Councilperson Lodato stated that he was confident that the police department will take care of it and get a handle on the drug problems.

Councilperson Amatorio thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and appreciated the bravery for those who spoke of the drug problems at the meeting. Councilperson Amatorio stated that they had a right to be angry, but to be confident in the police department in assisting them.

Council President Steinel

stated that this was the first time in hearing about the drug problems on Fairview Avenue. Councilperson Steinel stated that he knows of other parts of town that had the same problem and action was taken. He knows that the Chief will take of the problem. Councilpresident Steinel explained that he would normally answer questions at this point in the meeting, however, he chose to quote one of his favorite presidents. He will not seek nor will accept his party's nomination to be Councilman for another term. Councilpresident Steinel explained that for the past 26 years his top two priorities were his wife and family. His third priority had shifted between his career, his union activity, his motorcycles, and Bergenfield for the past ten years. Councilpresident Steinel stated that his first two priorities had been consuming more of his time in recent months and has to make a change that is best for him. Councilpresident Steinel explained that he has never shied away from expressing his opinion, or fight for what he thought was right and best for the town and that that will certainly not change in the least over the remaining nine months of his term. Councilpresident Steinel thanked the people of Bergenfield for giving him the great opportunity to serve them as their elected official.

Councilperson Kornbluth

stated that it was the first time she was hearing about the drug problems. Councilperson Kornbluth stated that residents should can reach out to her, being the police liaison. Councilperson stated that the council wants to help residents in any way needed. Councilperson Kornbluth thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a good night.

Councilperson Rivera

stated that he had worked with Chief Carr last year regarding a issue at Foster Village. Councilperson Rivera stated that he had eyes there. He encouraged everyone to be the eyes on Fairview Avenue. Councilperson Rivera stated that there needs to be more eyes to provide the police with information. Residents should call 911 right away when they see something. Councilperson Rivera stated that he worked behind the scenes with the issues at Foster Village along with the police chief and the chief did his part. There isn't much the police chief can do if there aren't eyes out there to keep the chief informed. Councilperson Rivera stated that a lot can be accomplished if everyone rises to speak like everyone did tonight. Councilperson Rivera thanked everyone for being the eyes and for coming to the meeting tonight. Councilperson Rivera explained that he personally knew of drug problems and had to deal with these kind of issue back in his home country. He will work towards dealing with the issues here. Councilperson Rivera stated that he is concerned with this issue also as he has kids. Councilperson Rivera thanked everyone for their concern for PAL.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **16-106**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

A. Personnel

1. Building Department Personnel Matters
- B. Collective Bargaining
  1. Contract Negotiations Update
- C. Legal
  1. Fire Department Personnel Legal Matters

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 Councilperson Rivera, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 9:56 p.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones  
Acting Borough Clerk