

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MARCH 1, 2016**

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

ABSENT: Councilperson Lodato and Councilperson Tully

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

Mayor Schmelz called the meeting to order at 8:07 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 Councilperson Amatorio.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Oath of Office to Police Officer Kevin Helder

Biography of Officer Kevin Helder was read into the record by Captain Christopher Massey.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Steinel, that Resolution #16-065 be approved.

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

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

The Oath of Office to Police Officer Kevin Helder was administered by Marie Quinones, Acting Borough Clerk.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Amatorio thanked Officer Helder for his service, and congratulated him and his family on his appointment.

Council President Steinel thanked Officer Helder for his service, and wished him a long and illustrious career in Bergenfield.

Councilperson Kornbluth congratulated Officer Helder and his family, and welcomed him to the great town and police force.

Councilperson Rivera congratulated Officer Helder and his family, welcomed him into the town, and wished him a great and long career in Bergenfield.

Mayor Schmelz congratulated Officer Helder and welcomed him to Bergenfield.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, and second by Councilperson Amatorio, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was recessed. The meeting reopened at 8:31 p.m.

B. Stigma Free Committee Presentation

Irina Tesoriero, Chairperson of the Stigma Free Committee, stated that Stigma Free is a new program in Bergenfield that allows any resident to live comfortably and ask for assistance in different areas, that includes addiction, mental illness, terminally ill, children with special needs, and people with disabilities. The program will help make the community live together in peace and prevent creating stigma labels. Ms. Tesoriero gave a brief breakdown of some of the programs they are working on over the next couple of months. The committee would like the Borough to light the building in green lights, which is the official color of the County Stigma Free program. There will be Stigma Free representatives on March 20th, at Multi Cultural Day, to provide information of local events. There will be information and resources available regarding mental health and substance abuse at Family Fun Day. The committee is trying to get approval to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Ms. Tesoriero stated the Lou Harris Challenger soccer program through the Recreation department for children with special needs has been very successful and blossomed into something that is amazing. The program started with 12 children and now has up to 50 children. She stated that mental illness affects every race, ethnicity, and even any political party and that we should all work together to create a stigma free community.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/BOROUGH ENGINEER

A. Engineering & Inspection Status Report

Borough Engineer Gleassey stated that the road reconstruction projects on Main Street and Highgate Terrace were on hiatus due to the cold weather. The projects should start up again in the next two weeks. Mr. Gleassey explained that he will be meeting with the contractor for Highgate Terrace tomorrow and the contractor for the Main Street project within the next day or so.

Mr. Gleassey explained that he had reviewed with Administrator Gallo the 2016 capital improvement projects in order to finalize the numbers and give to the bond counsel to draw upon. Mr. Gleassey stated that they are taking an aggressive approach in scheduling and undertaking completion of the projects. A very aggressive approach is also being taken with the Woodbine and Carlson Place projects. An updated proposal was submitted for the Borough's consideration. As soon as authorization is given to proceed with these projects, Remington Vernick will continue with the work. Mr. Gleassey explained that they would be able to do the base surveys and mapping of the projects in approximately two months once the weather becomes warmer.

Mr. Gleassey stated that some of the projects under the capital program were line items in the previous budgets and there were partial payments made with some of these. Mr. Gleassey stated that he had spoken with Administrator Gallo regarding this and that the monies from the other line items could be utilized for these projects which would give Remington Vernick a head start with the projects before the fall and not wait until the next year to complete. Mr. Gleassey will create a presentation for the Board to consider and review.

Administrator Gallo stated that there is money available and will be discussed at the next mayor and council meeting. Administrator Gallo has explained that Bergenfield and PSE&G have agreed to share the cost to mill and overlay 20 roads in PSE&G's "energy strong" program for 2016. The agreement requires that the Borough share the cost of the mill/pave in order to completely pave all 20 roads. Remington Vernick had submitted a proposal for the Borough's consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Swim Club

No report.

B. Taping of Council Meetings

Mayor Schmelz stated that he had discussions with the Board of Education because they have contacts for taping of council meetings. He also communicated with Teaneck since they are able to tape their meetings with older equipment.

C. Commercial Garbage Collection

Councilperson Steinel reported that the DPW Committee will meet on Thursday morning to discuss their options and alternatives.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that he received information that all members of the Bergen County JIF will have to complete certain MEL requirements by October 1st. He explained that the Borough will have to redistribute the employee handbook and that all managers will be required to attend trainings. Mr. Gallo stated that he has been working with the Recreation Director to streamline permit applications to create a records process. Mr. Gallo also stated that he had a meeting with Lt. Stapleton, DPW, and the organizers of the St. Patty's Day Parade to ensure that the Borough is prepared to host the parade. He stated that the parade will line up at 12:00 p.m., hold a ceremony and flag raising at 12:45 p.m., and start at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Gallo also stated that the VFW Post 6467 is holding a Fish Fry on April 1st and will donate the proceeds to our Auxiliary Police. Mr. Gallo further explained that the Finance Committee met with the Auditor and CFO, and plan to present the budget at the next meeting, and adopt in mid-April.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT

Councilperson Amatorio

The Municipal Alliance met on Thursday and discussed their projects for the upcoming year, including project graduation.

Councilperson Steinel

stated that given the mild winter, the DPW has been unable to test the new Brine system to its fullest capacity, but it is working well. The new garbage trucks have arrived and are parked in the back municipal lot. The drivers will start their training tomorrow, which will run for three days. Then the drivers will practice until the roll out starts in April in Quadrant 3. The trucks have no lettering because the Borough purchased the equipment to do the lettering ourselves. The new sweeper is scheduled to arrive in May. I met with the Senior Citizen's Committee and they will be putting out a list of all their scheduled events. OEM participated in the active shooter drill and will look into issuing municipal IDs to Borough employees, in order for

them to be able to travel to and from work during state of emergencies.

Councilperson Kornbluth

stated that the BVAC has been on 377 calls. The Recreation Committee held a successful Valentine's Day party for the members of the Lou Harris Challenger League. The Recreation Committee started to obtain quotes for Family Fun Day, which will be held on June 6th. As the Administrator mentioned, the committee is looking into streamlining the park permit process. The Recreation Committee is also looking into starting an Arts & Crafts program with the Public Library, for children that are not interested in sports. The coaches completed their safety courses through Rutgers University. The budget has been finalized and will be presented at the next meeting. The Police Department held a successful active shooter drill in conjunction with the Board of Education, BVAC, OEM, and the Fire Department. As the representative in the County, there will be a CDBG meeting Thursday morning to discuss grants.

Councilperson Rivera

stated the Board of Health appointed Mr. Connell as President, Mr. Guatier to be Vice President, and Mrs. Pfannen to Secretary. The Board of Health meets everyone 2nd Tuesday of the month. The annual rabies clinic was a great success, and for the year 2015, the health department had completed 39 food inspections, and issued several vital certificates such as 131 marriage certificates and 186 death certificates. The Barrier Free committee will be present at Family Fun Day on June 5th to speak to residents about their efforts and give them information about the Barrier Free program. The committee expressed concern about the new commercial projects and necessary ADA requirements. The Barrier Free committee also hopes to speak with the Borough and would like the Borough to review the plans for McDonalds to ensure they are familiar with the ADA requirements.

CORRESPONDENCE

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| A. Inglis/Bergenfield United Soccer | Re: Coin Toss Request – April 23, 2016 & May 21, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (<i>Tabled 2-16-16</i>) |
| B. Kradenski/Bergenfield Little League (<i>Girls Team</i>) | Re: Coin toss Request – March 19, 2016 & May 7, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. |
| C. Schimel/VFW Post 6467 | Re: 2016 Town-Wide Garage Sale on April 24, 2016 and September 25, 2016 |
| D. Doll/Environment Committee | Re: Clean-up at Coopers Pond with South Presbyterian Church and Volunteers – April 9, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. |

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Demauro, inquired when the S.I.D. issue will be addressed and solved. She further inquired who was in attendance at the February 22nd meeting at the diner, and inquired if anything was discussed on how to improve the town. She also inquired which members are in support or opposed to the S.I.D.

Mayor Schmelz explained that a budget must be presented in order for the governing body to have a conversation on the S.I.D.

Diana Flagg, requested a point of order, and inquired why the United Soccer Coin Toss was not removed from the table prior to a vote. Ms. Flagg inquired the purpose of the bills to the PAL. She stated that year after year, the PAL is paid as a vendor of the town. Mrs. Flagg also inquired why there are no PSE&G bills. Ms. Flagg commented that the public comment portion in the bylaws should be changed to 5 minutes.

Borough Attorney Schettino explained that the terminology on the agenda is incorrect and should have been held since correspondence items are not tabled. Mr. Schettino also mentioned that the bylaws have been amended to clarify the amount of time for public comments.

Fred Clark, presented his idea to revitalize Cooper's Pond, and create a vineyard. Mr. Clark indicated that he visited the area with the Borough Administrator and Superintendent of DPW, and had a discussion on his vision to utilize the structures in Cooper's Pond, to keep them maintained and assign them a purpose. He explained that he would obtain a state license to become an instructional winemaking facility, which can stimulate interest and revenue in the property. He further explained that an annual fundraiser can be held to collect monies to renovate the barn.

Barbara Gerin, indicated that she researched the Swim Club matter, read the *The Record*, and learned about all the issues that the pool has like the crack on the bottom, and that it went bankrupt because of loss in memberships, rent, upkeep, and so on. She inquired what the benefit of keeping the pool open is and what will happen to people that contributed bonds.

John Smith, asked the Mayor and the Borough Engineer about a payment made in the amount of \$300 for a stone and whether it was for the warning system for Vivyen Street and 5th Avenue. Mr. Smith then directed his comments to the Borough Administrator and inquired if the fee schedule will be set upon his review of the permit application process. He also commented that Ms. Flagg was correct and that the Council voted to table the coin toss request. He inquired if Bergenfield United Soccer are conducting coin tosses in other towns. Mr. Smith also inquired if a letter has been done to finalize the PAL lease.

Borough Engineer Gleassey explained that the threshold stone was part of the warning system placed on each side of the track and around the fence. Mayor Schmelz further explained that it would also prevent weeds from growing.

Borough Administrator Gallo explained the fees were established when the ordinance was and are based on the number of people that attend the event. He also stated that he is in the process of reviewing all the leases and a letter will be mailed requesting information.

Barry Doll, thanked Fred for his ideas to raise monies to fix the buildings and revitalize Cooper's Pond. Mr. Doll inquired if the S.I.D. is under a separate budget. He also inquired the status of the steel at the PAL field. Mr. Doll stated that if the steel belongs to the Community Center, they should be responsible to remove it.

Cynthia Naylis, thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the clean-up at Cooper's Pond on April 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE ACTED UPON:

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 16-066. 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. **16-067/**To Pay Bills
- B. **16-068/**To Accept Bid and Authorize Execution of Contract – For the Purchase of 95 Gallon and 65 Gallon Garbage Cans - Sanitation Equipment Corp.
- C. **16-069/**To Hire Per Diem Crossing Guards
- D. **16-070/**To Approve Agreement – County of Bergen GIS Data Exchange Agreement
- E. **16-071/**To Authorize Refund – Tax Court Judgement – 37-39 South Washington Avenue
- F. **16-072/**To Authorize Refund – Tax Overpayment – 17 South Taylor Street
- G. **16-073/**To Authorize Refund – Tax Overpayment – 79 Dudley Drive
- H. **16-074/**To Approve Tax Settlement – 440 New Bridge Road
- I. **16-075/**To Approve Tax Settlement – 48 West Church Street
- J. **16-076/**To Approve Tax Settlement – 48 Woodbine Street
- K. **16-077/**To Accept Retirement Proposal – Carol Parker
- L. **16-078/**To Accept Retirement Proposal – Thomas W. Hegel
- M. **16-079/**To Approve Multi-State Settlement – Stericycle Inc.
- N. **16-080/**To Approve Two Year Maintenance Bond for National Fence System
- O. **16-081/**To Approve Pay Certificate No. 2 for National Fence System
- P. **16-082/**To Approve Change Order #1-Final Payment for National Fence System
- Q. **16-083/**To Approve Temporary Emergency Appropriation
- R. **16-084/**To Approve Tax Settlement – 114 Anderson Avenue
- S. **16-085/**To Approve DPW Supervisors Agreement
- ~~T. **16-086/**To Approve Shared Services Agreement – Fire Apparatus – County of Bergen~~
- U. **16-087/**To Amend 2016 ByLaws

Council President Steinel stated that he spoke with Fire Chief Saito and explained that Resolution 16-086 should be removed from the consent agenda as a paragraph in the agreement has to be modified.

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and all present voting in favor, Resolution #16-086 is tabled.

Motion by Councilperson Steinel, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, to approve the Consent Resolution as amended.

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

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

V. RESOLUTIONS

16-088/To Appoint Assistant Supervisor – Robert Giacomelli

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #16-088 be approved.

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

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

16-089/To Appoint DPW Full-time Employee – Oryan Armano

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #16-089 be approved.

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

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

16-090/To Appoint DPW Mechanic – Dennis Bloomer

Motion by Council President Steinel, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #16-090 be approved.

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

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Amatorio thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a good night.

Council President Steinel thanked Mr. Clark for his presentation, and stated that he will carefully read the proposal. Mr. Steinel explained that when S.I.D introduces their budget, a public hearing will be held, and a vote will then take place on whether or not to keep the S.I.D.

Councilperson Kornbluth explained that she personally does not believe the S.I.D. did a good job, but since a budget has not been presented, there is no need for her to share her vote or comments. She further explained that Bergenfield United Soccer is a travel team where kids that are residents play, and they fundraise for equipment that residents will use, saving taxpayer dollars.

Councilperson Rivera stated that he too has issues with the S.I.D, since he believes there are many things they did not do for the businesses. He inquired if they had an agenda to help the businesses in town last year and expressed that there are many businesses in town that are upset the S.I.D was created. Councilperson Rivera also inquired as to why there are less businesses in town today than there were 10-12 years ago.

Mayor Schmelz thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **16-091**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Personnel
 - 1. DPW Personnel Matters
 - 2. Building Department Personnel Matters
 - 3. Administrative Personnel Matters

- B. Contracts/Agreements
 - 1. Contracts Negotiations 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 Councilperson Rivera and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 9:11 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 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones
Acting Borough Clerk