

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019**

PRESENT:

Mayor	Edward J. Mignone
Councilwoman	Ellen Busteed
Councilman	Dario Chinigo
Councilwoman	Mary Davis
Councilman	Joseph Gautier
Councilwoman	Michelle Kaufman
Councilman	Thomas Papaleo

ALSO PRESENT:

Borough Attorney	Thomas Sarlo
Borough Administrator	Ray Poerio
Borough Clerk	Stephanie Evans

ABSENT:

None

Mayor Mignone called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion to Suspend Work Session and Enter Closed Session @6:30 PM

RESOLUTION #19-146

Motion by Councilwoman Busteed, second by Councilman Papaleo

ALL IN FAVOR 6-0

CLOSED SESSION TOPICS

Closed Session

Docket #

19-4/8-1

Item Title or Description

Personnel – Interview - CFO

Statutory

Reference

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)

Motion to Adjourn Closed Session, Return to Work Session @6:58 PM

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, second by Councilman Chinigo

ALL IN FAVOR 6-0

ROLL CALL: Councilwoman Busteed, Councilman Chinigo, Councilwoman Davis, Councilman Gautier, Councilwoman Kaufman, Councilman Papaleo, and Mayor Mignone.

Mayor Mignone stated that tonight there would be some jumping between the two agendas as a result of the proclamations and swearing in of the two new officers.

Motion to Suspend Work Session, Enter Regular Public Meeting @7:05 PM

Motion by Councilman Gautier, second by Councilwoman Busteed

ALL IN FAVOR 6-0

Motion to Suspend Regular Public Meeting, Return to Work Session @7:20 PM

Motion by Councilwoman Busteed, second by Councilwoman Davis

ALL IN FAVOR 6-0

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR'S TOPICS –

1. Table Ordinance 19-8 Recreation Fees –

2. Introduction of New Recreation/Sponsorship Fee Ordinance #19-12 -

Mr. Poerio explained in discussing this with the Recreation Director we found that it was more advantageous to take a second look and try and create a situation where we would have a range of fees. The fees would be actually set by the Director and himself, that way everything, which you already have that authority and set up that way in the ordinance for the Recreation Director to be able to do it. That way every time a new program comes about you don't have to introduce a new ordinance to be able to do it. If you want to put a canopy up at one of your fairs and you want to go from \$55 to \$57 you don't have to do a new ordinance. So we basically took a look at everything that was outstanding and incorporated into this ordinance that you all have in front. What he is asking Council to do is the initial ordinance that you put forth is to table that and it will automatically die. The ordinance we introduce tonight that will ultimately take place and supersede the ordinance that was tabled. It was a very good conversation with Carolyn and he thinks it is a good compromise for all of you. (inaudible).

- 5. Audio Equipment for Council Chamber's –** Mr. Poerio said that he understand that there has been some conversations about upgrading some of our microphone systems here in the chamber as well as recording information. We started the process of gathering that information which is enclosed in your packet. If it is Council's desire we can include that into the capital bond ordinance, which he is going to get into in a minute, and be able to address that under that funding source and kind of take care of it. That doesn't necessarily mean we are going with that particular vendor that is in there but we wanted to give you a ballpark understanding of what the price is and give you a pretty rough range. Councilwoman Kaufman asked if we were going to get three bids. Mr. Poerio replied we are doing the research... Mayor Mignone stated that he is perfectly comfortable with the bid that we received. Stephanie and Bartelloni worked on this all last year. The one we have now is the most comprehensive upgrade for the chambers. We had different people come in and some people bid and said for all we know it could be more than that. The last company who came in, we need to upgrade our mixer, have eleven mics so we can do the TV, which was one of the requirements. We are also going to improve the speakers in the ceilings here that we have problems with people hearing in the audience. There will be better microphones. He thinks the comprehensive approach is probably the best for general needs for servicing the room, and also for the TV. That is the next to last step before we can go on air. He would rather move forward with that sooner rather than later. Mr. Poerio said we are still going to get the quotes, but he agrees with the Mayor, this is a very in-depth company that knows their stuff. We are having some issues in some of the solicitations that we made from other vendors. The Council doesn't have to decide tonight, it's just a question of a \$20,000 number and a question of is this an investment that you want to make. From what the Mayor has said and what our Clerk has said this is something in the direction you want to head in.
- 3. Budget Amendments –** Mr. Poerio stated that he knew that Mr. Negreann sent out to everyone on Council a list of things that had come up, items that had come up, since the time you guys had already introduced your budget. (inaudible) he and Alan have met on it several times as well. On top of that, earlier before this meeting, we had a Finance Committee meeting, where he went over some additional issues associated with Department of Public Works overtime. He thinks Alan had sent, or the Clerk had sent it out to all of you as well. He thinks if it is in this venue or when we really get into public session, up to you, he needs some direction from Council as to where you want to head with these things. In the Finance

Committee meeting there was a, not to steal your thunder Councilman, but there was a conversation about perhaps adding one or two more items into the capital budget for 5 different crosswalks at an average of about \$10,000 a crosswalk. There is some costs, but again we can talk about that. The last piece associated with the capital, going back to the technology aspect is something that during his interview he said we really need to take a hard look at. You guys have already expressed to me an opinion since I've been here, the Mayor certainly has been very hip on that and he is looking to go, he thinks the Mayor has put together a number of \$100,000 that we would add into the capital fund. That would take care of a lot of our capital need, take care of our microphone system should that be your desire, and gives you a little bit of flexibility. He talked to our Public Works guy about doing some software items in there too, and Recreation. Really trying to move us into the 21st Century with technology. He doesn't know if that dollar amount necessarily will be the end-all-be-all, but he thinks it would certainly give us a healthy start and give us some options of what we would like to prioritize first. Mayor Mignone mentioned also recommended that the down payment be offset with a reduction in the line for economic development, net zero on the budget in terms of impact.

Councilman Chinigo asked the Mayor if he wanted to go into an explanation of the crosswalks now. Mayor Mignone replied said go ahead. Councilman Chinigo apologized because he didn't get an opportunity to call everyone on the Council beforehand. He spoke with a couple of people and the Finance Committee. There are 5 crosswalks that we discussed at the Traffic and Safety Committee the other night, and they and he himself believe do need those flashers like we have over at Midland and Pyle/Myrtle. Just a button that a person crossing would hit and there would be flashing lights. The first one is the crosswalk we just made at Kinderkamack and Wayne. At night the bus lets riders off on the easterly side of Kinderkamack, he guesses. They have to cross Kinderkamack, and there are numerous pedestrians that regularly cross there at night and it's dark. He has seen people almost get hit, and when he has gotten off the bus there he has almost gotten hit. You take your life in your hands trying to cross the road there. Also at Kinderkamack and Clarendon where the 7-Eleven is. There are a lot of kids that use that crosswalk. He used crosswalk on Saturday and almost got hit by a car when he was trying to cross. The other 3 are the schools, Bogert Road and Continental. The crossing guard at Joe Maugeri Crossing, where 80-90% of the kids for Cherry Hill cross in the mornings and whichever crosswalk is the busiest at the school on 5th Ave., at St. Peters. He believes that should have a crosswalk also.

All these are venues that are not only used during school hours because the fields are being used for baseball, softball in the summer, soccer in the fall, and so forth. These fields are regularly used and there are regularly kids at night that are crossing here. He thinks these 5 crosswalks need the flashers and we have a very soft number of about \$10,000 a piece for everything said and done for installation of these flashers. So he is asking for \$50,000 he guesses, to go into capital and then we would have to put in 10% and bond the rest out. Councilman Chinigo feels this should be a priority for us because we are just moments away from disaster. It doesn't necessarily mean liability for us but we want to safeguard our citizens. Mayor Mignone stated that was a good idea. We have been slowly upgrading and it takes a very long time to do it. He thinks we have countdown timers on every intersection, so this is just a natural progression and whole the investment. Councilwoman Davis asked if anyone looked at Kinderkamack and Madison, by the Post Office. Mayor Mignone added that we are going to have more than enough money... Councilwoman Davis just wanted to say that it was very bad, they park across the street to the Post Office. She thinks it might be worse than Clarendon Court. Councilman Chinigo stated that he was all for it when it comes

to the safety of our residents, our children, we have schools everywhere, and the Yeshiva is there also. (simultaneous talking) Councilwoman Davis stated that no one stops for them and now we have two of those rubber things. The Police put a second one in. Councilman Chinigo said that when you go to Oradell through that stretch of Kinderkamack where all the businesses are between Ridgewood and Oradell Ave. people seem to slow down and take into account pedestrians crossing. For some reason here on Kinderkamack it's like the Autobahn. Mayor Mignone stated that we have talked to the County again about doing some more striping, we talked about painted islands, maybe painting some of the parking stalls. Anything that gives you the visual of narrowing the lane to slow down. They did that special surfacing in Oradell, but that was part of a grant, he believes, the County did. Councilwoman Kaufman stated the speed limit was 25 there. Councilwoman Busted said we never really determined whether it was actually 25 or they just posted the signs. If you look at their ordinance it's not. Mayor Mignone stated it's not, they just posted 25. Councilwoman Busted added that we actually petitioned the County... Mayor Mignone also added that they lowered the whole stretch of Kinderkamack including Oradell. They can sign it however they want... Councilwoman Busted said it wouldn't stand up. She addressed Councilman Chinigo by saying she thought it was a fantastic idea. Mr. Poerio said he would add that in, plus soft costs. Councilwoman Busted had a question, she spoke with Councilwoman Kaufman about technology safety issues. (simultaneous talking). Mayor Mignone stated he would ask Mr. Poerio to make sure that Bond Counsel writes it pretty broadly, so it's not just desktop or laptops only. The one thing he wants to look at also is upgrading our locks in the building with maybe a keypass system, internally and externally. That would fall under maybe some more security with cameras and things. All that would fall under technology. A motion was made to amend the capital budget.

**Motion by Councilman Chinigo, second by Councilman Papaleo to approve
All in favor 6-0**

Mr. Poerio talked about Mr. Negreann's sending out a change of \$41,653.00 was on your log. We also had a conversation regarding an error for Public Works that was roughly \$35,000 shortage. We talked with the Finance Committee and they are going to take it from there. Councilwoman Kaufman added \$50,000 for the street signs, assuming it's going to be maybe \$5,000 of current payout for the (inaudible) and self-classes. She thinks it's going to be about \$22.00 adding to per house, but we are going to double check with Mr. Negreann. Both the Mayor and Councilwoman Busted questioned in addition to what we had introduced. Mayor Mignone mentioned within the tax budget. Mr. Poerio replied no, he really doesn't. Mayor Mignone said it's time to go back and try and get that... Mr. Poerio said we'll take that, he'll sit down with Alan tomorrow and go over all the changes and he'll send out a memo, either Alan or he or collectively, will send out an email to Council to let you know the items you were looking for what the new rate is. If you want to get together again and have another meeting to give us additional directions from that we are more than happy to do that. Mayor Mignone said to come back to a "0" we need to add \$80,000 or move \$80,000 from cost and/or increase revenues, Mr. Poerio agreed. Mayor Mignone continued by saying to go back to the \$93.00.

4. **Cleaning Contract** – Councilwoman Busted asked if this contract, which included in the Council's packet includes Recreation. Mr. Poerio replied it includes all the fields and he has come to learn that every dept. has a "guy". He is trying to eliminate the "guy". This takes care of the borough hall, the police, recreation facilities, and the fire dept. The library wants their guy. Councilman Papaleo was a little unclear on Shade Tree and DPW had asked for an

electronic system that would streamline...several people stated that was in there. Councilman Papaleo said there were two, is it the less expensive one or the more expensive one. Mr. Poerio replied there was a \$2,500 one, which he didn't know the details of, but Alan has put that into the budget. Councilman Papaleo thought the other one was \$3,750.00, that's what he thought and he saw the \$2,500.00. He thought Shade Tree has asked for...Mayor Mignone suggested to Councilman Papaleo that we may want to make a motion to amend that now. Mr. Poerio said that \$2,500. is the one year option, \$6,250. is a three year option. He thinks we funded the first year. Mayor Mignone asked there is no increase in the overall cost of the cleaning services. Mr. Poerio replied it was minimal, it was not enough where we have to adjust this. The additional cost was already covered in the \$41,000.

WORK SESSION CONSENT AGENDA – Voted on at Regular Public Meeting

- 1. Enter into Agreement with Papa's Sand & Gravel for the purchase of leaf, grass, yard waste from the Borough at \$2.00 per cubic yard.**
- 2. Award of Contract to Maser Consulting P.A. for Engineering Services in the amount of \$34,750.00 Related to Improvements to Brookside & Memorial Parks.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Nothing

NEW BUSINESS – Nothing

Motion to Adjourn Work Session and return to the Regular Public Meeting @ 7:37 PM

Motion by Councilwoman Busted, second by Councilwoman Davis

All in favor 6-0

Stephanie Evans, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk