

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Monday, July 9, 2018

Immediately Following Work Session

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER –

Mayor Mignone called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall.

SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Mignone called for a moment of silent prayer and asked Alan Negreann, the Borough Administrator to lead the salute to the flag.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT -

Mayor Mignone read the statement under the Sunshine Law and asked the Clerk to put it into the minutes. “Adequate Notice of this meeting has been made by sending notice on December 29, 2017 to THE RECORD NEWSPAPER, by positioning on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Borough Hall and filing a Notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk”.

ROLL CALL – Councilman Bartelloni, Councilwoman Busted, Councilwoman Davis, Councilman Gautier and Mayor Mignone were present; Councilman Chinigo and Councilman Papaleo was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Busted the minutes of the Mayor and Council Special Work Session meeting and Regular Meeting of June 25, 2018 were approved on the following roll call:

Councilman Bartelloni and Councilwoman Busted voted yes; Councilwoman Davis and Councilman Gautier abstained.

PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS –

❖ Fire Department Awards Presentation

Fire Chief George O’Connell thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to come before them this evening to make them aware of the actions of some of the members of the Volunteer Fire Department who assisted the Oradell Fire Department in a working house fire on June 12th. He would like to present the members with a Life Saving Award and a Unit Citation for Ladder Company #1. Chief O’Connell explained that on that day, the Oradell Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire on 240 Kinderkamack Road with people trapped on the second floor. At the same time, the River Edge Fire Department was operating on Voorhis Avenue for a gas leak. River Edge Ladder 1 who was under the command of Captain Timothy Carroll and his crew, Lieutenant Richard Neerhout and firefighter Tyler Neerhout, had just been released from the gas leak on Voorhis Avenue. Monitoring the situation, Captain Carroll took the initiative to respond to the fire before being dispatched. In route, Ladder 1 was ordered to assist at the rear of the building where it was confirmed that there was an occupant who was trapped on the roof on the first floor of the home. Upon arrival, Captain Carroll and firefighter Neerhout teamed up with Oradell firefighters and two off-duty Jersey City firefighters who just happened to be driving by. Without hesitation or regard for their personal safety, they ascended the ladder and under smoke and fire conditions located the victim on the roof, carried the disoriented victim down the ladder, started first aid and assessed the victims injuries then turned him over to EMS to be transported to the hospital. If it was not for their quick actions and the team work of all involved, this fire would have ended in tragedy. Chief O’Connell is very proud to present the Life Saving Award to Captain Timothy Carroll and Firefighter Tyler Neerhout. Chief O’Connell also presented a Unit Citation to the crew of Ladder 1: Captain Timothy Carroll, Firefighter Tyler Neerhout and Lieutenant Richard Neerhout. Chief O’Connell said that these three men did a very heroic thing by staying with the victim until EMS arrived and in true firefighter fashion said “we’re available, what’s next”. Chief O’Connell is very proud and honored to have these men working with him.

Mayor Mignone introduced Assemblyman Chris Tully and Assemblywoman Linda Swain who made presentations.

Assemblywoman Swain-introduced herself, Assemblyman Chris Tully and along with Assemblyman Lagana they represent District 38 and are honored to be here tonight on this special occasion. She thanked the Mayor and Council for invited them and are thrilled to read a proclamation for this event that happened. She thanked Captain Tim Carroll, Firefighter Tyler Neerhout and wanted to acknowledge them for their heroic efforts. Assemblyman Chris Tully stated that they've read the story in the news and have been following it on facebook and continue to be in awe of our local first responders and local fire departments. He said that it is his pleasure to honor both of them. Assemblyman Tully read a portion of the proclamation into the record.

❖ Mayor & Council Certificates of Recognition – Members of Fire Department

Mayor Mignone asked Council Liaison to the Fire Department, Mary Davis to join him as he read the Certificates of Recognition for Captain Timothy Carroll and Firefighter Tyler Neerhout. As the Mayor has said many times, we are so fortunate to know that there are people who leave their home and loved ones in the dead of night so they can protect the rest of us, our property and our lives. He said that they're always grateful for all they do and is happy to give them this well deserved recognition.

Councilwoman Davis-said that she can't say enough how proud they are of all of them.

Mayor Mignone read the Proclamation Declaring the Week of August 5 – 11th as National Farmer's Market Week as follows:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, farmers markets are important outlets for fresh farm to table healthy ingredients nationwide, and provide agricultural producers with increased marketing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Borough of River Edge began a Farmer's Market on Continental Avenue; and

WHEREAS, farmers markets play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support the sustainability of family farms, revitalize communities and provide opportunities for farmers and consumers to interact. They offer consumers fresh, affordable, convenient and healthful products produced and sold locally; and

WHEREAS, it's important to recognize and support the River Edge Farmer's Market and to advocate further awareness of farmers markets and the important contributions farmers make to daily life in America and our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Edward J. Mignone, Mayor of the Borough of River Edge, in recognition thereof, do hereby proclaim:

August 5 – 11, 2018 as:

National Farmer's Market Week

I encourage the residents of River Edge to become a farmer's market patron every Tuesday at the River Edge Farmer's Market and to celebrate the benefits of farmers markets and the local, sustainable and artisanal products sold there.

Dated: July 9, 2018

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA –

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Busted to open public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

Donna Sanders-674 Millbrook Road-said that she is looking for more information on the proposed Community Center.

Mayor Mignone-explained that they're not going to get into a detailed discussion this evening but that at the next meeting on August 13th the architect will give an overview on the project and answer questions.

Casey Connors-259 Adams Avenue-asked what architect are they talking about?

Mayor Mignone-explained that they will ask the architect and engineer to appear at the next council meeting so they can give a presentation and answer questions that the public may have regarding the proposed Community Center.

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA –

On motion by Councilwoman Busted, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to close public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES –

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni, the sick leave of John Lynch, Superintendent of Public Works effective June 27, 2018 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Mignone-stated that John Lynch, our Superintendent of Public Works has suffered a very serious health crisis and expects that he will be out for a while. The Mayor extended his thoughts and prayers to John and his family as he struggles to recover. He wished him well and looks forward to getting him back as soon as we can.

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, the sick leave of Edwin Alter, Land Use/Assessor Clerk from June 27th through July 16, 2018 was unanimously approved.

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Busted, the salary increase of Patrick Diamond, Police Officer from an annual salary of \$72,850.00 to Patrolman 14th grade salary of \$81,255.00, effective July 23, 2018 was approved unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Busted, the salary increase of Marc DeYoung, Police Officer from an annual salary of \$131,446.53 to \$133,880.72 due to an increase in longevity from 8% to 10 % effective July 15, 2018.

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Busted the salary increase of Michael McGinty, Sergeant in the Police Department from an annual salary of \$141,960.94 to \$144,589.85 due to an increase in longevity from 8% to 10%, effective July 15, 2018 was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE –

Notice	-	River Edge Board of Education – 4/25/18 Re: Meeting Notice – June 27 th
Report	-	Alan P. Negreann – 6/26/18 Re: Damage to Public Property
Report	-	Alan P. Negreann – 6/27/18 Re: Farmer's Market Monthly Report
Report	-	Alan P. Negreann – 6/27/18 Re: Revenue Report
Letter	-	Ferraioli, Wielkotz, Cerullo & Cuva, P. A. – 7/9/18

MONTHLY REPORTS – NONE

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING –

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #18-18 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE #18-18 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS AND CURB RAMPS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$40,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Davis the introduction of Ordinance #18-18 was approved unanimously as follows:

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #18-18**

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS AND CURB RAMPS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$40,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") is hereby authorized to replace sidewalks and curb ramps at various locations in, by and for the Borough. Said improvements shall include all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefor.

Section 2. The sum of \$40,000 is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvements described in Section 1 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purpose"). Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized and the down payment appropriated by this ordinance. Said improvements shall be made as general improvements and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefitted.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that (1) said purpose is not a current expense of said Borough, and (2) it is necessary to finance said purpose by the issuance of obligations of said Borough pursuant to the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, as amended; the "Local Bond Law"), and (3) the total estimated cost of said purpose is \$40,000, and (4) \$2,000 of said sum is to be provided by the down payment hereinafter appropriated to finance said purpose, and (5) the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes necessary to be issued for said purpose is \$38,000, and (6) the cost of such purpose, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$10,000 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purpose, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law.

