

**BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**8:00 p.m.
October 20, 2015**

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

ABSENT:

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

Mayor Schmelz called the meeting to order at 8:05 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.

AGENDA CHANGES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Tully, to approve minutes of the September 15, 2015 Regular Meeting, September 15, 2015 Closed Session (not to be released), October 8, 2015 Work Session, and October 8, 2015 Closed Session (not to be released). All present voting in favor, none opposed.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation – Breast Cancer Awareness Month *(Mayor & Council)*

Mayor Schmelz read the proclamation into the record.

B. Proclamation – Fire Prevention Week & Month *(Mayor & Council)*

Mayor Schmelz read the proclamation into the record.

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, 50 Hallberg Avenue, wanted to know why there was an invoice in the amount of \$749.50 from Game Time for equipment parts.

Councilperson Steinel stated that the equipment purchased from Game Time were items needed for the park.

John Smith, 50 Hallberg Avenue, stated that he noticed that bamboo was planted on borough property located at Melrose Avenue and Broad Ave. He stated the council should take action in removing the bamboo.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Tassel/Bergenfield Lions Club RE: Coin Toss Request – White Cane Day –
11-14-15

Motion by Councilperson Tully, second by Councilperson Rivera, and all other members voting in favor, that item A is approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 15-328. 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. **15-329**/To Pay Bills
- b. **15-330**/To Approve Bingo Application – BA 176
- c. **15-331**/To Amend Meeting Schedule – Resolution#15-005
- d. **15-332**/To Accept Resignation – Plumbing Subcode Official
- e. **15-333**/To Approve 2015 Biennial Certification Proposal
- f. **15-334**/To Authorize NJDOT Grant Application
- g. ~~**15-335**/To Authorize Award of Bid – Gotthold Paving, LLC~~
- h. **15-336**/To Authorize Award of Bid – National Fence Systems
- i. **15-337**/To Authorize Tax Appeal Settlement – 50 McDermott Place

Motion by Councilperson Steinel, second by Councilperson Rivera that the Consent Resolution be approved.

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

Councilperson Steinel:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Tully:	<i>aye</i>
Council President Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>

Motion by Councilperson , second by Councilperson that Resolution #15-335 be approved.

15-335/To Authorize Award of Bid – Gotthold Paving, LLC

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

Councilperson Steinel:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>recuse</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Tully:	<i>aye</i>
Council President Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Tabled Ordinance
1. Ordinance 15-2480

ORDINANCE 15-2480 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF FIRE DIRECTOR OF THE BERGENFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT – **Tabled on August 4, 2015**

No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

15-338/To Hire Confidential Assistant to the Administrator – Karen Glass

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Rivera that Resolution #15-338 be approved.

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

Councilperson Steinel:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Tully:	<i>aye</i>
Council President Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>

15-339/To Appoint Building Inspector/ Plumbing Sub-Code Official – Michael Ravenda

Motion by Councilperson Steinel, second by Councilperson Tully that Resolution #15-339 be approved.

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

Councilperson Steinel:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Amatorio:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Tully:	<i>aye</i>
Council President Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>

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.

Patricia Gruber, 195 N. Vivyen Street, understands that the code enforcement officer cannot do anything about the bamboo as there is no ordinance in Bergenfield. She gave the Mayor and Council a handout of the ordinance Emerson has in place regarding controlling bamboo. She suggested that Bergenfield adopt a similar ordinance as the bamboo issue in Emerson was resolved and is under control. She also stated that the Shade Tree Committee is supposed to handling the problem. However, she had spoken to a committee member who stated that they had not heard anything regarding the bamboo.

Administrator Gallo stated that he had passed on the letter that was written regarding the bamboo to the Shade Tree Committee.

Patricia Gruber asked if there was any reason why nothing has been done yet to resolve the bamboo situation.

Mayor Schmelz asked who she had spoken with from the Shade Tree Committee.

Patricia Gruber stated she had spoken with Mr. Neville.

Administrator Gallo stated that Mr. Neville is not from the Shade Tree Committee. The issue needs to be addressed by the Shade Tree Committee.

Robert Gruber, 195 North Vivyan Street, expressed his condolences for Mayor Schmelz' father. He stated he is a degreed engineer, an industrial engineer, certified in quality, and is on the church finance committee. He wanted to address the bamboo issue in his neighbor's yard. He stated that Mr. Neville had checked the bamboo growing in his neighbor's yard. Mr. Neville had explained to Mr. Gruber how the bamboo could be planted to prevent it from becoming intrusive as well as having a proximity restriction put in place. Robert Gruber stated that the town should take Mr. Neville's suggestions into consideration.

Mary Sullivan, 153 South Demarest Avenue, asked whether it would be possible to exchange the size of the garbage can if she feels that the one she chose is too big or too small.

Councilperson Steinel stated that she should be able to.

Mary Sullivan suggested that the town should distribute instructions regarding the changes and the new system, remind residents that the garbage cans should be removed from the curb within 24 hours, and lids need to be placed on the garbage cans.

Councilperson Steinel stated that there is a policy already in place, and information will be distributed to the residents.

Mary Schmelz stated that there will be a lot of education regarding the new garbage pick-up system.

John Smith, 50 Hallberg Avenue, asked whether anyone from the mayor and council had been to Whitaker Park recently. He stated that the police are supposed to be monitoring the park. There are shingles coming off the garage. There is the potential of someone getting hurt since a lot of the girls' softball games are played there. It is the town's obligation to take care of the shingles before someone gets hurt.

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

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Lodato that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Second by Councilperson Tully. All in favor, none opposed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Steinel thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. The bamboo has always been there. He thanked everyone for their suggestions about the garbage pick-up and that there suggestions were noted.

Councilperson Amatorio thanked everyone for coming.

Councilperson Lodato mentioned that the town will be having a Veteran's Day ceremony on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. The school Board will also be having a service later in the afternoon.

Councilperson Kornbluth stated that she has been hearing rumors regarding DPW not removing residents' vegetative which is not true and that residents who do not have children should not have to pay school taxes. She stated that the rumors are not true.

Councilperson Tully thanked everyone for coming.

Councilperson Rivera also thanked everyone for coming.

Mayor Schmelz thanked everyone for coming.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **15-340**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Collective Bargaining Agreements
 - 1. DPW Bergenfield Employees Association Contract Negotiation Update
- B. Personnel
 - 1. Police Department Personnel

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 Tully, second by Councilperson Steinel, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 8:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Steinel, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones
Acting Borough Clerk