

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

**PRESENT:**

Councilwoman	Ellen Busted
Councilman	Dario Chinigo
Councilwoman	Mary Davis
Councilman	Joseph Gautier
Councilwoman	Michelle Kaufman
Councilman	Thomas Papaleo

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Mayor	Edward J. Mignone (Resigned Mayor's Office as of August 30, 2019)
Councilman	Dario Chinigo

Council President Busted called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

**Motion to Suspend Work Session and Enter Closed Session @6:02 PM  
RESOLUTION #19-295**

**Motion by Councilman Chinigo, second by Councilman Gautier  
All in favor 6-0**

**CLOSED SESSION TOPICS**

**Closed Session**

<b><u>Docket #</u></b>	<b><u>Item Title or Description</u></b>	<b><u>Statutory Reference</u></b>
19-9/9-1	DPW Contract Negotiation Update	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(4)
19-9/9-2	City of Hackensack Sewer Connection 250 Johnson Ave.	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)
19-9/9-3	Shared Services Contract Negotiations	N.J.S.A 10:4-12(7)
19-9/9-4	Benefits – Contract Negotiations	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)

**Motion to Adjourn Closed Session and Return to Work Session @6:55 PM**

**Motion by Councilman Gautier, second by Councilman Chinigo  
All in favor 6-0**

**ROLL CALL: Councilwoman Busted, Councilman Chinigo, Councilwoman Davis,  
Councilman Gautier, Councilwoman Kaufman, and Councilman Papaleo.**

## **BOROUGH AMINISTRATOR'S TOPICS – BOGART RD.**

Mr. Poerio explained that at the last Council Meeting there was some discussion regarding the Bogert Rd. grant application where he was asked to meet with representatives from the Traffic and Safety Commission or the Police to get further information. In 2018 and 2019 the Borough applied for Bogert Rd with a host of different activities to take place on that road including but not limited to a mill and pave expansion of the road, new sidewalks and curbing. Frankly pretty much all those are standard when it comes to any of the road work we do. The one item that comes in question is the angle parking. That is really what the center of the conversation was when he met with Officer Diamond, Chief of Police, and other representatives of the Police Dept., Mr. Costa, the Superintendent of DPW, and himself in a healthy discussion of what we think or what the difference of opinions were associated with Bogert. The DOT and the Police feel it should be reversed angle parking, and the Engineer feels it should be pulled in angle parking. There are several decisions we need to go ahead and have a discussion about. Do we continue to move ahead with angled parking and it is likely that the DOT will not accept it. If we do the reverse angled parking we would need to redo the plans, however DOT likely won't sign off on the grant. We can do all of the above items but keep the parallel parking of which the DOT would go ahead and sign off on that project. However the goal of that project, as he understands it, is to bring more parking to that area. More parking really becomes to what standard you are applying to. What he means by that is currently the road is not striped for parallel parking, if you were to stripe that section you would yield about 21 spaces. When you take the existing road with the existing section that we are going to do with parallel and do the parking as it relates to the code you will get about 21 parking space there. The down side of striping that is you would actually lose spaces. Because of what is currently happening now is that without there being line parking you have a Volkswagen Jetta and an SUV really taking up the space of what two parking spots would be. By going ahead and doing the parallel striping you would actually go ahead and ultimately lose spots by doing it that way. If you did reverse angle parking we would net about 37 spots. If you did angle parking we would create about 39 to 45 parking spots. These numbers are based upon what the Engineer provided to him. The question of what is really going to look for from Council tonight, because of where we are in this process with the grant and the timing of how long it's been out on the street, at the end of the day the take away he would like to receive from Council is what ultimately do you want to have done. Depending on those three options he needs to let the DOT know how we want to proceed with the timelines in which we are going to proceed and kind of put them at bay a little bit as much as possible so we can get whatever that project is underway. He asked Mr. Costa to come in and give a quick presentation regarding different parking and perhaps give a little bit more explanation and for you to ask any questions that you may have. Councilwoman Busted asked that he define what reverse angle parking is and what pull in angle parking is just so we all are on the same page. Mr. Costa started off by saying he was recently in Hoboken on a slip and fall. He was on Washington Ave. during the day where there was a DOT project where they took the angle parking and reversed the angle. Now what you do is on Washington Ave you put the car in reverse into an angled parking space. Between the bicycle lane, the scooters, and trying to negotiate reversing into a space that is 8 ½-9 foot wide. There was one person that made it fell like 5 minutes but probably was 2-3 minutes, backing in and trying to negotiate traffic on the other side of the road and backing in. He took pictures of it and sent it to the DOT saying that this quite frankly doesn't work. The reason this is coming up is because in Leonia, where he is the Town's Engineer, there has been angle parking as long as he knows existing in their downtown. Downtown