Section 4. It is hereby determined and stated that moneys exceeding \$2,000, appropriated for down payments on capital improvements or for the capital improvement fund in budgets heretofore adopted for said Borough, are now available to finance said purpose. The sum of \$2,000 is hereby appropriated from such moneys to the payment of the cost of said purpose.

Section 5. To finance said purpose, bonds of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$38,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law.

Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 6. To finance said purpose, bond anticipation notes of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$38,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, to not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 7. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Mayor and by a financial officer and shall be under the seal of said Borough and attested by the Borough Clerk or Deputy Borough Clerk. Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is hereby delegated to the Chief Financial Officer who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 8. It is hereby determined and declared that the period of usefulness of said purpose, according to its reasonable life, is a period of ten years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 9. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk of said Borough, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said Borough, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$38,000 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 10. Any funds received from private parties, the County of Bergen, the State of New Jersey or any of their agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purpose, shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purpose, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purpose shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 11. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

Section 12. The Borough intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvements described in Section 1 of this bond ordinance. If the Borough incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the Borough hereby states its reasonable expectation to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 13. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Borough for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 14. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

Mayor Edward J. Mignone

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #18-19 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE #18-19 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 380, OF THE RIVER EDGE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "TOBACCO".

On motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Busted the first reading of Ordinance #18-19 was approved unanimously as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #18-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 380, OF THE RIVER EDGE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "TOBACCO".

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 2A:170-51.4, prohibits the sale or distribution of electronic smoking devices to any individual under the age of 21, in addition to more conventional tobacco and nicotine products; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 380 of the Code of the Borough of River Edge prohibits the use and possession of tobacco products in public places by anyone under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 380 of the Code of the Borough of River Edge must be revised to reflect modern trends relating to the consumption of nicotine, tobacco and other products; and

WHEREAS, the purposes and goals of the State law and regulation concerning tobacco, nicotine and electronic smoking devices would be further by local regulation of the use and possession of electronic smoking devices by minors; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, the Borough of River Edge has the authority to adopt ordinances for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the Borough and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that, consistent with the purposes of relevant State law, it is in the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare of the borough and its residents to prohibit the use and possession of electronic smoking devices by individuals under the age of 21 in public places and buildings; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge hereby amend Chapter 380 of the Borough Code as follows:

SECTION 1. §380-1. Definitions shall be amended to read as follows:

Public Place – Any building or enclosed structure open to the general public and any street, road, sidewalk, walkway, park or open space located within the Borough and maintained for use by the general public.

Public Buildings – All municipal offices, public schools including school property and any and all buildings owned and/or operated by the Borough of River Edge.

Electronic Smoking Device – An electronic or other powered device that can be used to deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo and pipe.

Smoking - The burning of, inhaling from, exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or any other matter or substances which contain tobacco or any other matter that can be smoked, or the inhaling or exhaling of smoke or vapor from an electronic smoking device.

Tobacco – Any product made from the tobacco plant for the purpose of smoking, chewing, inhaling or any other use, including cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff and cigarettes in any form.

SECTION 2. §380-2. Use or possession in public prohibited shall be amended as follows:

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 21 years to smoke or use a tobacco product or electronic smoking device product in or on any public place, public building, public school or school property or to possess any pack, container holding a tobacco product or electronic smoking device product.
- B. This article shall not apply to a minor smoking or using a tobacco product in a nonpublic place.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. If any part, sections, provisions, or total of any of the aforementioned sections are held to be invalid or unenforceable by any court, the findings or judgments of which court are applicable in the State of New Jersey, that the balance and remainder of such sections shall remain in full force and effect as an Ordinance of the Borough of River Edge.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption and publication according to law.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Stephanie Evans
Borough Clerk

Edward Mignone
Mayor

Councilwoman Busted-explained that this came from the Municipal Alliance Against Alcohol and Substance Abuse because e-cigarettes were not included as a prohibited offense by use of minors and this will correct that. She pointed out that public schools and public school property were also included as places where this would be considered an offense. She continued to say that they have heard from the Alliance that this is terrible problem in our public schools and want to support the schools in any way to deter the use of these devices by minors. The existing violations and penalties of this ordinance are not being amended. There was discussion by the Alliance to put a monetary violation or penalty upon offense but they did not change that in the current ordinance. She explained that there are three levels of offense, the third being called Station House Adjustment from Juvenile Petition. She also suggests that somehow we engage the Borough of Oradell in amending their ordinance if it does not already have these amendments as the high school is in Oradell and the middle school is in River Edge.

Tom Sarlo, Esq.-explained that they he also increased the age from 18 to 21 which is consistent with the state law.

Mayor Mignone-said that it was shocking to him the prevalence of this issue in the Borough and that it goes as low as middle school. He feels that we need more education and believes this extra enforcement may begin to discourage our younger residents from starting this. It is his opinion that this is a bad choice that can lead to more serious consequences down the line and thanked Councilwoman Busted for leading this effort.

ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – NONE

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Busted resolution #18-234 through #18-250 were unanimously approved.

#18-234 Change in Personnel Policy & Procedure Manual – Section X, Subject 7– Alcohol-

Free & Drug-Free Work Place

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge adopted a Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual on March 7, 1983 via resolution #83-58; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge desire to change Section X, Subject 7 with regard to General Conduct, Alcohol-Free & Drug-Free Work Place; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council considered at their work session meeting of July 9, 2018 making those changes to the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual of the Borough of River Edge shall be changed in the following manner:

- 1. Change the following words to Section X, General Conduct, Subject 7, Alcohol-Free & Drug Free Work Place, Policy –

Paragraph 6

FROM

Morristown Memorial Hospital or
Saint Clares-Riverside Medical Center

TO

Holy Name Medical Center or
Hackensack University Medical
Center

July 9, 2018

#18-235 Change in Personnel Policy & Procedure Manual – Section X, Subject 8– General Conduct, Alcohol Testing

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge adopted a Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual on March 7, 1983 via resolution #83-58; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge desire to change Section X, Subject 8 with regard to General Conduct, Alcohol Testing; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council considered at their work session meeting of July 9, 2018 making those changes to the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual of the Borough of River Edge shall be changed in the following manner:

- 1. Change the following words to the title page of Section X, General Conduct, Subject 8, Alcohol Testing

From: SUBJECT 8. ALCOHOL TESTING

To: SUBJECT 8. ALCOHOL TESTING/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TESTING

- 2. Add the words to II. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TESTING:

Hydrocodone
Hydromorphone
Oxycodone
Oxymorphone

July 9, 2018

#18-236 Resolution in Support of the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Urging the Legislature to Amend S-716, S-477 and S-1766

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund insures 38 municipalities; and

WHEREAS, while it is commendable that legislation is being considered to provide additional compensation to Firefighters with cancer, S-716 as currently written, without responsible amendments, will prove to be very expensive to municipalities and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, while it is also commendable that the statute of limitations is being extended for claims involving sexual abuse, S-477 as currently written would eliminate the statute of limitations entirely leaving officials and volunteers with the near impossible task of defending a claim that is decades old.

WHEREAS, under current law family members can already collect substantial compensation for actual losses such as medical bills, lost income as well as loss of companionship.

WHEREAS, without appropriate amendments, the combined impact of these bills would devastate local government insurance budgets at a time when the local taxpayers are being squeezed because of changes in the Federal Tax code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of River Edge supports the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance fund that:

- S-716 amended to provide that the cancer presumption be limited to types of cancer that scientific evidence establishes that Firefighters develop at a higher rate than the general public; and
- S-716 amended to end the presumption at age 65 when the firefighter becomes eligible for Medicare. Alternatively, S-716 should be amended to remove volunteers and establish a special program for them along the lines recently adopted by New York, Connecticut, Michigan, Colorado and Georgia; and
- S-716 also be amended so that the standard to rebut the presumption remains at the current “preponderance of the evidence”; and
- S-477 be amended to increase statute of limitation on claims involving sexual molestation against public entities to 7 years, subject to no limitation against the molester; and
- S-1766 be amended to remove public entities from “emotional distress” compensation for wrongful death claims subject to Title 59.

July 9, 2018

#18-237 Authorize Alan P. Spiniello, Esq. to Enter into a Stipulation of Settlement with Daw K. & Lily S. Wong (Rev Trust) for the Property Located at 388 Mercer Avenue, Block 1002, Lot 18

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge have been advised of the proposed settlement of a tax appeal filed on behalf of Daw K. & Lily S. Wong (Rev Trust) under Tax Court Docket No(s). 013427-2017; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council having been advised of the merits of the subject tax appeal by legal counsel, the Borough’s expert appraiser and/or the Borough Tax Assessor; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned tax appeal is proposed to be settle in accordance with the Stipulation of Settlement attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough of River Edge to settle the subject tax appeal in accordance with the proposed Stipulation of Settlement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that the said tax appeal be settled and finalized in accordance with the Stipulation of Settlement attached hereto, and with respect to same, that the Mayor and any other appropriate official is hereby authorized to perform any act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2750-55-6500 of the Current Fund in the amount of \$830.41.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to forward a copy of this resolution to James Anzevino, the Borough's Tax Assessor and Alan P. Spiniello, Esq.

July 9, 2018

#18-238 Authorize Alan P. Spiniello, Esq. to Enter into a Stipulation of Settlement with River Edge Associates for the Property Located at 253-297 Kinderkamack Road, Block 1007, Lot 1

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge have been advised of the proposed settlement of a tax appeal filed on behalf of River Edge Associates under Tax Court Docket No(s). 008296-2013; 008722-2014; 0007655-2015 for the year(s) 2013, 2014 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council having been advised of the merits of the subject tax appeal by legal counsel, the Borough's expert appraiser and/or the Borough Tax Assessor; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned tax appeal is proposed to be settled through negotiations to dismiss and withdraw its Complaints for all years including 2013, 2014 and 2015.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough of River Edge to settle the subject tax appeal in accordance with the proposed Stipulation of Settlement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that the said tax appeal be settled and finalized in accordance with the Stipulation of Settlement attached hereto, and with respect to same, that the Mayor and any other appropriate official is hereby authorized to perform any act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to forward a copy of this resolution to James Anzevino, the Borough's Tax Assessor and Alan P. Spiniello, Esq.

July 9, 2018

#18-239 Resolution of Certification of the Annual Audit

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the Governing Body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2017 has been filed by the Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52-27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6-5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the Governing Body has reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations", and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations", as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the Governing Body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body

no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:30-6-5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local Governing Body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or members of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

July 9, 2018

#18-240 Resolution to Approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Fiscal Year 2017 Audit Report for the Borough of River Edge

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services requires the Chief Financial Officer to file a “Corrective Action Plan” outlining the actions to be taken by the Borough of River Edge relative to the findings and recommendations in the annual audit report; and

WHEREAS, the “Corrective Action Plan” shall be prepared by the Chief Financial Officer with assistance from other officials affected by the audit findings and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is required by resolution, to approve said “Corrective Action Plan”; and

WHEREAS, the “Corrective Action Plan”, as prepared by the Chief Financial Officer and approved by the Governing Body, shall be placed on file and made available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge hereby approves the “Corrective Action Plan” for the year 2017 Audit Report submitted by the Chief Financial Officer.

July 9, 2018

#18-241 Authorize Clerk to Go Out for Bid for the 2018 ADA Curb Ramp Improvements Intersection of Wayne Avenue and Kinderkamack Road

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge desires to go out for bid for the 2018 ADA Curb Ramp Improvements Intersection of Wayne Avenue and Kinderkamack Road; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has submitted plans and specifications for the project entitled 2018 ADA Curb Ramp Improvements Intersection of Wayne Avenue and Kinderkamack Road to the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge; and

WHEREAS, these plans and specifications have been reviewed by the Borough Engineer and Borough Attorney at a work session held on June 25, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge desire to memorialize their approval of the plans and specifications and the design elements contained therein for the project entitled 2018 ADA Curb Ramp Improvements Intersection of Wayne Avenue and Kinderkamack Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the plans and specifications for the project entitled 2018 ADA Curb Ramp Improvements Intersection of Wayne Avenue and Kinderkamack Road are hereby accepted and approved by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk be authorized to advertise in THE RECORD for the purpose of providing said service.

July 9, 2018

#18-242 Amend Agreement with DMR Architects, 777 Terrace Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey 07604 for Architectural and Engineering Services for the River Edge Community Center

WHEREAS, there exists a need for professional architectural and engineering services for the River Edge Community Center; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has previously awarded a contract to DMR Architects via resolution #17-145 dated April 3, 2017 in the amount of \$32,000.00 and amended via resolution #18-109 on March 12, 2018 in the amount of \$70,500.00; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is required to proceed with Task I of the proposal dated March 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1652-100 of the Current Fund in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, DMR Architects has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that DMR Architects has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit DMR Architects from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have examined resumes, biographies, work experience; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed price and other factors when considering supporting reasons for awarding this contract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have discussed this matter at their work session of July 9, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed the following:

President and CEO	\$175.00 per hour
VP/General Counsel	\$165.00 per hour
Principal/Vice President	\$155.00 per hour
Senior Designer	\$150.00 per hour
Senior Project Manager	\$145.00 per hour
Project Manager	\$140.00 per hour
Project Architect	\$130.00 per hour
Draftsperson	\$100.00 per hour
Interior Designer	\$125.00 per hour

Clerical

\$ 75.00 per hour

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with DMR Architects, 777 Terrace Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00; and
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.
4. That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS for publication.

July 9, 2018

#18-243 Report Investments Pursuant to the Cash Management Plan

BE IT RESOLVED that the following investments and deposits made pursuant to the Cash Management Plan of the Borough of River Edge are hereby confirmed and accepted by the Governing Body.

Months of May and June, 2018.

<u>Name of Institution</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Earned Income</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Int. Rate</u>
N.J. Cash Management Fund	\$8,200,000.00	CMF	\$8,200,000.00	\$41,211.99	\$8,241,211.99	1.85

July 9, 2018

#18-244 Amend Capital Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge, New Jersey desires to amend the Capital Budget of said municipality by inserting thereon or correcting the items therein as shown on such budget for the following reason: Replacement of Sidewalks and Curb Ramps at Various Locations

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge in the County of Bergen as follows:

Section 1. The 2018 Capital Budget of the Borough of River Edge is hereby amended by adding thereto a Schedule to read as follows:

AMENDMENT 18-1
 CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
 Projects Scheduled for 2018
 Method of Financing

<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Capital Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Bond/Notes Authorized</u>
Replacement of Sidewalks & Curb Ramps at Various Locations	\$40,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$38,000.00

July 9, 2018

#18-245 VOID

#18-246 Amend Agreement with Robert Costa, Borough Engineer for Professional Services Related to the Crosswalk at Wayne Avenue and Kinderkamack Road – Survey/Design & Inspect

WHEREAS, there exists a need for expert professional engineering services related to the Crosswalk at Wayne Avenue and Kinderkamack Road – survey/design & inspect; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has previously awarded a contract to Robert Costa, Borough Engineer via resolution #17-362 dated November 6, 2017 in the amount of \$3,000.00 and amended via resolution #18-100 dated February 26, 2018 in the amount of \$12,000.00; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is required for professional services related to design and inspection of Wayne and Kinderkamack sidewalks, ramps & crosswalks; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account ##04-2150-55-1837-100 of the Capital Fund in the amount not to exceed \$2,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, Robert Costa has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Robert Costa has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Robert Costa from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have examined resumes, biographies, work experience; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed price and other factors when considering supporting reasons for awarding this contract; and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed \$65.00 per hour as Borough Engineer and per hour rates as follows:

Principal/Project Engineer.....	\$ 65.00
Principal Land Surveyor.....	\$ 75.00
Survey Field Crew.....	\$150.00
Senior Designer.....	\$ 65.00
Senior Drafter.....	\$ 55.00
Computer Drafting	\$ 75.00
Technical/Administrative Assistant	\$ 65.00
Field Inspector.....	\$ 80.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Robert Costa, Costa Engineering Corp., 325 South River Street, Suite 302, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 in the amount not to exceed \$2,500.00; and
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.

July 9, 2018

#18-247 Enter into Agreement with Robert Costa, Borough Engineer, for Professional Services Related to Oxford Phase IV – Design Plans & Specs and Inspection of the Project

WHEREAS, there exists a need for expert professional engineering services related to Oxford Phase IV – Design Plans & Specs and Inspection of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1652-100 of the Current Fund in the amount of \$5,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, Robert Costa has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Robert Costa has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Robert Costa from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have examined resumes, biographies, work experience; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed price and other factors when considering supporting reasons for awarding this contract; and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed \$65.00 per hour as Borough Engineer and per hour rates as follows:

Principal Engineer.....	\$ 65.00
Principal Land Surveyor.....	\$ 75.00
Survey Field Crew.....	\$150.00
Senior Designer.....	\$ 65.00
Senior Drafter.....	\$ 55.00
Computer Drafting.....	\$ 75.00
Technical/Administrative Assistant.....	\$ 65.00
Field Inspector.....	\$ 80.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Robert Costa, Costa Engineering Corp., 325 South River Street, Suite 302, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00; and
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.
4. That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS for publication.

July 9, 2018

#18-248 Authorize Cancellation of Accounts Payable

WHEREAS, there exists various accounts payable on the books of the Current Fund; and

WHEREAS, the various purchase orders and contracts creating these accounts payable have been investigated and it has been determined that these should be cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following accounts payable in the following amounts are hereby cancelled.

<u>P.O. #</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
32884	Indian Harbor Insurance	\$ 7,408,95	7 Eleven Litigation
32063	BB Plan & Design	\$ 3,000.00	7 Eleven Litigation
32651	Indian Harbor Insurance	\$15,433.00	7 Eleven Litigation

July 9, 2018

#18-249 Resolution to Authorize Submission of the Application for the River Edge Municipal Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Grant for 2018

WHEREAS, the Governor’s council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Bergen.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT that the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the River Edge Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2019 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$9,876.00
Cash Match	\$2,469.00
In Kind	\$7,407.00

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Approved: _____
Edward J. Mignone, Mayor

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the Municipal Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Grant.

July 9, 2018

#18-250 Enter into a Shared Services Agreement for Short Term Emergency Sharing of Fire Apparatus Between the County of Bergen and Any Municipality Within the County of Bergen

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen operates a Fire academy through the County’s Department of Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen owns certain fire apparatus, including ladder vehicles and engines (“Fire Apparatus”) used for training firefighters; and

WHEREAS, subject to the operational needs of the Fire Academy, the County seeks to make certain Fire Apparatus available to the municipalities within Bergen County on a

temporary/emergency basis solely for use as front line fire apparatus; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge seeks to ensure its ability to utilize the Fire Apparatus on a temporary/emergency basis as front line fire apparatus; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Borough of River Edge have determined that by entering into this Shared Services Agreement governing the terms for borrowing the County's Fire Apparatus in advance of the Borough of River Edge's need to utilize the Fire Apparatus, the parties will be able to facilitate the prompt availability of the Fire Apparatus at such time as the Borough of River Edge has a need to utilize it; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge feels that this agreement is in the best interest of the residents of River Edge; and

WHEREAS, this shared services agreement is established in accordance with the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, P.L. 2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1, *et. seq.*).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the County of Bergen for Short Term Emergency Sharing of Fire Apparatus Between the County of Bergen and any Municipality within the County of Bergen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk forward a copy of this resolution and the Agreement to the County of Bergen.

July 9, 2018

Councilman Bartelloni read resolution #18-251 into the record.

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Busted, resolution #18-251 was unanimously approved.

#18-251 Payment of Bills

WHEREAS, vouchers for the payment of goods and services rendered to the Borough of River Edge have been received; and

WHEREAS, each bill has been checked by the receiving department, approved by the Chief Financial Officer and Borough Clerk and reviewed by the three members of the Finance Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that bills as listed now be confirmed for payment from the appropriate funds as follows:

CURRENT ACCOUNT	\$407,437.43
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 29,004.00
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 8,298.25
ANIMAL WELFARE ACCOUNT	\$ 4.80
SELF INSURANCE ACCOUNT	\$ 5,053.38
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 44,729.90
OPEN SPACE ACCOUNT	\$ 2,237.18
TRUST OTHER DEVELOPERS ACCOUNT	\$ 2,102.50

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that claims read and approved by the Governing Body at a Council meeting will be dated the day after the reading of those claims and will appear on the following bill list at the next public meeting of the Mayor and Council at which time claims would

be paid.

July 9, 2018

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

On motion by Councilwoman Busted, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to open the hearing of the public was unanimously approved.

Henry Semmler-435 Bogert Road-said that he attended a Council meeting two weeks ago, and since that time there have been several events in town that have given him the opportunity to speak to many citizens about the Community Center. He said that he found that they are overwhelmingly against it. He is glad that they are going to set up a meeting in a few weeks but has a question about whether the \$18,000 rental for SCORE is subsidized by the state or local government?

Mayor Mignone-replied no. We have in the past gotten about \$1,800 for CDBG programs but nothing for the rent.

Donna Sanders-674 Millbrook Road-said that as a member of the Ambulance Corp., she would like more information about the Community Center and feels that the public is not aware of it.

Mayor Mignone-said that he doesn't want to get into too much detail because without having the architect or engineer here, sometimes information is missing or incomplete and some people will take that as not being told the truth or purposely leaving something out. He would rather wait until the next meeting when both professionals are present. The Mayor explained that basically this started in 2008/2009 when none of them were on the dais at that time but the Mayor and Council at the time decided to purchase the American Legion building with the intent of using it for a senior center. It's been intended to have a community/senior center since 2008/2009. The Mayor said that the building was in disrepair the day it was purchased. When the previous Council had the building assessed, it was determined that it was not suitable for public occupancy. At that time it was estimated that just to bring it up to code would cost \$1 million dollars. Also during that time when Mayor Moscaritolo got into office, he formed a sub-committee to start exploring options on how to proceed with that and he believes the first sub-committee members were Mayor Moscaritolo, Councilman Acquafredda and Councilman Bartelloni. Mayor Mignone was put on the committee when Councilman Bartelloni was no longer on the Council and now after the passing of Councilman Acquafredda, Councilman Papaleo has taken his spot. The Mayor again said that this has been going on for many years with multiple discussions, articles in the Record and Town News, discussions at budget hearings and discussed with the Recreation Commission, Library Board, Shade Tree Commission, Historic Commission, SCORE, etc.

Donna Sanders-said that members of the Ambulance Service have had discussions about it and have concerns about the parking.

Mayor Mignone-assured her that whatever dedicated spaces they have now, they will make sure they have the same amount going forward.

Donna Sanders-asked if people be notified who reside within 200 feet of the proposed building before anything is decided?

Mayor Mignone-replied no because that's not required in this case. He also said that it's not broad enough because if they did send letters, it may only include about 40 or 50 houses.

Donna Sanders-said that she thought that in order for them to do any kind of work, you would have to notify people.

Mayor Mignone-explained that it would only apply if you had a regular application going before the Zoning Board. When the Borough does a project, the Board has a hearing and could make recommendations but the Borough is not obligated to accept them but in most cases they probably would. It would be put on as a regular application, experts would give testimony and the public would be able to ask questions.

Donna Sanders-asked if they would have more information on the 13th?

Mayor Mignone-said that he hasn't heard back from the architect because he's on vacation this week.

Cindy Bequeaith-745 7th Avenue-said that she received a notice that her street will be milled and paved on or about July 12th and July 16th and not to put cars on the street. She said that these dates coincide with the dates for garbage and recycling pick-up and asked if the streets will be closed from 8:00 to 5:00, what should they do with these items. She called the DPW and was told that an option is to hold the items for another week.

Mayor Mignone-explained that the reason they say "on or about" is because they're part of the cooperative and the contractor may not necessarily work in a sequential order because they may be in another town. The Mayor said that they will reach out to Mr. Costa tomorrow who will call them to let them know the scheduling issues and if they be moved, they'll move it but if there are other accommodations we'll have to let you know. He feels that it's flexible enough that they can adjust it.

Cindy Bequeaith-said that she's not looking to change anything but suggested the residents bring their

things to Continental or Webb.

Mayor Mignone-said that he's sure it has happened but he's not aware that it's been brought to their attention as an issue. There should be enough flexibility and hopes that the schedule can be modified so that the residents are not inconvenienced.

Cindy Bequeaith-thanked the Cultural Center for putting on another great car show and she heard from many people who were there for the first time that it was one of the better car shows that they've attended in the area. She said that she, her mother and her sister have all joined the Hillsdale Swim Club because they offer a senior rate. She understands that the Hillsdale pool is subsidized by the town. She has approached the River Edge Swim Club manager and board and they said that they would not do any kind of special senior pricing. Mrs. Bequeaith said that there may be many senior citizens in our town that aren't joining because they don't want to spend \$600 and asked if something like that could be taken into consideration.

Kyle Witty-187 Tenney Avenue-said he too understands that there will be another meeting with the architect and engineer but feels that some of his questions the Mayor or Council could answer. Mr. Witty said that he's been a resident in town for 7 years and is optimistic about the Community/Senior Center and truly believes he lives in the best area of town. He walks his kids to the park and he walked to the meeting tonight. He asked what facilities are currently lacking that make a need for a community center to be built. He knows that SCORE has been brought up but it is his understanding that they are a group of 20 to 25. He asked if that is accurate?

Mayor Mignone-said he doesn't know. He knows that they have more registered than that but doesn't know if they get all of the members on any given week. The Mayor said that part of their concern is that they want to go to a borough facility. They've had some issues with the Lessee where there have been disruption to when they can meet because of conflicts with Jewish holidays and the limiting days that they can meet. The Mayor said many seniors have expressed interest in it and he is optimistic that if we had a facility with full programming in place we may encourage more people to join.

Kyle Witty-said that in the drawings that were shown two weeks ago, there was an area dedicated for a teen center which he assumes would be for an after school time period between 3:00 and 5:00. He asked if that would mean a dedicated staff would be hired for that purpose?

Mayor Mignone-replied that the Recreation Director's office will be there.

Kyle Witty-said that although he has not spoken with the Recreation Director, he is sure that it's not her responsibility to monitor teens that are there.

Mayor Mignone-said that that's incorrect because when they modified our ordinance for the Recreation Commission, they have a Recreation Commission and a Board of Cultural Affairs with the intent that the Recreation Department will be the responsible entity for running and organizing the programming for the Community Center. One of the things that attracted our new Rec Director to us as well as well as us to her was that she has experience in typical recreation activities and sports as well as experience in special events. She's also programmed senior centers and community centers so she knows how to get this type of programming up and running and understands the best way to implement it. The teen room was something that she had suggested at one time but doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be a dedicated room. She will work up programming and we can decide how these spaces get used. Her experience was that if you have something, teens will participate and attend. He's heard from many parents that we have a lot of kids and nowhere for them to go so that's the intent behind it.

Kyle Witty-said lastly, he's requesting that a traffic study be conducted because as a resident in that area, it sounds like a lot of the activity is going to be post-school, and anyone that lives in the area will tell you that there is a tremendous amount of traffic during that time period. He said that they deal with different traffic issues throughout the year such as the Farmer's Market and the car show which are tremendous events that he and his family enjoy, but they do create traffic problems. He is very concerned with having an entrance and exit on Elm Avenue and as a police officer, he understands that putting an entrance and exit on Continental may be difficult but feels that's why a traffic study is necessary. He also specified that this study should be done during the school year to really understand what we're adding. He again said that he wants it to be successful but wants to make sure that we keep the integrity of our community in that area.

Mayor Mignone-said that the Borough Engineer can speak about that when he's here but one of the reasons we have problems now is because there isn't sufficient parking there. The Library itself has requested many times to expand the parking just for them so if and when this building does go forward, it has to have adequate parking. They don't want it overflowing to the neighborhood houses which happens now. The Mayor said that Continental is not preferable because there are 15,000 cars that pass every day and you could not allow any parallel parking and generally you want to have your entrances and exits along the same axis for circulation purposes. The other problem that they've had for a long time is mid-block crossing from the park to the parking lot right now. If we don't have access over there, by putting some type of buffering on that side to discourage kids from crossing on their bicycles which is a major concern.

Kyle Witty-said that it's not just kids.

Mayor Mignone-agreed but again said that it's an issue.

Kyle Witty-said that he does recognize that it's an issue but feels that they will continue to have the same issue and again asked that they put a tremendous amount of thought into this. He thanked the Mayor and Council for what they're doing and again asked that they keep the Borough the best that it can be.

Kenny Lehmann-190 Tenney Avenue –spoke about the \$4,000 that was appropriated in the work session for the architect and asked what that covers?

Mayor Mignone-explained that it's to finish out the concept phase so if we have to make changes based on public input, we have the money in place for him to do so.

Kenny Lehmann-asked if it's an allocated amount just in case it's needed?

Mayor Mignone-replied yes.

Kenny Lehmann-asked if there was a reason why the \$30,000 to the Borough Engineer was taken off the agenda?

Mayor Mignone-explained that it will be considered once we have our public meeting because it may require him to modify his scope of services as well.

Kenny Lehmann- asked if that's to cover the change in scope?

Mayor Mignone-said no, he was going to be retained to start preliminary design on the site work part of the project.

Kenny Lehmann-asked if there was a reason why that was cancelled for tonight?

Mayor Mignone-said that the Council does not want to approve a contract for work that we don't know is going to go forward and if so what the scope is going to be. Mr. Costa can give us a revised proposal.

Kenny Lehmann-said that when he looked through paperwork from the minutes, he did come across 2018 appropriations of \$696,000 appropriated to the Community Center and asked if that was correct? He stated that \$34,830 was taken out of the Capital Improvement Fund and asked if that was money that was found in ordinances.

Mayor Mignone-explained that every time we have a bond, we're obligated to have 5% put into the budget so when you put all those together, the bonding 5 percents go into the Capital Improvement Fund. He said that generally smaller capital items for say \$10,000 or less, you wouldn't want to bond for over 20 years so it would go directly into that fund.

Kenny Lehmann-spoke about project 18-2-30 Capital Budget of the Borough of River Edge Project Schedule for 2018, and said the line item for the Community Center is \$696,600 and the Capital Improvement Fund is \$34,830 of which part of a larger general bond of \$661,778 was financed through getting that bond in place. He asked if that was correct?

Mayor Mignone-said that the authorization has been made but no bond has been issued at this point.

Kenny Lehmann-asked if they would expect that trend to fund the total Community Center cost to be debt financing the full 99% of this project.

Mayor Mignone-said he doesn't understand the question.

Kenny Lehmann-said that if you have \$34,000 that you put towards this project.....

Councilman Bartelloni-said that the \$34,000 is money we put towards the project this year.

Kenny Lehmann-said he understands that but this year alone if you allocate \$696,000 for the Community Center of which \$661,770 is being part of the larger bond that we're financing over the course of 15 years, is it expected that as we move into 2019, that the total funding of this project will be majority financed through bonds?

Councilman Bartelloni-said that any time you have a capital improvement in town, whether it's the streets, a fire truck, SUV's for the Police Department you don't pay cash for that up front, all of those are financed over a period of time. So this project wouldn't be any different than any other material purchase that the town makes.

Kenny Lehmann-said "so that would be yes"?

Councilman Bartelloni-replied yes, and this is where he knows a lot of people say they didn't know about this, but the town has been putting money aside for this since 2013. This is not the beginning of it, what Mr. Lehmann is looking at is the end of it. He explained that they've been strategically putting money aside over a long period of time so that there wouldn't be an impact to the citizens. In fact this year as they've said, there was no municipal tax increase.

Kenny Lehmann-said that it doesn't mean it's not part of the overall tax burden.

Councilman Bartelloni-said that the budget has already been approved and it was zero this year so when Mr. Lehmann says going forward, there is no going forward it's already done.

Kenny Lehmann-echoed the statements made by his neighbor Kyle Witty that it is the intention of the Council to do what's best for the community. He said, yes, it's been in the papers, yes it's been discussed here and yes people have been talking about it for years but not everyone gets or reads all of the articles in the Record and the Town News. Based on the attention that this is getting now, that maybe we weren't cognizant of how this was getting relayed out to the community. It makes sense that questions would come up about the project and that the execution of the project is done in full transparency and is done in the best interest of everyone.

Mayor Mignone-said that is a fair question and they are trying to accommodate that. The Mayor said he appreciates Mr. Lehmann's comments and that they understand that not everyone is able to come to these meetings and lately since the purchase of the Town News, no articles are written about River Edge.

The Mayor said that there used to be a dedicated news reporter that would come to the meetings and write two or three articles which was a great way to get information out, but that hasn't happened in quite a while. During the former Mayor's tenure, public surveys were distributed and at that time he met with potential stake holder groups which talked about needs and program space. All this was done 6 to 8 years ago. We're limited by a couple of constraints, one is budget. We want to make sure that the money we spend we get value for our dollar and assured everyone that it is something that this council has always strived to do. The other constraint is a balance between the size of the building and it's parking spots. You get to a point where if you shrink it too much, it will become something that is not well used as you see happen in other towns. It's modest enough where we think it will get good use and it seems to meet the needs of the groups that they've spoken to. The Mayor also said that the schools have been pressuring us for years to move the polling places so this would be an option for that. The Mayor said that the third constraint that we have is we are restricted in the footprint we can use because most of that land has been encumbered with a conservation easement when we accepted Green Acres money to buy the strip of land next to Cherry Hill School. Basically, where the west wall of the existing American Legion is, if you project that towards the Library, anything there to the east is the only buildable area that would be permitted based on those restrictions. They are trying to balance all of those to get a project that will be very beneficial to the community and mindful of mitigating any impact during construction. The Mayor said that right now we have a very busy Library and not enough parking as well as the Farmer's Market and other events where there is spill over traffic on side streets that they have taken into consideration. Weighing all of the pros and cons and by a unanimous consensus, the Council voted to proceed with this project in concept and we're at the point where we have concept plans developed and that's where we are in the process. He said that will be entertain questions while the professionals are here and if there's something policy oriented that we can answer, we'll answer it. Kenny Lehmann-asked if there were actual project detailed requirements that were actually gathered with regards to designing this Community Center in terms of size and need.

Mayor Mignone-stated that there is a document, although he doesn't know if it was ever finalized, that was put together by Councilman Acquafredda who was an architect by trade outlining the purpose, what the use would be, etc. One of the things that delayed this for a number of years was the fact that they could not come to a consensus within the committee on the order of magnitude this building should be. He explained that some of the first proposals were 9,000 to 10,000 square feet, two stories with elevators which would not be practical financially. It took a long time before we were all able to say look at all these constraints and look what's going to be realistic and start from there. Once they got to that point, they engaged a new architect to come up with concepts and the engineer came up with a site plan for us and that's where we are today.

Kenny Lehmann-said that when he looks at the user friendly version of the outstanding debt for our town, we're in the \$31 million dollar range which includes both local school debt, regional school debt and municipal debt. He said that he thinks the municipal debt is \$11 million dollars. If he's reading it correctly, the tax revenues are expected to be around the \$12 million dollar range so with that kind of municipal debt to revenue ratio, does it make sense to finance a project that could go higher than \$2.6 million dollars, when you have that sizeable debt?

Mayor Mignone-explained that the debt is rolling in a sense. We have old bonds that get paid off every year and take new bonds as necessary. We don't bond every year, we have bond sales every 3 to 7 years.

Kenny Lehmann-asked what the average rate we spend?

Councilman Bartelloni-replied in recent years it's been very low about 2%.

Mayor Mignone-stated that our debt service has been pretty consistent usually between 9 and 11% and it has been that historically. Next year we'll actually see a slight decrease in overall debt as other things come off. The Mayor stated that River Edge is one of the few municipalities that actually has a written debt policy in place based on total valuation and percentage of the budget.

Kenny Lehmann-asked if that's just municipal or does it include the schools.

Mayor Mignone-said that we don't finance the schools. He continued to say that from a state stand point, they tend to lump everything together. As a resident, most people don't look to see where each one fell in terms of an increase, they just see an overall increase. The Mayor explained that we're 25% of the overall tax bill and if you look over the last 8 years you can see that we've tried very, very hard to keep our financial house in order. He said that when he came into office, we were on the verge of bankruptcy in 2011 and the surplus was almost down to zero. The year before there was a \$375.00 tax increase, the previous council raised taxes 15% that year. The Mayor continued to say that there's been a lot of fiscal control in place and we're very cognizant of capital and try to keep it even year to year. As far as the overall debt service, since we've been here we've been upgraded by both rating agencies....

Kenny Lehmann-said you're AA+ and he read in the November minutes that you'd be considered to go up if you actually had a forward thinking budget and plan. He asked if that is in process? They want something forecasted 3 to 5 years out. Mr. Lehmann asked if the mid-August meeting is the best that we can do since it is prime time vacation season?

Mayor Mignone-said that we're trying to move this along, so we'll see. Once you get into September, we'll hear about school starting and people can't come but we'll do our best.

Kenny Lehmann-thanked the Mayor and Council for answering his questions and for the information.

Cindy Bequeaith-asked if a Cultural Center expansion is included in this?

Mayor Mignone-said that the Cultural Center is not included in this. That building would not be a suitable starting point for a community center. The Cultural Center building is habitable and can be used and if you've been in there, there are a lot of stairs and would require a lot more costs up front to retrofit it to code. At the end of the day, whatever size building we put, we need the same number of parking spaces per our borough ordinances. You always have to have sufficient parking because you try to avoid spill over parking onto side streets.

Peter Dunsay-446 Oak Avenue-said on behalf of the Cultural Center and Car Show Committee they want to thank everyone for their support with the car show and said that the show financially was the most successful that they've ever had and will result in programs for the benefit of the community going forward in 2019. He said that next week, they will start to prepare for next years show with a lessons learned session of what we could do better, they read all comments that were received, digest them and then address them. Mr. Dunsay that at a previous meeting they discussed having a lessons learned meeting with the Police Department to review the approach so that we can improve the show next year. They were very happy with the support from the community.

Mayor Mignone-thanked Mr. Dunsay and the Cultural Center because they do recognize the time and effort that goes into something like that. As the Mayor has said in the past, it is an event that people look forward and is a positive reflection on the Borough. There are many car owners who have told him that this is one of the better shows that they go to. The Mayor said that it's a great event that they always support with the understanding that we have to also take into account the needs of the neighborhood, streets and issues of public safety.

Ray Searles – 25 Tenney Avenue-said he remembers when he and his wife moved here 9 years ago and how happy they were to end up in River Edge. He had two concerns when he bought the house which were the detached garage in disrepair and the 3 sump pumps that went off all day long. He called the town about the sump pumps and Mr. Costa came to his home and gave him recommendations on how to deal with it. At that time, he thought what a great town this is. Mr. Searles told the Mayor and Council that our current Zoning Officer is an extremely negative human being. He feels he is very condescending and is not someone who portrays the image that we want for River Edge. He admits that the paperwork upon his initial submission may not have been adequate but wanted to voice his displeasure with what has taken place since he submitted his application over two months ago.

Mayor Mignone-asked what he submitted an application for?

Ray Searles-replied a zoning application because it is close to the Yeshiva property.

Mayor Mignone-said "so you have an existing garage"?

Ray Searles-said correct, so if I knock it down and try to replace it we get into a zoning conversation. Mr. Searles was not happy with the tone and negative way he was spoken to which is the complete opposite of what his experience has been in this town.

Mayor Mignone-said he appreciates that and said that he's been trying to work with the Building Department on a number of levels and in his professional background, he knows what's required. He tries to impress upon them that the average resident doesn't know what the zoning tables are and they don't know what you mean by certain things so it's a complicated message process sometimes. He said that he's been trying to revamp many applications, forms and instructions to make it easier and more clear for our residents. The Mayor said that it's very important to him that the interaction that he had with our employees should always be professional, courteous and helpful even if you do have an incomplete application.

Ray Searles-felt that he wanted to appear in person with his complaint instead of writing an email.

Mayor Mignone-again stated that the whole process needs to be tightened up and feels that if we have clearer guidance, it will go a long way in helping residents. If we need to remind our employees on how they should be interacting with our residents they will do so.

Casey Connors-259 Adams Avenue-asked how many members are in SCORE?

Mayor Mignone-said he doesn't know for sure but thinks total membership is about 60 or so and maybe 20 or so attend meeting regularly.

Councilman Gautier-said that when he's been there, there have been more than that.

Councilman Bartelloni-said that it changes depending on what day you go. Usually there are more people on Monday than Tuesday.

Casey Connors-feels that spending all that money to build a community center for 20 people isn't worth it.

Councilman Bartelloni-said that the building is not just for SCORE...

Casey Connors-asked what else it will be used for?

Councilman Bartelloni-said that they've talked about teenagers and said if you've ever been at the Library after 3 o'clock in the afternoon, he can tell you that it's not a place where you can get a lot of work done. When he met with various organization in town, he found out that there's a huge need for meeting space. He didn't realize that there were that many organizations who use the Library's meeting room. He continued to say that they can utilize space during the Summer Playground Program when

they have inclement weather or oppressive heat so that they wouldn't have to cancel sessions. He's also heard from people who would like to have the summer program extend their hours which would be a possibility if they had extra room. He said SCORE is just one element of the overall plan and feels that there are many other groups that will benefit from it.

Mayor Mignone-stated that the Library has actually come to the Mayor and Council because they want to put on their own meeting room.

Councilman Gautier-commented that they want a multi-purpose room.

Mayor Mignone-said that there's certainly a need for it and there's already been a request for it. All of the commissions have expressed that they would have programs or meetings there. The Cultural Center was invited to participate but they would prefer to stay in the facility that they have now. Many other organizations such as the Scouts who now pay for meeting space would be able to utilize the space.

Councilman Bartelloni-said that there are certain target audiences that are really underserved in town right now and teenagers are one of those groups. He said that we're great until 8th grade and then there's not much that's offered so he looks forward to working with our new Rec Director to set up new programs. He said that we have SCORE but as we know, it doesn't necessarily serve the needs of our 65 to 80 age group.

Casey Connors-said that at the last meeting it was brought up that SCORE wanted a full kitchen asked how much does the town pay for the lease at the Temple?

Mayor Mignone-explained that the last few years the rent was reduced from \$22,000 to \$18,000 per year for two partial days a week. Since the Mayor has been on the dais, he has asked them to give us flexibility in the event where they may have a holiday conflict.

Casey Connors-asked if there's room for dancing?

Councilman Bartelloni-said that if you've ever been there and you see the main room that they use on Monday's it's quite large. He explained to Mr. Connors the different activities that they do in that room.

Lou Rocco-191 Tenney Avenue-said he's lived on Tenney Avenue for 25+ years and wanted to comment on the statement that 3:00 at the Library being the worst time, he also suggested a traffic study.

Councilman Bartelloni-said that it's pedestrian traffic.

Lou Rocco-said that there's lots of pick-ups and drop-offs and on his block there are almost 20 kids playing in the streets. He has concerns with having more traffic on Elm.

Councilman Bartelloni-said that he appreciates his concerns as he himself has three small children between 12 and 5 and he lives a block and half away.

Lou Rocco-asked what street he lives on?

Councilman Bartelloni-replied Oak Avenue across from the ballfields. He explained that from September to November and March to the end of July he understands because cars are parked there constantly. He said that he totally understands where he's coming from and it's something they will continue to look at.

Mayor Mignone-stated that generally, traffic studies don't come out the way people want them to and as an engineer he can tell you that a trip generation for a library is higher than a trip generation for a community center. Although people will say that can't be so, these standards that have been developed with hundreds and hundreds real life analyses and they will tell you that the most important things are sufficient parking, safe circulation and clear drop-off points. The Mayor said that they will ask the Borough Engineer for his input and we would have to define what is meant by a traffic study because it means different things to different people as opposed to what he means to him as an engineer.

Lou Rocco-said that his main concern is safety when children are running around. He said Elm is not a large street especially when you have parking on both sides and 80 cars coming in and out is something to consider.

Councilman Bartelloni-agreed 100%. He said that it's definitely something that they're committed to looking at and trying to minimize as we go forward. As he said before, he has 3 small children himself and would never do anything that he thought would put any children in harms way.

Mayor Mignone-stated that it may become a situation where you prohibit some of the on street parking which would be in consultation with the Police Department as well.

Jane Silane - 653 Bogert Road-asked if they have this money set aside already for this project in a dedicated account?

Mayor Mignone-said that it's allocated, we didn't borrow it at this point.

Jane Silane-asked about the ongoing cost for this facility?

Councilman Bartelloni-asked, the yearly costs?

Jane Silane-replied the upkeep of it and the staffing.

Mayor Mignone-said that's a fair question and that's something we have the architect working on also. Obviously there will utility costs, cleaning, etc. It's not a building that will require a lot of upkeep. DPW will be responsible for maintaining it and plowing it and those costs are already embedded in the overall budget anyway.

Councilman Bartelloni-explained that he's looking into how the library spends for utilities during the course of the year and for water and gas they spend approximately \$30,000 a year. This building is less than half the size and significantly smaller and wouldn't anticipate heating and cooling costs more than a

large home because it's one story with new technology, insulation and energy efficient heating and cooling systems.

Councilman Gautier-said that we wouldn't have to pay rent for SCORE.

Councilman Bartelloni-agreed and said that that would come off as well.

Mayor Mignone-feels that it will be the offset for the operating expenses.

Jane Silane-understands that they are a lot of groups that need meeting space but doesn't know if it will be utilized. She has teenagers and finds that there are a lot of activities in place now and isn't sure many teenagers will actually come to a community center.

Mayor Mignone-again stated that it is not being designed for that specific purpose, it's just something that they've been hearing from parents. Our Rec Director believes that she can come up with programming that may attract teens. The Mayor explained that they want to make it a usable building that can be used by various different groups.

Jane Silane-said that she has lived in River Edge 15 years and she's not from New Jersey and has lived in many different locations and found that the trend is a throw away society. Instead of using facilities that we have or reclaiming office space, they keep building out. When she looks at Paramus and New Milford you can see all the clear cutting that is going on. The trees and having green space helps with flooding issues and would prefer to utilize facilities that we already have before we start building new structures.

Mayor Mignone-said that that is a fair comment and could be addressed but we don't have any other Borough facilities. We would have to purchase or lease something.

Jane Silane-she suggested where the VFW was, to utilize that space.

Mayor Mignone-explained that it doesn't matter from the sense that the square footage is the square footage and the parking would be the parking. It doesn't matter where you put it, it will take up the same footprint. The controlling factor of the overall design is the size of the building because it has to be scaled so that it's flexible and usable and safety accommodate parking. As he mentioned before, we're also constrained where they are allowed to build because of conservation easements on our public properties.

Jane Silane-asked if there is conservation where those trees are?

Mayor Mignone-replied no. In terms of the regulations that we are under, that area is not included.

Jane Silane-said that in the 15 years that she's been here, her taxes have just about doubled. She doesn't foresee herself using these services, or becoming a member of SCORE because they're going to get pushed out. She doesn't see how she will be able to retire here at the rate things are going.

Mayor Mignone-said "a lot of us agree with you". He said that they are very, very cognizant of the municipal tax burden and they've done what they can to slow things down and have been way below the 2% cap for several years now. And as Councilman Bartelloni said, we've have no municipal increase this year but the school may get state aid which he hopes will get turned back to the taxpayers. The Mayor said that it's less likely that people will go to the school boards and press them too. If no one goes and voice their concerns, there's no impetus for them to change anything. He said we try to work with the schools to control costs such as shared services with snow plowing and things like that. The Mayor said that they all share her concerns and they're trying to do things to change the trajectory.

Cindy Bequeaith-said that as she's heard this evening, there's so much emphasis put on usage of the building on the senior side and feels there's so much more that can be done with this. She is retired and would like to have a place to go to do some activities whether it be knitting, model cars or any number of things that families can do or that people in their 40's 50's or 60's can do. She feels that a community center would be an asset to our town for people that want to move here to know there's a place for programs and activities.

Mayor Mignone-said he was approached by resident who was in charge of organizing an adult education series of classes and felt that it would be a perfect facility in which to do that also.

Cindy Bequeaith-asked if they plan on putting something out that people can read before the August meeting so that there's more detail about the planning of this center? She feels that it would be helpful to have something on the website showing some of the ideas that they've come up with.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

On motion by Councilman Bartelloni, seconded by Councilwoman Busted to close hearing of the public was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilman Gautier-congratulated the members of the Fire Department who were honored this evening as well as the men and women who go running towards danger when everyone else would run away. He feels that they are a credit to our town and thanked them for their heroic acts. He attended the Independence Day celebration and commended the Rec Commission and Councilman Bartelloni for putting it together. Councilman Gautier also attended the Car Show and felt it was one of the best car

shows that he has every attended and thanked them for doing a wonderful job. Councilman Gautier said that on Saturday he will be attending the first annual River Dell Junior Wrestling Tournament at River Dell High School which is also an Eagle Scout project and he looks forward to it being a great event. Councilman Bartelloni is very happy that July 4th is over but felt it went off very well considering for a lot of them it was their first year doing it alone without Bobbi. He got started pretty much by himself and then Carolyn, our new Rec Director took the ball and ran with it over the past two months and he thanked her for the much needed help. He felt that it was well attended and well received. He reported that tomorrow G & G will be coming in to install the equipment for the television cameras and there will be some training in the afternoon. Although there are a few components that need to be worked out one being a new sound system, everything seems to be moving along. He congratulated Lieutenant Neerhout, Captain Carroll and Firefighter Neerhout and he stated that he just so happened to be driving down Kinderkamack and he has a picture of them scaling the ladder and going up to the roof and was absolutely amazed. He said the degree of the fire was beyond comprehension. He also commended the Fire Department for their work during the building collapse this week. He commented that Chief O'Connell made the news which was covered by every local television station in our area. Councilman Bartelloni also mentioned that the Mayor was interviewed as well and laughed at the fact that he pointed the Mayor out to one of the newscasters. He thanked all of the first responders, especially Officer Zemaïtes who was first on the scene and did a great job in mobilizing the response at the scene. In terms of the Community Center, he looks forward to the meeting on August 13th and having a discussion with our professionals and towns people. He wanted to make clear that one, he has three children and lives right around the corner where this will go, and would never be part of something that would ever endanger any children and two, he is overly concerned about costs. He said with Alan's help we wrote the policy for the debt limit in River Edge so he is always aware of the costs of projects and what the costs may be and what the impact will be on the average resident. He thinks of money that we spend in \$3,000 to \$4,000 increments because that's the municipal portion that someone would be in the property taxes to us. He is very passionate about this project as he's vested a lot of personal time for a very long time so when we have these conversations he misses Vito so much. Again he said that he does ultimately feel that it will be a huge benefit to the town.

Councilwoman Busted echoed the congratulations and the thanks to our first responders, particularly Tim Carroll and Tyler Neerhout who saved a man's life during the fire in Oradell. She also thanked them for their response during the façade collapse on Kinderkamack and felt very fortunate that no one was injured or lost their life. She said the car show was wonderful and she ran into a friend of had never been before and she said "this is why I love River Edge". She updated everyone on the Trex Challenge which is the plastic film recycling program where they're looking to gather 500 lbs. of plastic film and keep it out of the garbage and into recycling. They've collected over 200 lbs so far so she asked that everyone continue to recycle their plastics. She said that she is very proud to be a part of this Council who are working very hard to bring a positive project to fruition for our residents. She is also proud that this council takes the time to listen to its residents to make sure there is an opportunity to have our professionals here to respond to questions and concerns to make sure this is the best project for as many people as possible. She looks forward to moving ahead responsibly and thanked her colleagues for their efforts.

Councilwoman Davis echoed the thanks to the Fire Department for the great work that they did in Oradell, especially Tim Carroll and Tyler Neerhout. She said that they did an amazing job in saving that man's life and wanting to continue working after it was over. Secondly, the partial building collapse on Kinderkamack Road, she thanked Officer Zemaïtes who was riding to the car wash and noticed the dust coming from the building and stopped. She also thanked all of the first responders and additions from Paramus, Jersey City and Hackensack who worked together effortlessly. As she said before, the Fire Department had a very busy day that day. Councilwoman Davis reported that she hopes that they have a better day tomorrow for the Farmer's Market as last week wasn't so great. She said that they have lost a few vendors who said that they weren't making enough money but also have a group of vendors who have been very loyal and seem to be happy. She attended the parade on July 4th and congratulated Bobbi Conway for being nominated as Grand Marshall and thanked Councilman Bartelloni for doing a great job in putting it all together. The car show was great. She attended SCORE today and reported on a few programs that they're implementing and they relayed to her that they're not crazy about being where they are. Lastly, she said that she truly gets frustrated with social media. She said social media can be a wonder thing but so much is said that is not true or accurate which she finds frustrating. She said that this Council came together to take the community center discussion off the table so they could make sure that we got our citizens input. There is nothing more that we want than to have this building to be as perfect as it can be and giving the residents what they want and have a place of their own. They're working very hard to do that and everyone has acknowledged, this has been going on long before she was up here and she feels very proud of the way we as a Council are working together to do their best. She said that safety is our top priority. She also thinks they need to work on getting correct information on the website because it's not coming through on social media accurately.

Mayor Mignone thanked Councilman Bartelloni for his efforts in putting together July 4th. He also

expressed his thanks to the Cultural Center for putting on another great car show as well as the residents on Continental Avenue who lose access to their property while they have this event. He appreciates their patience. The Mayor spoke about the Kress Plaza disaster and when Chief O'Connell said it was a "holiday miracle" the Mayor felt that was absolutely spot on. With the grace of God, we had no injuries and no one was killed and if you saw the aftermath, it could have been very bad. He said that it goes to show that what happened in Oradell and what happened on Kinderkamack, people sometimes don't realize that our emergency services workers are really in danger. They're in danger every time they leave their homes or jobs. He said that when Tim Carroll and Mr. Neerhout went to the call, they had no idea what was going to happen or possibly being at personal risk and the same with Kress Plaza. The Mayor said that they should always be appreciative and thankful for their service. Mayor Mignone echoed Councilwoman Davis's comment about social media. He agrees that it can be a very positive way to communicate but it's hard to have a clear objective debate when people post misinformation. He thought tonight's conversation was very civil and hoped people found that they got some of their answers, although he might not have answered all of the questions to their satisfaction. The Mayor has been up here 8 years and he can't think of a single issue where everyone, including both parties has been in support of doing something like this. People have run campaigns promising to bring this project to fruition on both sides of the isle. It's something that's been talked about and they do their best to address everyone's concerns and is hopeful that they'll be able to do that in bringing something the town does want based on feedback that they've gotten. He feels that this is something that will be a very attractive asset to the borough and something that we'll all be proud of going into the future. In the interest of transparency, he understands that people can't always come here and knows that the printed media is not effective these days. He feels that if people can't come to their government, we should be able to use technology to bring it to you. We did institute our video taping on the website and YouTube and we know it's not the best quality but it is an effort to be transparent. Another thing that he and Councilman Bartelloni have been working on, is getting on public access TV. He feels that will go a long way because people will hear exactly what is said so there's less chance for people to mis-hear or misrepresent what was said at the meeting. He looks forward to that and hopes that it will be something the people will see as a useful tool and not try to use it to cause problems which sometimes happens. He feels confident that it is a great way for us to get information out to the public.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:22 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Mayor Edward J. Mignone

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated: