

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Monday, March 25, 2019
6:00 P.M.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER –

Mayor Mignone called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 to lead the salute to the flag.

STATEMENT -

Council President Busted 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 21, 2018 to THE RECORD NEWSPAPER and THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS, 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 – Councilwoman Busted, Councilman Chinigo, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Kaufman, Councilman Papaleo, Mayor Mignone were present; Councilman Gautier was absent.

RESOLUTION – NON-CONSENT

On motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilman Chinigo, resolution #19-134 was approved unanimously.

#19-134 Authorize Execution of Employment Agreement with Raymond Poerio, Borough Administrator

WHEREAS, Raymond Poerio was appointed the “Borough Administrator” on March 26, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the Borough Administrator’s employment were set forth in an Agreement between the Borough and the Borough Administrator through December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes it will serve the public interest, promote mutual understanding and foster a harmonious relationship to establish the Borough Administrator’s duties, terms and conditions of employment in a written and executed agreement for the term March 26, 2019 through December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Poerio shall be entitled to the standard benefits and provisions as set forth in the Borough’s Personnel Policy & Procedure Manual; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that they hereby appoint Raymond Poerio to the position of Borough Administrator for Borough of River Edge with an effective date of March 26, 2019, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the written and executed Employment Agreement for the term March 26, 2019 through December 31, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of the Employment Agreement regarding salary, benefits, vacation and termination set forth in the Employment Agreement are incorporated herein by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Employment Agreement with Raymond Poerio consistent with the terms of this Resolution.

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Mayor Mignone-congratulated Ray and welcomed him aboard.

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilman Papaleo, resolution #19-135 was unanimously approved.

#19-135 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain enumerated circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances will or presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the public shall be excluded from the March 25, 2019 Regular Session meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session</u> <u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Reference</u>
19-3/25-1	Fire Department – Procedure Report	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(6)
19-3/25-2	Personnel – Police Department (3)	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)

2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public within a reasonable time, the substance of which will be released after the Mayor and Council or the specific authorized public body has reviewed and specifically accepted the data.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

March 25, 2019

MOTION TO SUSPEND REGULAR SESSION AND GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilman Papaleo to suspend the regular session and go into closed session was approved unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION TOPICS

<u>Closed Session</u> <u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Reference</u>
19-3/25-1	Fire Department – Procedure Report	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(6)
19-3/25-2	Personnel – Police Interviews (4)	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)

MOTION TO ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION AND RESUME REGULAR SESSION

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilman Papaleo to adjourn the closed session and resume the regular session was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilwoman Busteded, the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting and Work Session meeting of March 11, 2019 was unanimously approved.

PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS – NONE

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA –

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

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA –

There being no comments by the public on motion by Councilman Chinigo, 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 promotion of Eric Phillips from Tree Trimmer II, Step XV - \$61,609.00 to Tree Trimmer I – Step I, \$68,754.00, effective May 15, 2019 was approved unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, the salary change of Christopher Leishman, from an annual Step I Superintendent of Public Works salary of \$124,262.00 due to serving out of classification and taking on responsibilities of the Superintendent’s position back to Foreperson at an annual salary of \$94,179.00, effective March 11, 2019 was approved unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, the promotion of Jason Milito from Foreperson in the Department of Public Works at an annual salary of \$95,163.00 to Superintendent of Public Works, Step I – \$124,262.00 effective March 11, 2019 was approved unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman, the paid leave of absence for Alan Negreann as Borough Administrator, effective March 26th, 2019 was approved unanimously approved.

On motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilman Chinigo, the salary increase of Eric Schultz, Equipment Operator II in the Department of Public Works from an annual Step IV salary of \$67,667.00 to an Operator II, Step V salary of \$68,557.00, effective April 6, 2019 was approved unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilman Chinigo, the salary increase of Anthony Naem, Laborer in the Department of Public Works from a Laborer II, Step I salary of \$30,939.00 to Laborer II, Step II - \$43,851.00, effective April 16, 2019 was approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE –

- Letter - Bergen County Utilities Authority – 3/11/19
Re: 2019 Recycling Enhancement Grant Program
- Letter - River Edge Swim Club
Re: Wastewater Disposal and Annual Rent Payments,
2018 Attendance, and Financial Statement

MONTHLY REPORTS –

Tax Collector - February, 2019

ORDINANCES – 1ST READING –

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #19-8 into the record.

