

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Monday, October 7, 2019
7:50 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER –

Council President Ellen Busteed called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall.

SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE -

Council President Busteed called for a moment of silent prayer and asked Councilman Chinigo to lead the salute to the flag.

STATEMENT -

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act: This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on December 21st of this location, date and time to the Ridgewood News and the Record and by posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site and filing a notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL –

Council President Busteed, Councilman Chinigo, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Kaufman and Councilman Papaleo were present; Councilman Gautier was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilwoman Davis the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Session of September 23, 2019 were approved on the following roll call: Councilman Chinigo, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Kaufman and Councilman Papaleo voted yes; Councilwoman Busteed abstained.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Papaleo, the minutes of the Mayor and Council Closed Session of September 23, 2019 were approved on the following roll call: Councilman Chinigo, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Kaufman and Councilman Papaleo voted yes; Councilwoman Busteed abstained.

PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS –

Council President Busteed read the Proclamation Declaring October 6 – 12, 2019 as Fire Prevention Week into the record as follows:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, cooking, heating, and electrical fires represent three of the nation's leading causes of home fires, and are collectively responsible for nearly half of all home fires and almost one-third of the associated fire deaths; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of home cooking, heating, and electrical fires can be prevented by taking simple safety precautions; and

WHEREAS, developing a home fire escape plan and practicing it at least twice a year are critical to escaping a fire safely; and

WHEREAS, proper installation, testing, and maintenance of smoke alarms are part of a thorough home fire escape plan; and

WHEREAS, by preventing the leading causes of home fires, and by developing and practicing a thorough home fire escape plan, people can greatly reduce their risk to fire; and

*WHEREAS, the Fire Prevention Week 2019 theme, “**Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape**” encourages the public to develop a home fire escape plan and make sure they have working smoke alarms; and*

WHEREAS, the fire service of the Borough of River Edge is dedicated to the safety of life and property from the devastating effects of fire; and

WHEREAS, the members of the fire service are joined by other concerned citizens of this Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as well as other emergency service providers and safety advocates, businesses, schools, service clubs, and organizations in their fire safety efforts; and

WHEREAS, I Ellen Busteed, Council President of the Borough of River Edge, do hereby proclaim the week of

October 6 – 12, 2019

as

Fire Prevention Week

This week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed more than 250 persons, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 buildings.

WHEREAS, I call upon the people of the Borough of River Edge to participate in fire prevention activities at home, work, and school, and to take the steps needed to make their homes and families safe from the leading causes of home fires, which include cooking, heating and electrical fires and plan and practice their home fire escape.

Council President Ellen Busteed

Dated: October 7, 2019

Council President Busteed read the Proclamation Declaring the Month of October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month into the record as follows:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in the United States, Breast Cancer is the third most common cause of cancer

deaths after lung cancer and colon cancer; and

WHEREAS, during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we renew our commitment to fighting this disease, raising awareness and supporting those affected by breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, death rates from breast cancer have been declining and this change is believed to be the result of earlier detection and improved treatment; and

WHEREAS, mammography, an “x-ray” of the breast, is recognized as the single most effective method of detecting breast changes that may be cancer long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt; and

WHEREAS, October 18, 2019 is National Mammography Day, a day set aside to promote the importance of regular screenings in the early detection and prompt treatment of breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the innovative, lifesaving work of medical professionals, through their efforts to prevent, detect and treat make a difference in the lives of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is important to continue the fight against breast cancer and to reduce the risk of this disease among our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ellen Busteed, Council President of the Borough of River Edge and on behalf of the Council do proclaim:

October 2019

as

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Council President Ellen Busteed

Dated: October 7, 2019

Council President Busteed invited 3 River Edge residents who are survivors of breast cancer to come and accept this proclamation. She said that it is an honor to know the 3 of them and the courage that they and their families have exhibited throughout our community and amongst themselves to fight this disease. To see how they’ve come through and be so healthy and be wonderful stewards of what it means to take care of one’s health and not be afraid to share their stories so others can learn from it is admirable.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA –

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

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to close public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES –

On motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, the salary increase of Jason DeCarlo, Laborer in the Department of Public Works from an annual Laborer II, Step 5 salary of \$45,371.00 to Laborer II, Step 6 - \$45,878.00 effective November 5, 2019 was unanimously approved.

MONTHLY REPORTS –

Land Use Board	-	August 2019
Library Board	-	October 2019
Environmental Commission	-	September 2019

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, resolution #19-333 through #19-337 were unanimously approved.

#19 -333 Amend 2019 Budget

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:A4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion or increase of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such an item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion or increase of an item for an equal amount; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received a grant award for Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant in the amount of \$2,415.61.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that it does hereby request the approval of the Director for the following:

Increase an item of revenue entitled:

3. Miscellaneous Revenue – Section F

Unappropriated Reserve for Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant.....\$2,415.61

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$2,415.61 and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations
Operations excluded from the "CAPS"
Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenues

Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant.....\$2,415.61

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough forward two (1) copy of this resolution to the Director of Local Government Services.

October 7, 2019

#19-334 Authorize Clerk to Go Out for Bid for the 2018 Municipal Aid Program for Bogert Road (Section 2) Howland Avenue (Section 7, Phase V) Road Improvement Project

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge desires to go out for bid for the 2018 Bogert Road (Section 2) and Howland Avenue (Section 7, Phase V) Road Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has submitted plans and specifications for the project entitled 2018 Bogert Road (Section 2) and Howland Avenue (Section 7, Phase V) Road Improvement Project 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 the Borough Attorney at a work session held on October 7, 2019; 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 Bogert Road (Section 2) and Howland Avenue (Section 7, Phase V) Road Improvement Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the plans and specifications for the project entitled 2018 Bogert Road (Section 2) and Howland Avenue (Section 7, Phase V) Road Improvement Project 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.

October 7, 2019

#19-335 Resolution Permitting the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at a Block Party on Monroe Court

WHEREAS, on or about October 7, 2019, the Borough of River Edge granted permission to Liz Serednicky, 291 Monroe Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey, to hold a block party on Monroe Court on Saturday, October 12th starting at 5:00 p.m. in accordance with Borough Ordinance #1678; and

WHEREAS, Liz Serednicky has requested that the possession and consumption of alcoholic

beverages be permitted in connection with said block party; and

WHEREAS, Borough Code Section 114-15 allows the Governing Body to permit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in or on a public street or sidewalk in connection with an authorized block party.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that persons age 21 and over be and hereby are permitted to possess and consume alcoholic beverages at the block party described above, on the date and time specified herein.

October 7, 2019

Council President Busteed asked if this money is being returned?

Ray Poerio, Borough Administrator replied, yes it is.

Council President Busteed –said that she was disappointed that we were not able to put this money to work. We tried to very hard to get a CDBG grant that was different and not customary to what we normally did because that was the requirement to get the funds. She hopes that it doesn't affect our ability to get things like that in the future.

#19-336 Resolution Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to Cancel Grant Fund Receivable and Appropriated Reserve for the "Community Development Block Grant – Wellness Program for Senior Citizens"

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge received approval for a grant through the County of Bergen for a grant entitled "Community Development Block Grant – Wellness Program for Senior Citizens"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has on its books and records an account receivable of \$3,161.81 and an appropriated reserve of \$3,161.81; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has investigated the account receivable and appropriated reserve balance and has recommended that they can be cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to cancel the grant fund account receivable and appropriated reserve for the grant entitled "Community Development Block Grant – Wellness Program for Senior Citizens" both in the amount of \$3,161.81.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby instructed to adjust the records accordingly.

October 7, 2019

#19-337 Amend Certification of Chief Financial Officer with Regard to the Contract with Robert Costa, Borough Engineer for Engineering Services to Install Flashing Crosswalk Signs at the Intersection of Kinderkamack Road and Wayne Avenue and Clarendon Court and Myrtle Avenue and Midland Avenue

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2019 via resolution #19-328, the Borough of River Edge

awarded a contract to Robert Costa, Borough Engineer for professional engineering services related to Install Flashing Crosswalk Signs at the Intersection of Kinderkamack Road and Wayne Avenue and Clarendon Court and Myrtle Avenue and Midland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the contract was for \$11,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer had certified that funds were available from Account #01-2010-20-1652-100 of the Current Fund in the amount of \$2,912.00 and \$8,088.00 from the Self Insurance Fund in a total amount not to exceed \$11,000.00; and

WHEREAS, an error was made in the certification of funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that it does hereby accept the revised certification of funds provided by the Chief Financial Officer which indicates that \$11,000.00 is available from Account #01-2010-1652-100 of the Current Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer and the Borough Clerk are hereby instructed to adjust their records accordingly.

October 7, 2019

Councilwoman Kaufman read resolution #19-338 into the record.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Chinigo resolution #19-338 was approved unanimously.

#19-338 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	\$2,101,255.53
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 220,819.98
GRANT FUND ACCOUNT	\$ 1,631.35
ANIMAL CONTROL ACCOUNT	\$ 306.00
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 22,674.40
OPEN SPACE ACCOUNT	\$ 3,080.65

PAYROLL ACCOUNT	\$ 48,164.32
SELF INSURANCE ACCOUNT	\$ 1,988.36
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 7,150.48

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.

October 7, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

On motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman to open for public comments was unanimously approved.

Peggy White-741 Center Avenue-said that she heard that we might be getting another dollar store. She's also heard that many motorists are not abiding by the entrance and exit signs at the current store's parking lot making for hazardous conditions. She suggested that new signage be put there.

Council President Busteed-said that she did see the article in the Record that stated potentially another dollar store would go where the Asian Market had been. According to our Zoning Officer, there hasn't been a permit pulled so at this time, no one has rented that space.

Councilwoman Davis-thinks that information came from the landlord.

Peggy White-said that it doesn't make any sense to have 2 dollar stores that are so close to each other.

Council President Busteed-said that they are permitted uses so more business there can only help LaToscana and the other businesses. She said that as of right now, no one is going into that spot.

Peggy White-said that the last time she came to a meeting, members of the DPW and Police Department were here and she found it so upsetting to find out that our employees were upset because they weren't getting increases in salaries. She doesn't see how we couldn't do that because they are the best in the world. She said that she hears so many good things about River Edge from people who live in other towns especially when it snows. She hopes that things will change and they'll get what they need.

Council President Busteed-said that there isn't anyone up here or sitting out there that would dispute that we don't have the best DPW and Police Department. She said that all of our borough employees are stellar. Because they are actively in negotiations, they can't comment about that but again, no one will ever say that we don't have the best.

Resident-asked if they would permit 2 dollar stores within blocks of each other?

Council President Busteed-replied, they're permitted uses.

Tom Sarlo, Esq.-explained that the town wouldn't have a say as long as it's a permitted use. If it was a non-permitted use, it would have to go the Land Use Board for their approval. The governing body would not have a say.

Resident-commented that in a small town like this, you get to know the owners and felt bad for a business like the Carousel who had to close because of 7 Eleven. She's fine with businesses opening versus an empty lot but she feels bad for the owner of the dollar store because it will be competition for them.

Councilwoman Davis-stated that most people think it sits with the governing body, but it doesn't.

Lou Grasso-172 Lozier Terrace-said that he's heard from residents who have expressed the same concerns but understands that you can't prohibit the same types of businesses coming in. He said that it's not really government's role to say what businesses should be here and what businesses shouldn't.

Peggy White-asked how she can see the meetings on TV? She asked what channel they would be on?

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk-explained that there's one station for Optimum and there will be a second station for Verizon. She sent an email to the contact person but hasn't heard back yet.

Council President Busteed-stated that when we are up and running, they will make sure that it's publicized well.

Councilman Chinigo-said that he thinks Verizon is channel 33.

Councilman Papaleo-said that for the public's information, all of our meetings are on YouTube. Land Use Board, Mayor and Council meetings, budget committee meetings, etc. so you can see, although poor picture quality, a picture version of every meeting we've had for at least the last 10 years.

Council President Busteed-stated that it's also on the Borough website.

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to close public comments was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilwoman Kaufman-said that she went to River Edge Day yesterday and felt that it was a great event. She was happy to see many people out and enjoying the day.

Councilman Papaleo-said that he speaks with the Superintendent of Public Works regularly and reported that the roof is moving forward and the shed and garage which was in very bad condition for almost 20 years needed to be replaced. They are restoring not replacing it and the Superintendent is very happy with the work so far. There are 3 coats that had to be done as well as some repair and replacement work on pieces of the metal roof. This work did not shut down the yard but there was one day where they had to close the garage. They estimate, that if the weathers holds up, that it will be done in a week or so. He also reported that the jet vac truck has been out on the road since Monday sucking up leaves. Originally they were going to hold leaf collection off until November but there was a lot of falling leaves and resident complaints so the Superintendent put the vac on the road. Once leaf piles accumulate, teams will be sent out with the jet vac truck.

Councilman Chinigo-asked if vegetation collection will continue?

Councilman Papaleo-replied yes, there's still Monday collection of vegetation. It was their hope, because we're paying a company to pick-up vegetation until the end of October, that residents would bag the leaves themselves. That's why they will be sending teams out for sporadic leaf pick-up to assure that our residents are getting the services that they need as well as they deserve. Councilman Papaleo reported that the front loader came in two weeks ago and is up and running. They saved a lot of money because we are able to use the same attachments as the previous loader. They are waiting for the cab on the F350 truck so as soon as it's put together it will be delivered. That particular truck will be used by the mechanic and the foreman, Rick. The previous truck which was about 20 years old, was falling apart, there were holes in it and it was taking exhaust into the cab so it absolutely had to be replaced. He reported that the sewer pit and pump were replaced at Borough Hall two weeks ago, the problems with the hvac system seems to be resolved, all the pipes under the railroad tracks have been fixed and our Superintendent is working with one of the Scouts regarding his Environmental Stormwater badge. Councilman Papaleo reported that Beautification is having a meeting this Thursday and asked if anyone would be interested in joining because they really need a few more active members. He was not able to attend Shade Trees last meeting but reported that they are moving forward with many different things. He said that he's so glad that we celebrate and recognize achievements during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. He said that his wife lost her mother to breast cancer a few months after losing her father which affected her family tremendously. If we don't call the public's attention to it throughout the United States then the funding doesn't get there so he encourages everyone to get involved in local causes.

Councilwoman Davis-said that she will report on the Ambulance Corp and Fire Department at the next meeting. She did attend River Edge Day and chose to wear her ambulance corp gear. She did stop by the senior citizens table and was pleased to hear that Carol & Henry Mah were very happy with everything. The program that Carolyn Baldanza picked up on, called Active Aging was started by the

International Counsel of Active Aging and ended today. They had some great programs at the Library such as Tai Chi, yoga, a walk in the park, River Edge Day and today at the Temple they had a presentation on brain health. There's a lot being offered to all of our residents but it's unfortunate that more residents don't take advantage of it.

Councilman Chinigo thanked Carolyn Baldanza and the Rec Commission for their hard work in putting River Edge Day together and felt that it was a great success. He reported that Traffic & Safety will be meeting on the 9th at 7:30 and urged anyone who has questions, comments or suggestions regarding traffic and safety to attend the meeting. He said that generally the only people who attend are the members themselves but they're willing to help, willing to listen, willing to work on any issue or problems and will seek solutions. He said that they work hand in hand with the Police Department and again reminded everyone that the meeting will be held on the 9th at 7:30. He said that recently, unfortunately there have been more than one suicide in town and urged anyone who has issues to reach out for help because there is help out there. He announced the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255 which is available 24/7, 365 days a year. He said that if anyone is struggling, there are other people out there and ways to get help because no one should be put through that terror. He said his heart goes out to the friends and family of those who sought this final outcome.

Councilwoman Davis congratulated the 3 ladies who came here tonight and feels that it is very special that they share their stories because not everyone is willing to step out of their comfort zone. She said that by doing so, they've touched so many people. She thanked them for coming.

Council President Busted thanked Carolyn Baldanza and the Rec Commission for a great River Edge Day. Carolyn added some new things this year which enhanced the experience for everyone. Council President Busted reported that there are a couple things happening with the Stigma Free Committee regarding awareness such as the "Out of the Darkness Walk" on October 20th in Saddle Brook. Several people from River Edge will be going along with Maryanne Maloney who has become a spokesperson for suicide prevention and awareness. Council President Busted will be attending and said that the Health Department has more information if anyone is interested. There is also "Alumni in Recovery" which is a group that she has been very involved with which brings young adults from Bergen County high schools who have been in long term recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. They are hosting their first walk on October 27th in Westwood, to remember the lives of those from Bergen County who have been lost due to opioid addiction and overdose. She will be attending that as well so if anyone is interested, please contact her for more information. She reported that the Stigma Free Initiative is launching a very exciting project while working with the Adult Services Librarian, Julia Lee which is called "Know Your Neighbor, My Mental Health Story". It will be a video of residents who are willing to go on camera and share their story about mental health challenges and what they've done to overcome them. They will show the video in May during Mental Health Month. She asked if anyone knows of someone who may want to share their story to please have them reach out to the Health Department or Julia Lee at the Library. She hopes to have many River Edge residents participate to break down the stigma of mental illness. She reminded everyone that there is information on our website, thanks to Councilman Chinigo, about our Police Department conducting home security surveys free of charge. Particularly with daylight savings time coming, we tend to see burglaries in town because there are no lights in your house at 4:30 in the afternoon. She suggested that if anyone is interested in taking advantage of this home security survey, to call the dispatch desk and they will come out and review your entire property and suggest ways to improve home security. She asked that everyone let their friends and neighbors know about that service.

ADJOURNMENT - 8:20 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Council President Ellen Busted

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated: