

**BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA CISCO WEBEX
DECEMBER 15, 2020**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio and Council President Rafael Marte (8:19 p.m.), Council members Buddy Deauna, Ora Kornbluth, Hernando Rivera, and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: Councilman Thomas Lodato

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

Mayor Amatorio 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. Sunshine notice for this meeting dated December 11, 2020 was 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 Pascual.

AGENDA CHANGES

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, Second by Councilperson Deauna to add Resolutions #20-375 and #20-376 to the consent agenda. All present voting in favor, no one opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, Second by Councilperson Rivera, to approve minutes of the October 20, 2020 Regular Public Meeting, October 20, 2020 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released), November 17, 2020 Work Session Meeting, November 17, 2020 Closed Session Meeting I and Closed Session Meeting II (not to be released), December 1, 2020 Work Session Meeting, and December 1, 2020 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). All present voting in favor, no one 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. Hiring and Appointments

20-359/To Approve Part-Time Healthcare Worker – Kelley Grippo

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, Second by Councilperson Kornbluth, that Resolution #20-359 be approved.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Rev. Neush/South Presbyterian Church **RE:** Request to Reserve Cooper's Pond for Caroling/Sunday, December 20, 2020/3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Councilperson Kornbluth inquired if the members present will practice social distancing and whether the Borough employees reviewed and approved the event.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that he spoke with Rev. Neusch and confirmed the participants will practice social distancing. He explained that instead of holding their services indoors they will be outdoors.

Councilperson Pascual stated that there will only be 9 people present.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, Second by Councilperson Rivera, to approve Correspondence Item A. All present voting in favor, no one opposed.

ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Ordinances

The following ordinance published herewith was first read by title only on March 3, 2020 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center. **(TABLED 3-17-20)**

ORDINANCE 20-2561 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY RANGES OF EMPLOYEES NOT SUBJECTED TO UNIONIZED CONTRACTUAL UNITS OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD

No action taken.

B. Tabled Ordinance

ORDINANCE 20-2576 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PARKING” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD (TABLED 11-17-20)

No action taken.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 20-360. 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. **20-361/**To Approve Bill List
- b. **20-362/**To Schedule the 2021 Reorganization Meeting
- c. **20-363/**To Approve Tax Refund – 25 Blauvelt Avenue
- d. **20-364/**To Approve Tax Refund – 580 S. Prospect Avenue

- e. **20-365**/To Approve Tax Refund – 7 Trinity Court
- f. **20-366**/To Approve Tax Refund – 160 N. Washington Avenue
- g. **20-367**/To Approve Tax Refund – N Washington Avenue
- h. **20-368**/To Approve Tax Refund – 197 River Edge Road
- i. **20-369**/To Approve National Cooperative Purchase – Sewer Inspection System – Jet Vac Equipment LLC
- j. **20-370**/To Approve Capital Purchase – Garbage Cans - Sanitation Equipment Corp.
- k. **20-371**/To Approve Capital Purchase – Lucas Chest Compression System – Stryker Sales Cooperation
- l. **20-372**/To Approve Cancellation of 2020 Budget Appropriation Balances
- m. **20-373**/To Authorize Transfer of Appropriations
- n. **20-374**/To Authorize Police Department Participation in the 1033 Program LESO
- o. **20-375**/To Authorize RFQ – 2021 Professional Services for Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Alternate Prosecutor, Public Relations Services, Website Maintenance Services
- p. **20-376**/To Award Bid and Approve Contract – 2020 Sanitary and Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Program – North American Pipeline Services LLC

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

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

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

B. Resolutions

20-377/To Approve Contract – Deputy Police Chief

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution 20-377 be approved.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

No Discussion.

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Councilperson Kornbluth that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Second by Councilperson Rivera. 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.

Jose Gonzalez, resident, stated that he has a couple of questions with regards to the appointments to boards and committees and inquired the process for becoming a member. Mr. Gonzalez was interested to know how residents can become members of a committee, and inquired if there is an application for appointments. He also inquired if vacancies are announced for people to know how to join. Mr. Gonzalez commented Tenafly, Dumont, Paramus have application forms for people that want to join the board. He expressed this can be a transparent way for residents to be aware of vacancies and the Borough can keep a record of applications.

Mary Hernandez, resident, stated that she has the same questions as Mr. Gonzalez, and inquired what appointments were available and how will the people be selected. She also inquired what were the Council's plans for development in the future, and if part of their plan was to build more apartments in town. Ms. Hernandez also stated that the Traffic Safety Committee meetings should be open to the public at least twice a year.

Mary Sullivan, resident, inquired why minutes have not been posted to the website since October.

Borough Clerk Quinones stated that minutes are posted after their approval at a Regular Public Meeting. The minutes will be posted tomorrow after their approval this evening.

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

Mayor Amatorio stated that with regards to members for the committee, appointments are open to everyone. Residents can communicate their interest with the Mayor and Council. He explained that most appointments are made by the Mayor. Nominations and appointments are made by the Mayor, which are then approved by Council. He explained that the governing body looks for people that want to be part of the team and move forward their agenda. He mentioned that if anyone wants to join, they can share their interests, and will be considered based on qualifications.

Councilperson Kornbluth explained that just because someone is not appointed on a committee, they can be involved from the outside and volunteer their time to be appointed in the future.

Mayor Amatorio stated that the more residents that want to be involved the better. He stated that if someone wants to serve and be involved, the governing body welcomes it.

Council President Marte stated that he received several requests, particularly for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He commented that all will be considered and the Council will make a decision based on qualifications.

Mayor Amatorio further explained that the positions are never advertised, but residents can reach out and express their interest. He commented that there is a member position and alternate member position available on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. There person may be reappointed, but that is up to the decision of the Council. He further commented that the members of the Traffic Safety Committee are appointed each year. Some members may want to be reappointed, others may not.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that there is no need to wait for an open Traffic Safety Committee meeting, residents can reach out to him or Police Chief anytime to express their concerns. He reiterated that availability exist, no need to wait to attend a meeting.

Mayor Amatorio stated that if residents have any additional questions, they are welcome to email him or the Borough Administrator.

Jose Gonzalez, resident, requested to speak again. He stated that he did some research, submitted an OPRA request, and learned that no qualifications or criteria are required to serve on the boards. He inquired if the Borough can follow the neighboring towns and have an application available for residents to apply to any available positions.

Council President Marte stated explained that if three residents express interest in serving on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and one or two of them are architects, engineer, or have a trade of some sort, they have more of the background experience to serve in the position. He commented that their experience is valuable to the board.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated there is no application process to serve on the board. He further stated that he visited the Borough of Tenafly website and is unable to find the application form to serve on boards and committees.

Mayor Amatorio stated that residents should send an email to signify their interest and the governing body will consider them.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Deauna advised everyone to stay safe and wished all a good night.

Councilperson Pascual advised everyone to stay safe and warm, especially during the impending snow storm.

Councilperson Kornbluth advised everyone to stay safe and wished everyone a happy holiday!

Council President Marte expressed that everyone stay safe and enjoy the holidays!

Councilperson Rivera wished everyone a happy Hannukah, happy Kwanzaa, and a very Merry Christmas! He advised everyone to enjoy their time with family and friends, but reminded everyone to keep socially distant and stay safe. Mr. Rivera expressed his blessings to all!

Mayor Amatorio advised everyone to please stay safe during the impending snow storm, and reminded everyone to remove their vehicles from Borough streets and that shoveling snow into the street is prohibited. He stated that the Borough is in the process of finalizing a plan to hold massive testing for COVID-19 in different facilities in town. He wished everyone a happy Hannukah, happy Kwanzaa and a Merry Christmas! He expressed that everyone enjoy the holidays, but please stay safe!

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 20-378/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege
- 1. PBA Local 309 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 Council President Marte, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Council President Marte, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones
Borough Clerk