

BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2021
8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio and Council President Hernando Rivera, Council members Buddy Deauna, Rafael Marte, Ora Kornbluth (arrived at 9:15 pm) and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: Council member 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."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Deauna.

AGENDA CHANGES

Councilperson Marte made a motion to add a request from the VFW and DAV to reserve the Memorial Park Pavilion on May 31, 2021 for Memorial Day Parade activities, and to remove Resolution #21-201 to approve the capital purchase for a tub grinder from the consent agenda. Council President Rivera seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Marte to approve minutes of the April 20, 2021 Regular Public Meeting, May 4, 2021 Work Session Meeting, and May 4, 2021 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. 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.

John Smith, resident, commented with regards to the bill list, and inquired which park has artificial grass. Mr. Smith requested the governing body waive the liability certificate of insurance from the Veterans Advisory Committee's request to use Memorial Field on May 31, 2021.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that the VFW, a separate nonprofit organization, is running an event. He stated that if the Veteran's Advisory Committee is running the event under the auspices of the Borough, then the request can be approved. Mr. Gallo confirmed the \$5,000 expenditure is for a batting cage at Memorial Field.

Mary Sullivan, resident, stated she hopes Ordinance 21-2576 is passed tonight. She has an elderly neighbor who has construction vehicles being parked in her driveway. Ms. Sullivan commented that construction vehicles don't belong in a residential zone.

Diana Flagg, resident, questioned about the part-time employee who is being promoted to full-time, at an hourly pay of a part-time employee. She commented that the full-time employee will have the same salary of the young men hired to work in the summer.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the employee was a part-time laborer earning \$15.50 an hour. He clarified that the resolution should reflect the employee's salary will be \$33,000.

Barry Doll, resident, presented poppies to the Mayor and Council in commemoration of Memorial Day.

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

PRESENTATIONS

A. Administrative Appointments and Hires

21-185/To Promote Full-Time Laborer – Dan Denaci

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Council President Rivera that Resolution #21-185 be approved as amended.

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

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

21-186/To Hire Part-Time Summer Help

Motion by Council President Rivera, second by Councilperson Marte that Resolution #21-186 be approved.

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

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

21-187/To Hire Part-Time Senior/Community Bus Drivers

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, second by Councilperson Marte that Resolution #21-187 be approved.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

a.) Eaches/Garden Club

RE: Request to Reserve Coopers Pond Clubhouse/Second Monday of Each Month in 2021/7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

b.) Williams/Veterans Committee

RE: Request to Reserve Memorial Park Pavilion on May 31, 2021 for Memorial Day Parade Activities

Motion by Councilperson Marte, second by Council President Rivera to accept Correspondence A through B. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

ORDINANCES

A. Tabled Ordinances

Mayor Amatorio read into the record:

The following ordinance published herewith was first read by title only on March 16, 2021 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

ORDINANCE 21-2576 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKING” THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD (TABLED 4-6-21)

Motion by Councilperson Marte, second by Councilperson Pascua, to remove Ordinance #21-2576 from the table.

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

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

Public Comments on Ordinance 21-2576.

Borough Attorney Schettino stated the ordinance needs to be forwarded to the Planning Board prior to advertising it. It needs to be scheduled for a public hearing at a council meeting after the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Schettino stated any zoning ordinance change has to be reviewed by the Planning Board. The Planning Board is supposed to review it and determine if the ordinance change is consistent with the master plan. If the board does not provide comments or fails to take action, the council needs to wait 35 days before they can vote on it. Mr. Schettino stated he will send a letter to the Planning Board attorney. It has to be advertised for a minimum of 10 days before the public hearing.

Mayor Amatorio stated the vote today is just to remove the ordinance from the table so they can proceed with the discussion. It will now go to the Planning Board for review and comments. It will come back to the council for a hearing and a vote after the Planning Board reviews and provides comments.

Motion by Councilperson Marte, second by Councilperson Deauna, to authorize publication and set June 15, 2021 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 Bergenfield Borough Hall as the place for a hearing on said ordinance.

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

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 21-188. 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. **21-189**/To Approve Bill List
- b. **21-190**/To Approve Tax Refund – 199 Hickory Avenue
- c. **21-191**/To Approve Tax Refund – 36 Lee Place
- d. **21-192**/To Authorize 2021 Electronic Tax Sale
- e. **21-193**/To Authorize 2021 Electronic Tax Sale Second Due for Fees of Sale

- f. **21-194**/To Approve Grant Cancellation – 2021 Distracted Driving – Udrive, Utext, Upay Grant
- g. **21-195**/To Approve Professional Services Proposal – Initial Analysis for Areas in Need of Redevelopment – Neglia Engineering Associates
- h. **21-196**/To Award Bid and Approve Agreement – Heating and Cooling Systems Maintenance – Power/R/Save
- i. **21-197**/To Approve Proposal – Environmental Assessment of Cooper’s Pond – T&M Associates
- j. **21-198**/To Approve Street Closures on Washington Avenue
- k. **21-199**/To Approve Family Fun Day to be held on Thursday, July 1, 2021
- l. **21-200**/To Approve Use of Cooper’s Pond for Programs – Bergenfield Public Library
- m. ~~**21-201**/To Approve DPW Capital Purchase – Tub Grinder~~

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Council President Rivera, that the Consent Resolution be approved as amended.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation – Proclamation in Honor of Food Pantry Donation

B. Public Hearing on Grant Applications

❖ 2021 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Urban Parks Grant Application for Park Developments

1. Public Comments on the Grant Application

Borough Administrator Gallo explained this grant application was recently posted for projects not to exceed half a million dollars. The Borough is submitting an application for \$100,000 to fund the re-creation of the water wheel at Cooper’s Pond. Mr. Gallo stated that he and other Borough officials met with the museum and hope to have this project come to fruition.

Mayor Amatorio stated one of the requirements of the grant application was to have a public hearing and complete an engineering study, which has already been submitted.

Barry Doll, resident, commented that he cannot believe they have reached this point. Historically, the mill has had a wheel since the mid-1800’s. It’s a great thing to have for Bergenfield and for the community.

John Smith, resident, stated that historic guidelines need to be followed in making reparation and they need to go through the historic society. He stated \$100,000 is not going to be enough to fix the wheel without costing taxpayer’s money.

Mr. Gallo stated the engineers looked at it and felt that funding in the amount of \$100,000 would be enough.

Jerry Naylis, resident, inquired if a complete economic impact analysis was done to see what other repairs need to be made. Mr. Naylis inquired if there is any opportunity to expand any of the restoration to the mill house.

Mr. Gallo stated that the borough is seeking other grants for the restoration of the property. This grant is just for the wheel.

2. **Resolution 21-202**/To Authorize Submission of a 2021 NJDEP Urban Parks Grant Application for Park Developments

Motion by Councilperson Marte, second by Council President Rivera that Resolution #21-202 be approved.

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

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

- ❖ 2021 Bergen County Trust Fund Municipal Program Grant Application for Park Developments
 - 1. Public Comments on the Grant Application

Borough Administrator Gallo stated this grant is for phase II to perform the work to restore Cooper's Pond.

2. **Resolution 21-203**/To Authorize Submission of a Bergen County Trust Fund Municipal Program Grant Application for Park Development

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Marte that Resolution #21-203 be approved.

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

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

C. Recommendation and Nomination to Boards and Committees

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor recommends and nominates Natalie Rivas to serve on the Library Board of Trustees for an unexpired term, term expiring December 31, 2023.

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

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Rivera that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Councilperson Marte seconded the motion. All present voting 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.

Mary Sullivan, resident, inquired if COVID-19 testing could be done at Conlon Hall.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that New Bridge Medical is offering testing and walk-in vaccinations at the medical facility at the TB bank site. Testing is also available at the walk-in Urgent Care in the center of town.

Diana Flagg, resident, inquired if the commercial vehicle ordinance is going to be reintroduced. She commented that the fire truck on Washington Avenue is an eyesore, yet everyone is concerned with what the homeowners are doing. Ms. Flagg read into the record the poem "Poppies for the Brave", written by former administrator Norman Gust. She stated that she is very unhappy the Memorial Day Parade will not be on Washington Avenue this year.

Borough Attorney Schettino explained the ordinance was already introduced, but there was never a public hearing on the ordinance because it was tabled. The public hearing has to be advertised and before it is advertised, the ordinance has to be removed from the table. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the ordinance at a future public hearing and then it will be voted on.

John Smith, resident, stated the Veterans Advisory Committee decided to change the route of the parade. A couple of years ago, the governing body offered a bus for members of the VFW, but only one person used it. There are many veterans that live on Prospect Ave and New Bridge Rd. Mr. Smith commented that the street lights on E. Clinton Ave, Prospect Ave, and Washington Ave are buried in the trees. He further commented that there is only one safety sign on Washington Ave. He inquired who is moving the signs from Washington Ave to Prospect Ave. Mr. Smith also inquired why a new homeowner needs to purchase new garbage cans if they were stolen prior to purchasing the home. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Doll, as the Rusty Relics will be providing three vehicles to drive the grand marshals at the Memorial Day Parade.

Mayor Amatorio stated the route for the Memorial Day parade is the decision of the Veteran's Advisory Committee.

Sergeant Major, resident, stated the Veterans Advisory Committee decided to alternate the route for the parade year to year to honor the veterans. He inquired if there are any grants available for the improvements at Veterans Memorial Park, and stated that repairs are needed. He stated that the memorial site needs to be updated to include names of more veterans and ensure the purple heart is on the plaque with the insignia. He commented that this should not have been removed.

Barry Doll, resident, stated that he disagrees with changing the route of the parade and doesn't think it will be a good turnout. He commented that all parades belong on Washington Avenue and shouldn't be up for discussion.

Jerry Naylis, resident, inquired when borough hall will be reopened for the public to conduct business with various departments.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated the borough hall will probably reopen the first week in June. There will be some restrictions and everyone will be required to wear masks.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Deauna thanked everyone for coming and to stay safe.

Councilperson Marte thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a good night.

Councilperson Pascual thanked everyone for coming and to stay safe.

Council President Rivera stated there was a discussion about the Memorial Day parade about seven years ago to bring the route back to Washington Avenue. Some of the citizens were concerned and felt like they were being treated like second class citizens at that time because the parade was on Prospect Avenue. It is the decision of the veterans and the governing body respects their decision.

Mayor Amatorio thanked the fire department, police department, and the ambulance corps. for containing the fire at the thai restaurant last Friday. There will be a vaccination clinic Thursday at Conlon Hall in partnership with Holy Name. They will administer the Pfizer vaccine. The school district has been pushing for this to get the youth vaccinated. Mayor Amatorio stated they continue to partner with New Bridge Medical. They just opened up a new clinic by the Bergenfield Medical Center, which is on the ground floor. There are several days for walk-in vaccinations and testing. They are in the fifth week of the Mayor's Wellness program. There are three more weeks left. He thanked the volunteers and sponsors.

Mr. Gallo stated the information has been posted on the borough website. He stated Family Fun Day will be on Thursday, July 1, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Memorial Park. Fireworks will be at 9:15 p.m. There will be food vendors and live music.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **21-204**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege
 - 1. PBA Local 209 Update
- B. Personnel Matters
 - 1. Fire Department Personnel 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 Pascual, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 9:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Marte, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones
Borough Clerk