Ordinance #19-8 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 206 “FEES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman, the first reading of Ordinance #19-8 was unanimously approved as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #19-8

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 206 “FEES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 206 “Fees” of the Code of the Borough of River Edge be

and hereby is amended as follows:

Section I Add a new Section 206-2II (Miscellaneous Fees) to read as follows:

Recreation Department Fees:

Surcharge/Convenience Fee for Electronic Transactions for All Programs \$ 3.00

Summer Playground Program:

Early Bird Registration \$173.00

Regular Registration \$185.00

Late Registration \$190.00

Sibling Discount \$ 5.00

Camp Counselor \$ 10.00/hr.

Men’s Softball \$ 48.00

Women’s Softball \$ 53.00

Tennis Membership (Individual) \$ 38.00

Tennis Membership (Family) \$ 58.00

Permits 100 attendees or less \$ 53.00

Permits 100 attendees or more \$103.00

Section II If any provisions of this chapter are found to be invalid, for any reason, by the final judgement of a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such portions shall not effect the remaining provisions of this chapter, which shall be severable therefrom.

Section III All ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are Hereby repealed as to such inconsistencies only.

Section IV This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to law.

Mayor Edward J. Mignone

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated:

ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – NONE

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, resolution #19-136 through #19-144 were unanimously approved.

#19-136 Authorize Clerk to Go Out for Bid for the River Edge Community Center Site Work Project

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge desires to go out for bid for the River Edge Community Center Site Work Project; and.

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has submitted plans and specifications for the project entitled River Edge Community Center Site Project; and

WHEREAS, these plans and specifications have been reviewed by the Borough Engineer and Borough Attorney at a work session held on March 11, 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 River Edge Community Center Site Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorized to advertise in Ridgewood News for the purpose for providing said service.

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#19-137 Amend Agreement with Brian Chewcaskie, Esq., Gittleman, Muhlstock, Chewcaskie, 2200 Fletcher Avenue #16, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024 for Legal Services as Redevelopment, COAH, and Land Use Attorney

WHEREAS, Brian Chewcaskie, Esq., was appointed by the Borough of River Edge as Redevelopment Attorney via resolution #19-14, dated January 1, 2019 and appointed COAH Attorney via resolution #16-451, and appointed Land Use Attorney via resolution #19-64, dated January 22, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge had established various accounts payable and encumbrances to Brian Chewcaskie, Esq., purchase order number's 31778, 33257, 33333, 33912, 35011, 35513, 36202, 36272, 36559, and 36562; and

WHEREAS, the firm Gittleman, Muhlstock, Chewcaskie, with Brian Chewcaskie as a partner has merged with Cleary Jacobbe Alfieri, Jacobs, and all billing should be addressed to: 955 State 34, Suite 200, Matawan, New Jersey 07747.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to change her records accordingly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Account Supervisor and Chief Financial Officer be hereby instructed to change their records accordingly.

March 25, 2019

#19-138 Resolution Authorizing the Borough of River Edge to Enter into a Bergen County Trust Fund Project Contract with the County of Bergen for the Purpose of Using a Matching Grant Award from the 2018 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the Project Entitled Veteran's Memorial Park Reconstruction of Basketball and Hockey Courts.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge wish to enter into a Bergen County Trust Fund Project Contract ("Contract") with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using a \$37,640.00 matching grant award from the 2018 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") for the municipal park project entitled "Veteran's Memorial Park Reconstruction of Basketball & Hockey Courts", located in Veteran's Memorial Park, 239 Webb Avenue, in Block 305, Lot 7.07, on the tax maps of the Borough of River Edge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council here by authorize the Mayor and Clerk to be signatories for the aforesaid Contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby acknowledge that, in general, the use of this Trust Fund grant towards this approved park project must be completed by or about March 6, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant will be disbursed to the municipality as a reimbursement upon submittal of certified Trust Fund payment and project completion documents and municipal vouchers, invoices, proofs of payment, and other such documents as may be required by the County in accordance with the Trust Fund's requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant disbursement to the municipality will be equivalent to fifty (50) percent of the eligible construction costs incurred (not to exceed total grant award) applied towards only the approved park improvements identified in the aforesaid Contract in accordance with the Trust Fund's requirements. Professional Services Costs may be reimbursed from grant award's unexpended balance, should there be a balance.

March 25, 2019

#19-139 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund 2019 1st Quarter Tax Overpayments

WHEREAS, the tax office has received duplicate and/or tax overpayments for the 1st Quarter 2019 taxes on the following properties; and

WHEREAS, a written request was received from their mortgage company to refund the overpaid amount directly to the mortgage company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Account Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue a refund check in the following amount and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>HOMEOWNER/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
207/8.02	ASCATIGNO, VINCENT 20 Richard Court	DUPLICATE	4,207.26
705/15	KASARYAN, NUBAR 204 Manning Avenue	DUPLICATE	2,683.75
705/19	KENNEDY, ROBERT & NANCY 220 Manning Avenue	DUPLICATE	3,241.38
		TOTAL:	10,132.39

Make check payable to: CORE LOGIC TAX SERVICES
P.O. Box 9202
Coppell, TX 75019-9978
Attn: Centralized Refunds

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#19-140 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund a 1st Quarter 2019 Duplicate Tax Payment

WHEREAS, the tax office has received a duplicate payment and/or tax overpayment for 2019 taxes on the following property(s); and

WHEREAS, a written request was received from the homeowner and/or their Mortgage Company/Title Company to refund the overpaid amount directly to the homeowner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Account Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue a check in the following amounts and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Refund Amount</u>
1003/18	Davenport Development LLC 426 Lafayette Avenue	\$3,166.79

Make check payable to: Law Offices of Seth I. Davenport
mail to: 219 Changebridge Road
Montville, NJ 07045

March 25, 2019

#19-141 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund a 1st Quarter 2019 Tax Overpayment

WHEREAS, a 1st Quarter 2019 overpayment was received on a property known as Block: 1103 Lot: 11 located at 375 Howland Avenue from Fortune Title Agency, LLC, the closing agent of the property owned by Joana, Kathy S.; and

WHEREAS, the tax office has received a written request to refund the overpaid amount to Fortune Title Agency, LLC who will refund the correct party(s);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Account Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue a refund check in the following amount and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Refund Amount</u>
1103/11	Joana, Kathy S./Bank of New York Mellon, Trste. 375 Howland Avenue	3,278.67

Make check payable to: Fortune Title Agency
39 Woodland Road
Roseland, NJ 07068

March 25, 2019

#19-142 Authorize Mayor to Sign Amended Lease with Mid Bergen Regional Health Commission for Rental of Premises at 705 Kinderkamack Rd

WHEREAS, the Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission entered into a Lease Agreement on August 21, 1978 via resolution #78-229 for a portion of premises known as 705 Kinderkamack Road, which is owned by the Borough of River Edge, for its principal place of business; and

WHEREAS, THE Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission moved their headquarters in 1992 to 705 Kinderkamack Road and the Borough Attorney has drawn up an amended lease for a portion of the premises known as 705 Kinderkamack Road, commonly known as the Municipal Building; and

WHEREAS, the monthly rental for this portion of premises is \$300.00 per month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign said amended lease and the Borough Clerk is authorized to attest said signature said signature for a two (2) year lease commencing January 1, 2019 and ending on December 31, 2021.

March 25, 2019

19-143 Governing Body Certification of Compliance With the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A., 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq*(April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the Contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A., 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

March 25, 2019

#19-144 Transfer of Funds in the Budget Appropriation Reserve

WHEREAS, various 2018 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills were not covered by a purchase order number and/or recorded in the time of transfer between the 2018 Budget Appropriation Reserve in the last two months of 2018; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the year are available, until lapsed at the close incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made from unexpended balances which are expected to be insufficient during the first three months on the succeeding year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the transfer in the amount of \$22,000.00 be made between the 2018 Budget Appropriation Reserves as follows:

FROM: Financial Admin OE	01-2030-20-1302-169	\$2,000.00
TO: Maintenance Pub Lib Elect	01-2030-31-4302-174	\$2,000.00
FROM: Recycling S/W	01-2030-26-3051-014	\$20,000.00
TO: Legal Services OE	01-2030-20-1552-172	\$20,000.00

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Councilwoman Kaufman read resolution into the record.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Chinigo, resolution #19-145 was approved unanimously.

#19-145 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	\$1,579,403.59
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 37,589.50
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 216.30
TRUST OTHER DEVELOPERS ACCOUNT	\$ 5,257.50
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 27,779.85

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.

March 25, 2019

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

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

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Busted to close the hearing of the public was approved unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilwoman Kaufman-stated that she doesn't know if we can do a community email for this but tomorrow night there's a vaping seminar at the River Dell High School Library at 7 p.m. She feels that it's important because vaping leads to lung problems, cancer and heart problems and people who vape are much more likely to become regular smokers.

Councilwoman Busted-stated that she thinks the Board of Health has the ability to do community messages. She said that this is all over Facebook and through the schools emails so it's been highly publicized.

Councilman Papaleo-reported that he was not able to attend the last Beautification Committee meeting but he did speak with Michele by telephone. She advised him that they are moving forward with their spring activities and plantings. She said that they will have less meetings and use emails more to communicate with their members. He has been in contact with our new Superintendent, Jason Milito and congratulated him on his new post. Jason reported that the public spaces in the Borough have been blown out, thatched and seeded. He would like to make mention that the Foremen, Rick and Chris as well as the rest of the men are really working hard to get everything ready for the warmer weather months. Our residents should be happy with all of the work that they're putting in. Also Jason wanted him to make mention that Lisa and Cathy have been really great with him in helping him catch up things in the office now that he has taken over the post. He reported that he did attend the Shade Tree Commission meeting. They are interested in making use of Nixle as there is a community component to that. He was unsure at that time where to advise them to reach out so he told them to reach out to Carolyn who hopefully can give them further information. Councilman Papaleo also reported that they have met with the DPW and (inaudible) regarding the computer system that both the DPW and Shade Tree are hoping that they Borough will put into this years budget. He explained to them that they will be looking at the budget again because they had an unexpected bill from BCUA as well as other concerns. He announced that Arbor Day will be on April 26th. The Library will be receiving seedlings that they will be handing out to residents. There will be programs at Cherry Hill and Roosevelt Schools and they will also be reaching out to St. Peter's Academy during the day as well. Seedlings will be handed out to all three schools as well as bracelets for Arbor Day much like the Live Strong bracelet. They thanked the Mayor and Council and others for working hard to defeat the PSE&G Vegetation Act. They wanted to make mention that Liz Stewart went to Senator Paul Sarlo's office and was pleased with his willingness to work together. They discussed the inkind hours for the Commission which was greater than 5,400 hours which is about 400 hours per month. He said that one member has been on the Shade Tree Commission for 23 years, Liz has been on for 22 and is an arborist who provides that service to the Borough free of charge. Another member has been on for 21 years. They also wanted to convey to the Council that the program that they put together with the DPW over the last 23 years to proactively prune trees, has led to River Edge having far fewer downed trees, power lines and damage to homes than surrounding towns.

Mayor Mignone-asked Councilman Papaleo to reach out to Jason to make sure that we're ahead of the curve this year with getting the bathrooms ready for the opening days. We wait on SUEZ to put the water on so hopefully we can stay ahead of it.

Councilwoman Busted-reported that at the Rec Commission meeting, Carolyn was told by DPW that the contract with Friendship House does not include the cleaning of the bathrooms of the fields and feels that there needs to be cleaning service provided for those. She said whether or not we want to amend with Friendship House or if there's another line that can be used.....

Mayor Mignone-asked who did it before?

Councilwoman Busted-replied, Bobbi used to do it and feels that it's not acceptable.

Mayor Mignone-suggested getting a cost from Friendship House.

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Busted to solicit a proposal from Friendship House for cleaning services for the ballfields and park was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Busted-mentioned that one of the Rec Commissions initiatives is to purchase and install exercise equipment at Memorial Park, whether it be static or otherwise. Carolyn has quotes and they will continue the conversation whether this is a priority for them. He asked that they speak with Ezio to see from a liability standpoint what would need to be considered. Carolyn is planning to have a conversation with him. Little League and REGAL are preparing for opening day, April 27th is the River Edge Run and you can sign-up now. They will do a major push starting April 1st to get registrations going. Carolyn held the first cultural affairs program at the Library which was a women's history presentation. It was a packed house and there were 41 senior citizens that attended. Carolyn had the opportunity to hand out a survey and is looking forward to getting those surveys back. She is working with Arlene Faustini on a health and wellness fair for seniors at the end of May. She reported that

Environmental Protection has been working on a mission statement and they have asked that she read their written and approved statement. It read as follows: “The River Edge Environmental Protection Commission provides leadership in bringing environmental best practices to River Edge, New Jersey and its surrounding communities by coordinating events, communicating with the public and staying current with global environmental practices. The Commission strives to improve recycling participation, increase support for Commission events and be a leader in our County and State for environmental awareness and support”. Councilwoman Busted applauds their effort to develop a statement to keep them focused on their goals. They will be working with the Hackensack Riverkeeper on a litter survey which is a very extensive project and be overseen by Montclair State. For anyone wishing to volunteer, the first training session is 8 hours and will be held on April 13th at the Johnson Library in Hackensack. The Environmental Protection Commission has provided 4 survey sites to the Hackensack Riverkeeper for their consideration to be part of the survey. We are hoping that this will help push the needle to us becoming Silver Award status for Sustainable New Jersey. Councilwoman Busted congratulated the Green Team for receiving the BCUA \$3,000 grant for styrofoam recycling and she also thanked Lisa Hessman for working with Bonnie Stewart on that grant.

Councilwoman Davis-reported that she attended the Municipal Alliance morning meeting on March 28th where there were representatives from River Dell and River Edge school districts. She said that a lengthy discussion was held regarding the Alumni and Recovery Program and vaping presentation. She also attended an Alumni and Recovery Program on March 21st that they’re trying to start up to raise awareness and also provide resources to the community about the disease of addiction. With regard to SCORE, Arlene Faustini had a Mardi Gras themed program which was very much appreciated. Carolyn, our Rec Director also attended. She reported that in the minutes from the January Board of Health meeting, Patty Cordts was named as President and Mary Clare Smith as Vice President. Jane Daly and Patty Cordts were appointed as River Edge representatives to the board of the Mid-Bergen Health Commission. She reported that the Farmer’s Market update is not good. The farmer is not returning because they are expanding their store in Sparta and it will take all of their time this year. They’ll try to find a new farmer, but if they don’t get a new farmer, there’s no Farmer’s Market.

Councilman Chinigo-reported that Little League Opening Day will be on April 13th and REGAL Opening Day is April 28th. He congratulated Ray Poerio for joining us as the new Borough Administrator, wished him good luck and looks forward to working with him. He also congratulated Jason Milito for becoming our new head of the DPW and looks forward to continued success with DPW.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:20 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman to adjourn the regular session and resume closed session was unanimously approved.

RE-OPEN - 7:21 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Busted to re-open the regular meeting at 7:21 p.m. was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Susan Mitchell – 210 Kinderkamack Road – expressed frustration regarding the New Bridge Landing Apartment project and the negative impact that it’s having on all of the families surrounding that work site? She said that they have to call the Police every day because of traffic stoppages, not being able to get out of their driveways, pile drivers shaking the houses surrounding the site, etc. She complained that the Project Manager is not polite and said that the only support that they get is from the River Edge Police Department. They have been told that no one from the town is supervising this construction project. She wanted to make sure that they all know what’s been going on next door. She attended all of the Planning Board meetings and she and many of the neighbors are throwing up their hands because they felt no one was giving them any support. When they realized construction was going to begin, she went to the Planning Office and asked who they could speak with if they have any concerns or issues so that they could be prepared. She was told that there is no one and if they have any problems they should call the Police Department. She is grateful to them for all the support that they’ve given them but feels that it’s not really the way to utilize the Police Department. Although she doesn’t live there, she’s there every day calling the Police Department, she talks to the Project Manager and talks to the person throwing food on their property so that her parents don’t have to. They haven’t spent any money maintaining the outside of the home because of all of the dirt that’s flying around. She said that the house is filthy on the outside. She said that there is trash in their yard and said that she has pictures to document everything that she is saying. One of the reasons she is here, is the same reason she went to see the Police Chief which is to thank him for his support and the support of his department. She also wants to get to know the people who are helping us. She feels like it’s only going to get worse and the only two people she knows is Michelle and Joe. She thought it would be a good idea for the Mayor to

know first hand what's going on and said that she's not the only neighbor who feels this way. She wanted to let everyone know what's going on and the negative impact its having on the neighbors. Mayor Mignone-stated that on one hand, construction will always have impacts which cannot be avoided but he feels that she was not given the correct information. He said that there is a process to overseeing this. Anything regarding the building itself is under the purview of the Building Department. If there are any concerns about anything that's going on with the building, the Construction Official should be responding to that. We also have a Developer's Agreement in which the Borough Engineer is tasked with overseeing the site work.

Susan Mitchell-is that Robert?

Mayor Mignone-replied yes. Mr. Costa has the authority to make sure the site is clean and that they are following proper procedures. If there's any issues particularly with the foreman, he would be the first one who should be interacting with him.

Susan Mitchell-said "do you know how many times I've called him? I've stopped. I called him today and still didn't get a call back".

Mayor Mignone-said that he will be on the phone with him in the morning.

Susan Mitchell-said that Robert is a very nice gentleman.

Mayor Mignone-said, he is but he gets paid to do this.

Susan Mitchell-said that it's good to know because he's the first one to tell her that.

Mayor Mignone-explained that that's the way all projects are structured. The Mayor said that if there's issues with the dirt, they don't have the proper soil erosion protection measures in place because they should not be having soil and dirt flying off of the site. That is heavily regulated by the Bergen County Soil Conservation District and there is a separate permit for that. He said that he had been on Mr. Costa a number of times because he saw that the street was a mess. The Mayor said that he is very concerned because obviously there has been a break-down in the process, but there is a process. He apologized that it has gotten to this point but assured Ms. Mitchell that he will speak with Mr. Costa first thing in the morning.

Susan Mitchell-said that if he does speak with him, to tell him that the reason she called him today is regarding the retaining wall. She said that a section has become dislodged and is concerned because it is very close to the property line.

Mayor Mignone-said that he doesn't know if the Police Department are giving summonses but he feels that they should if they are blocking traffic, keeping debris in the road or whatever it may be.

Susan Mitchell-said all these little things happen every single day and it adds up. It's not like there's one huge violation but she's talking about quality of life issues. She again said that the Project Manager is very rude and very aggressive and she's sure that he feels the same about her but a lot of that comes from being defensive because she's very protective of her parents.

Mayor Mignone-said that they're in our town so they should be respectful.

Susan Mitchell-said that Peter, the Project Manager is not.

Mayor Mignone-again said that he will speak with Mr. Costa tomorrow.

Susan Mitchell-asked how she can follow-up and make sure that the line of communication is open and that he understands what's going on. She would like to be able to reach out to him.

Mayor Mignone-offered his cell phone number.

Susan Mitchell-said that she would be happy to share hers as well.

Councilman Chinigo-asked if she would come back to the next meeting and let them know if anything has improved? We can't do anything for you if we don't know about it.

Susan Mitchell-said that Michelle and the Chief encouraged her to come and she feels that the previous administration had let them down. She thanked them for their time.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:33 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Busted to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:33 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated: