

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

PRESENT: Mayor Norman Schmelz and Council President Charles Steinel, Council members Thomas A. Lodato, Arvin Amatorio, Ora Kornbluth, P. Christopher Tully, and Hernando Rivera

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo (8:40 p.m.)
Borough Attorney John Schettino
Borough Clerk Marie Quinones

Mayor Schmelz 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."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Schmelz.

Mayor Schmelz requested a moment of silence in memory of R.J. Sy.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation - Suicide Prevention Month

Mayor Schmelz read the proclamation into the record.

B. Proclamation - National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Schmelz read the proclamation into the record.

C. Proclamation - National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

Mayor Schmelz read the proclamation into the record.

D. Proclamation - Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Schmelz read the proclamation into the record.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/BOROUGH ENGINEER

A. Engineering & Inspection Status Report

Pending projects:

1. FY2015/2015 Memorial Field Lighting Project and Basketball Improvements
Dave Gleassey, Borough Engineer, reported that Remington Vernick & Arango received a preliminary layout from Musco Lighting, which has been reviewed with the Borough Administrator and DPW Superintendent. Comments will be submitted to Musco for development of final plans.

2. John Lafferty Park Improvements

Mr. Gleassey reported that Remington Vernick & Arango reviewed the preliminary layouts of the Basketball court with the Borough Administrator and DPW Superintendent. Comments from the field review will be incorporated in the development of final plans.

3. Signal Design & Installation at Church Street Fire Department

Mr. Gleassey reported that Remington Vernick & Arango submitted a proposal for the Borough's consideration.

4. DPW Truck Wash

Mr. Gleassey reported that Remington Vernick & Arango are preparing a proposal for submission to the Borough for consideration.

5. Sanitary Sewer Infiltration/Repairs

Mr. Gleassey reported that National Water Main Cleaning Co. completed the final locations of cleaning/TV work under the original cleaning/TV contract. Remington Vernick & Arango received NWM's invoice and is processing.

On-going projects:

1. FY2015/2016 NJDOT Resurfacing of Woodbine St. – South & North Front Sts.

Mr. Gleassey reported that the final design plans and specifications have been developed. However, with the shutdown of all work fund by the Transportation Trust Fund still in place, any submission to NJDOT for their review and authorization to go to bid is on hold for receiving any funding.

Mayor Schmelz inquired what the timetable is for this project.

Mr. Gleassey responded that estimates should be provided in the next several weeks.

Mayor Schmelz inquired if the improvements was being done without funding from the NJDOT.

Mr. Gleassey explained that is correct, the Borough decided to move forward and not wait with the paving since they have to do the utility repairs.

2. FY 2015 CDBG Carlton Place Improvements Project

Mr. Gleassey reported that the final design plans and specifications have been completed. Bid documents have been advertised and bids are scheduled to be received on September 16, 2016.

Mayor inquired if this project will be completed this year.

Mr. Gleassey explained that the project will be awarded this year, upon receipt of the bids.

3. FY 2016 Road Program

Mr. Gleassey reported that the ADA sidewalk improvement project was awarded to D&L Paving on 6/9/16. Construction is complete; punch list items have been completed. Final invoice has been received from the contractor and we are proceeding with the project close-out.

The road improvement project (under the Riverside Coop program) is being done by Schifano Construction. Milling/paving has been completed; punch list items have been completed. Final invoice has been received from the contractor and we are proceeding with project close-out.

4. 2016/Various Sanitary Sewer Improvements

All sanitary sewer main repairs have been completed to date; restoration of adjacent properties will be completed in the fall.

5. Murray Hill Terrace Roadway Improvements

Mr. Gleassey reported that the design plans and specifications will be developed for utility repair work, which will be included with the Woodbine & Front Streets utility repair work, and separate ones for milling/paving/sidewalk ramp work.

6. West Church Street/CSX Railroad Drainage

Mr. Gleassey reported that the contractor (Colonnelli Brothers Inc.) has provided their certificate(s) of insurance as required by CSX. They have been sent to CSX for approval last week. The project will commence upon notification from CSX.

7. FY 2012 "Safe Routes to School" Safety Project & Bikeway Extension

Mr. Gleassey reported Remington Vernick & Arango has submitted final plans, specifications, estimate, and schedule to NJDOT. NJDOT has approved the bid documents and authorized the project to go to bid. Bid documents have been advertised and bids are scheduled to be received on September 21, 2016.

8. Washington Avenue Handicap Ramps

Mr. Gleassey reported that the final ramp plans/details (including requested revisions) have been submitted to the County and approved; the project is awaiting the County to issue authorizations letters.

9. Cleaning & Video Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Trunk Line

Mr. Gleassey reported that National Water Main Cleaning Co. has completed the final locations of cleaning/TV work under the original cleaning/TV contract to use the remaining funds. Project close-out/final invoice is being processed.

10. FY 2014 CDBG Main Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Gleassey reported that the punch list items have been addressed and final documents have been submitted to CDBG for processing the final grant payment to the Borough.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Swim Club

Councilperson Lodato stated that there is no report.

B. Tabled Resolutions

1. **16-238/To Authorize One (1) New Fire Hydrant – West Englewood Avenue – SUEZ Water New Jersey Inc. (Tabled 8-2-16)**

Motion by Council President Steinel, Second by Councilperson Tully, to remove Resolution #16-238 from the table.

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

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

Motion by Council President Steinel, Second by Councilperson Tully, that Resolution #16-238 be approved.

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

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

2. **16-258/Adopt the 2016 Budget of the Bergenfield Special Improvement District (Tabled 8-16-16)**

No action.

C. Adoption of Ordinance

The following ordinance published herewith were first read by title only on August 16, 2016 posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

ORDINANCE 16-2498 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 50 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES”

Public Comments on Ordinances 16-2498.

No one came forward.

Motion by Council President Steinel, Second by Councilperson Kornbluth, to pass Ordinance 16-2498 on second and final reading and is hereby adopted and notice of same shall be published according to law.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Parking Ordinance Amendments

Lieutenant Gerald Stapleton reported that the Police Department has received several complaints concerning the commuter parking issue in town. Lt. Stapleton highlighted the following concerns:

The residents at Simone Place have difficulty exiting or entering their rear lot of the apartment building due to Wendy’s restaurant traffic on that side street. The roadway cannot handle the increased traffic, especially plows and emergency vehicles that are trying to get into the building. The same issues have risen on Carlisle Street. Chief Madalone suggested that there should be no parking on the south street, from Ralph to Demarest Street, at any time the entire length.

Council President Steinel commented that the street tapers off dramatically from Ann to Demarest Street, and therefore, cars should not be parked there.

Given the parking changes made to Irving Place, commuters have been pushed to park on Demott Avenue. The current ordinance in this section lists Demott Avenue as having “No Parking” from the easterly curb of Irving Place, west to N Railroad Avenue, North and South side. The removal of North, which will now be the 2 hour parking 9-12, is needed, but leave the “South” side in the ordinance as is currently posted parking prohibited due to the size of the road.

Residents are experiencing issues entering and exiting this small roadway, and an accident occurred with a DPW truck. The Police Department recommendation is to implement no arking at any time.

Given the parking changes made to Sylvan Avenue, commuters are parking on Beechwood Street and Linwood Street. There have been an average of 20 vehicles parked on each of these streets during the week, and about 15 vehicles are from residents that do not reside on either of these streets. The Police Department recommends two hour parking from Monday through Friday.

There have been accidents due to speeding on Phelps Avenue. The Police Department recommends making this intersection a multi stop (4 way) intersection, to reduce vehicle speeds.

There is an issue in the Borough hall parking lot, where vehicles have to constantly be moved out after being parked in the same spot for several days. It is recommended that sections of the parking lot be added to overnight parking restrictions. Permits should also be issued to allow residents to park in designated areas.

Council President Steinel stated that the Borough Attorney should draft an ordinance for consideration.

Mayor Schmelz stated that this matter came up in December, and the resident followed-up.

Councilperson Rivera inquired how the area near Zona Rosa obtained no parking restrictions for their particular hours.

Lt. Stapleton and Deputy Chief Massey indicated that the hours were instituted before their time.

Councilperson Rivera indicated that he has received several complaints from residents that were suddenly issued tickets for parking on a street after a long period of time. He explained that the hours were changed for garbage collection purposes, but residents were ticketed unexpectedly and should have been given some leniency.

Deputy Chief Massey explained that the department is more lenient, but residents must call to report overnight vehicles. He further explained that the department can be more lenient on enforcement, but cannot allow residents to park on the street because of emergency vehicles trying to access the area.

Councilperson Rivera stated that the ordinance should be changed to save the resident time in calling the department, and saving the Police Department in receiving and logging the call. He stated that if the Police Department will permit all the vehicles that call in, then the ordinance should be changed to allow parking on the street.

Deputy Chief Massey explained that there are numerous thought processes on why residents should not be permitted to park in the street. He stated that Police, Fire, and Ambulance Corp. vehicles need to be able to access the street, therefore the parking restrictions are beneficial to these departments. He also stated that the parking restrictions prevent robberies. He explained that if a burglar parks in the street, and there are residents parked all over, the burglars will blend in. Given the parking restrictions, an officer can run the plates of any suspicious vehicles and prevent burglaries.

Councilperson Amatorio inquired if permission is always granted to overnight vehicles.

Deputy Chief Massey stated that permission is granted, but there is a process.

Councilperson Amatorio inquired how many calls come in.

Deputy Chief Massey stated that about 30 calls are received, with the volume of calls increasing on the weekends.

Mayor Schemlz stated that there is definitely a parking issue, especially with families growing, and living in homes with two parking spots, and need four spaces to accommodate their kids' cars.

Deputy Chief Massey advised that perhaps the Borough should consider a permit process or any other options the governing body proposes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

As Dave Gleassey referenced, the number of projects presently taking place are moving forward as scheduled. I should point out that there is a strong probability that Woodbine & Front will not be paved in 2016. This is due to the fact that \$150,000 has been held up by the State.

Last week, I met with Recreation Director, Rob Gillman, to discuss the idea of creating a joint program with the Board of Education for a 2 week special needs summer camp program. This would begin right when our summer camp ends. It is an ideal time as most special needs kids who are taking classes have completed their classes shortly before our summer camp ends. The experts feel this would be a great benefit to these children. In addition, by creating this, the Borough would have finalized a full schedule covering all seasons.

The Borough will be hosting the 9-11 Memorial Ceremony at 7 pm at Cooper's Pond.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT

Councilperson Kornbluth

the BVAC has responded to 1300 calls, and welcomed two new members who just passed the EMT course. The Lou Harris Challenger Soccer signup is this Thursday and Saturday. All fall sports are up and running. The Recreation Committee is in the process of organizing Halloween Parade, which is set for Saturday, October 29th and the Holiday in the Park with securing vendors and setting a date. The Police Department had another successful year with the 4th annual Youth Academy. The traffic bureau is working on the training of the crossing guards for the upcoming school year and helping prepare for the 9-11 memorial ceremony Saturday, 7pm at Cooper's Pond. The department is currently seeking a new vendor to service their in-car camera system.

Councilperson Rivera

No report.

Council President Steinel

automated collection is delayed in Quadrant 3 because there is an issue with the manufacturer where the chassis was not delivered on time. There is no timeline yet. Cheryl Scalora has retired after 29 years of service to the DPW and we wish her a wonderful retirement. Although the storm never hit, OEM was prepared in anticipation of the wind storm.

Mayor Schmelz inquired why there was an order for garbage can parts on the bill list.

Council President Steinel explained that there were some lids and wheels that were broken by DPW and so the Borough had to buy new ones. It is the Borough's property.

Councilperson Amatorio

today was the first day of school, and the School District started the new school year with the new Superintendent,

Chris Tully. The September 11th Ceremony will start at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday at Cooper's Pond.

Councilperson Tully

the Finance Committee met with the Borough Auditors, and will be working out the details of the Corrective Action Plan.

Councilperson Lodato

the Fire Department has responded to 394 calls to date, in comparison to 401 calls from last year. The next Fire Board of Directors meeting will be held on Monday, September 12th. The fire department had its annual golf outing last Monday. Stigma Free did not meet in August but will meet on Thursday, September 15th. The Planning Board meeting for August was canceled the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 26th. There are no applications what there is a resolution that will be adopted.

Mayor Schmelz

thank you for participating in the moment of silence for RJ Sy. I also have to thank the Police Department, Fire Department for your service to RJ Sy for showing up to prayers for him.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Peters/25 Ford Court

Re: Block Party Request – Saturday, September 17, 2016 – Ford Court - 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

B. Miano/31 Van Valkenburgh Ave

Re: Block Party Request – Saturday, September 10, 2016 – Van Valkenburg Ave - 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Tully, and all members present voting in favor, to approve Correspondence Items A through B.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident, stated there are 3 businesses on 46-54 East Main Street complaining they do not have street parking and commuters are parking their cars there, leaving their cars there all day. They are asking for 1 hour parking in the area.

Councilperson Amatorio stated he had also spoken with the business owners regarding the same complaints. Councilperson Amatorio suggested the police department look into this. There's a bus stop right across the street.

Diana Flagg, resident, stated that she had complained about street lights being out on Washington Ave two weeks ago, and the lights are still out.

Deputy Chief Chris Massey stated the list of all lights out will be sent to PSE&G tomorrow again.

MS. Flagg inquired why the police department doesn't send it every night.

Deputy Chief Massey stated that PSE&G gets a list every week.

Administrator Gallo stated he will call contact PSE&G to follow up.

Diana Flagg stated she will be glad to check all the street lights that are out as a volunteer. Ms. Flagg stated she prefers to have no parking on the streets overnight. It makes for a safer community. Ms. Flagg stated there is no reason why people can't call.

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated she supports the police department on their no parking regulations the way it is. We're not the 5th safest municipality in the state for no reason. Ms. Sullivan stated that one of the things that helps them do a great job is by keeping strange cars from being parked on the street. Ms. Sullivan stated that sometimes garbage trucks can't get down the streets. Ms. Sullivan stated she is sorry if people have a 2 bedroom house and decide to have 6 kids and now they need a place to park the cars. Ms. Sullivan stated they should expand the driveway or buy a bigger house that fits your family. Ms. Sullivan stated otherwise there will be too many cars on the street. There are many renters that don't register that park on the streets.

Barbara Gerin, resident, agrees with the no parking at night regulation. She stated she feels very safe without worrying about people walking on her street that she doesn't know. Ms. Gerin stated that nothing has been accomplished with the swimming pool in the past 3 years and inquired why there haven't been any comments made regarding it.

Councilperson Lodato stated that the repairs would be in excess of \$500,000-600,000. Councilperson Lodato stated that with other projects and requirements necessary to the Borough that kind of money is not to be undertaken at this time. Councilperson Lodato stated that once the project begins, other things might need to be done. Councilperson Lodato stated that it's also a substantial cost to demolish it. Councilperson Lodato stated that there hasn't been a decision made.

Ms. Gerin inquired if it's been taken care of.

Administrator Gallo stated the water in the pool has been sprayed regularly for pesticides. The grass is maintained and cut.

Council President Steinel stated they're in bankruptcy court and there isn't much that can be done while they are in bankruptcy court.

John Smith, resident, stated there are so many Gatorade and water bottles on the field from baseball, soccer, football, and cheerleading. DPW put 22 garbage cans around the complex. Mr. Smith stated it's not the players, it's the adults. It's the coaches and the parents. Mr. Smith stated he has seen them. Mr. Smith suggested that the recreation department speak to the coaches and the parents to clean up after themselves.

Councilperson Kornbluth will advise the Recreation department to speak with the coaches and parents.

Mr. Smith stated the coaches and parents are also smoking on the field. Mr. Smith stated there should be no smoking in the parks. Mr. Smith thanked the Borough administrator for looking into issue on South Front Street. The property was partially cleaned up. Mr. Smith stated he is worried about the railroad ties. There are big rats coming out of the high grass.

Administrator Gallo told Mr. Smith that it is imperative that he gives him specifics. He will document and email it.

Mr. Smith stated he will send him the picture of the rat. Mr. Smith stated they should speak with Borough Attorney Schettino about the overnight parking. For overnight parking, the police department should issue a sticker for a visitor's pass and the number of nights should be given to the police department. Mr. Smith stated there are lights that are always on between Main Street and Clinton Avenue. Mr. Smith stated the 9-11 ceremony will start at 7:00pm. Mr. Smith also apologized to the Mayor for putting a T in his name.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE ACTED UPON:

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 16-260. 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. **16-261/**To Pay Bills
- b. **16-262/**To Cancel Balance – Municipal Alliance Grant
- c. **16-263/**To Approve Raffle Applications RA1307 & RA1308
- d. **16-264/**To Authorize Tax Refund – 401 Windsor Road
- e. ~~**16-265/**To Approve Change Order #1 – Reconstruction of Highgate Terrace, Phase II – Gotthold Paving LLC~~
- f. ~~**16-266/**To Approve Payment Certificate No. 3 – Final – Reconstruction of Highgate Terrace, Phase II – Gotthold Paving LLC~~
- g. ~~**16-267/**To Approve Maintenance Bond No. 019051788M – Reconstruction of Highgate Terrace, Phase II – Gotthold Paving LLC~~
- h. **16-268/**Honoring the Bergen Volunteer Center on its 50th Anniversary
- i. **16-269/**To Authorize Cooperative Pricing System Agreement and Opt-in BCPS Natural Gas Bid Form – County of Bergen
- j. **16-270/**To Approve Confidential Separation Agreement – Ian Williams

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, to approve the Consent Resolution.

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

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

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolutions #16-265, #16-266, #16-267 be approved.

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

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

B. RESOLUTIONS

16-271/To Hire Per Diem Telecommunicators

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #16-271 be approved.

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

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

16-272/To Hire Tree Climber – Ross G. Egan

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, that Resolution #16-272 be approved.

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

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Mayor and Councilmembers wished all a goodnight, and stated that they will see everyone at the September 11th Ceremony on Sunday.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **16-273**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Personnel
 - 1. Fire Department Personnel Matters (*Borough Administrator*)
- B. Attorney-Client Privilege
 - 1. George Reggo v. Borough of Bergenfield

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 Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 9:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Kornbluth and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones
Acting Borough Clerk