Englewood the same thing, Maywood also their downtown. It has been going on, at least 58 years to his knowledge. It doesn't work, this reverse is somebody's idea and it doesn't work. Again, we will lose a few more and DOT will approve it, the Police Dept. wants reverse. In talking with the Police Chief and Officer Diamond they would rather keep it as is. Literally put a white stripe, narrow the lanes and put a double yellow down the center and move on. He doesn't think he could get the DOT to approve straight in angle parking, and this has been going on for probably 3-4 months now. He is in the time warp with them and they have given us close to \$618,000, maybe a little bit more, almost \$638,000, \$200,000, \$220,000, and \$218,000, if he isn't mistaken. Even though they said they gave it to us, design it this way, the Council some years ago said let's do it this way, now he feels like he is fighting with everybody. We need direction. Both Mr. Costa and Mr. Poerio were on the phone with Ellie Shack from DOT, who is now the Rich Loveless, and we said we would get back to her within possibly 24-48 hours on the direction the town wants to go. Councilwoman Busted wanted to know if we had to stripe the parallel spaces in order to get the grant. Mr. Costa replied no you do not. What he would suggest is where the signage now, come straight out with a white stripe, go down Bogert Rd heading North towards Howland with a white stripe, 8 foot off the curbline and that is it. Don't make the perpendicular parking spaces. Councilwoman Davis asked if we were going to get more spaces. Mr. Costa stated we would get more spaces. Basically what Mr. Poerio was saying if you have a larger car/truck it going to be larger and if someone has a Volkswagen Beetle or Mini Coop it's going to be smaller so basically people are parking bumper to bumper. Councilwoman Busted said they are basically going to park the same way they are parking today, Mr. Costa answered correct. (simultaneous talking) Councilwoman Busted added we are not painting spaces. Mr. Costa stated we are not going to gain spaces, actually if you go out there and see what is going on at Howland and Bogert you have dedicated turn lanes, a dedicated left and the right lane is a dedicated right and straight only. They are parking within those turn lanes. Technically in order to widen the road from a single line to a two lane you actually what is called a "transition" depending on the mile per hour of the roadway. So in this case if you are going to transition over a 10-11 lane based on that speed limit you need roughly 85 feet to transition from the single lane to get you over to a dual lane. That is not what is going on right now. If you do it according to standards you are probably going to lose a few parking spaces. Councilman Papaleo asked if we could do the grant with parallel parking but widen the street and years later go to diagonal, can we do everything except for the diagonal striping, Mr. Costa replied yes. Councilman Papaleo asked if that was what he was recommending, that what he thinks would make the greatest sense. Mr. Costa replied we could do that. We can widen that street and not stripe the parking spaces accordingly. We make those parking space parallel, the only issue we will have are the utility poles. Mr. Poerio said earlier 39-45 spaces originally you could probably get 45 spaces in there the only issue is we have the utility poles on the eastern side and if you had to move them we would take out the entire tree line on the apartments. So to weigh those two options, we made islands around the utility poles not to impact the poles and the trees, so those trees would remain. That is why we lost a few spots based on what was originally presented to the Council on a very primary drawing. Councilwoman Busted wanted to follow up from one of the last times we talked about this grant, she thought it was Mayor Mignone who said that the apartments in that vicinity had plans to increase parking on their property. Mr. Costa informed the Council that was approved but he didn't know if the actual project was going forward. The Planning Board absolutely approved that project. Councilwoman Busted said their intent was to provide additional parking for the residents of that facility. Mr. Costa

stated that was correct. He added that there was street off of Howland that he, Mr. Poerio, and Jason from DPW looked at 2-3 weeks ago that the Council might want to consider vacating, give it to them and let them put additional parking or build a parking lot which could be 90° parking, 24 foot aisle where they could definitely pick up more parking there and we would not take care of the roadway in the future. That might be the most sense for that location. Councilwoman Davis asked did we pay for plans to be done for reversed angle parking. Mr. Costa replied absolutely. She wanted to know if we knew that DOT wouldn't approve. Mr. Costa stated absolutely not. Councilwoman Davis wanted to know how this happened and why didn't we find this out before we paid for the plans. Mr. Costa explained that he didn't know the reasoning behind this because again this isn't the first time angled parking exists. Councilman Papaleo asked if Mr. Loveless would have approved this but the new person will not. Mr. Costa said we sent this in and they gave us the money to do it. Obviously it is subject to entering into an agreement with the DOT and subject to giving them plans and specifications that they sign-off. Mr. Loveless is no longer in charge of local aid, he is no longer the representative to the community, and he is gone. Councilman Papaleo stated that the new person is saying no but Loveless would have said yes, Mr. Costa agreed with that. Ellie Shack took over about 6-8 months ago if that. Mr. Poerio wanted to follow-up on what Councilman Papaleo pointed out, if we were to do as far as widening the road, the sidewalks and curbs, he thinks we need to be clear to understand that we couldn't now go back to DOT to try and get money from them for angled parking. We would have to do this on our own because they have already given us money to go ahead to address that road. He doesn't think, as he said, we would get a second bite of the apple on that road. Councilman Papaleo said that we would do angled parking which would be just the striping later on. Mr. Costa agreed and said widen the road under this grant and don't stripe it. The only issue would be the utilities. Councilman Chinigo stated that the angled parking doesn't give us a lot extra space, we are talking about 2 or 3 spaces with what we have now. Mr. Costa replied no. You are probably looking at say 28 to roughly 39, 11 more parking spaces in that 500 foot lot. This was going to go all the way from Howland to Rt 4. This is the first phase. Councilwoman Busted asked so that is the total number of increased spaces. Mr. Costa stated just on the easterly side because the Council didn't want to touch the westerly side of the roadway. Councilman Papaleo added that was just for the first section. Will there be two more sections we are anticipating. Mr. Costa stated probably three more sections but we just received another grant for about \$218,000. Councilman Chinigo asked the other spots you were referencing in other towns, do they have the same character as Bogert. We have this coming from Rt 4, you have stop signs and people tend to accelerate up with people pulling out either backwards or forwards, which either way people are accelerating upwards. Mr. Costa said you were accelerating upwards but we were not putting it on the down slope. Where people would accelerate probably faster, if you did a traffic study he was sure the speed limit coming down is probably higher than going up. But again there are no traffic markings out there, double yellow line, no striping what so ever, whether it's for parking, or separating the roadway. Matt from his office was out there just to take photos of the intersection because maybe in the morning because of schools, and/or the traffic on Howland, the cars are queuing for the light in order to go straight and make a right they actually went on the other side of the roadway basically to make a left hand turn. Even the queuing as of today isn't correct. Again when you accept the grants you actually have to accept the grants and follow the standards which is the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials. Councilwoman Busted want to confirm that his recommendation is to widen the road. Mr. Costa replied just tell me what you want me to

do, if you want me to continue to fight with DOT he certainly is up for the challenge. Councilwoman Davis felt that would be just wasting more money. Mr. Costa stated that we can fight and continue to fight, we can reverse it, which isn't going to...those plans can be done, back to them and signed off or keep it the way it is. We take the money, mill and pave, curbs and sidewalks and improve the roadway, and stripe the lanes and move on. Really those are the choices. He can't fight with everybody, he is fighting with the Chief, he is fighting with the DOT, and he is probably fighting with his wife...we need to make a decision, move on, get the money and build a road. Councilman Papaleo asked if we widen and didn't move the poles we probably would lose parking. He thinks that we just improve the road and widen it. Mr. Costa agreed with losing the parking. Councilwoman Busted asked what we could do to encourage the property owner to get moving on those spaces. They got the approval from us and it will elevate a lot of the stress down there. Mr. Costa stated he could definitely follow up on it. Probably about a year ago we talked about Oxford, and again we took money from Community Development and repaved. That is a perfect example where we just gave them a gift by giving them that circle. Gave it to them and let them build parking there and we would just have a roadway. But again maybe the Council wants to revisit that at some point in the future. Councilman Papaleo said he would like to revisit that in the future. Councilwoman Busted asked if there was a motion to return the grant to the original repaving and improvement without angled parking, but stripe the road to make the lanes tighter. It would include curbing and sidewalks.

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

Councilman Papaleo wanted to make a recommendation that we revisit the discussion on Oxford

Mr. Poerio had one other item to augment his written report. One of the take a ways from the last meeting revolved around the ADA handicapped ramp which was something that Council had directed him to go ahead and get it done. On the agenda to under "consent agenda" is a resolution awarding a contract to do two intersections and fix up the ADA ramps associated with that and the balance of items on the list that was presented by the gentleman who came, will be put on for the Finance Committee and Council discussions as far as what they want to include in to next year's sample budget. After a long awaited time of this conversation going around, it is one of the things that we were able to go ahead and get going, get started, and moving on in the process.

**DISCUSSION – No items**

**WORK SESSION CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approve the request from the Recreation Commission to place a banner at 140 Kinderkamack Rd from September 16 through October 7<sup>th</sup> for River Edge Day.**

**Motion by Councilwoman Davis, second by Councilman Gautier to approve.  
All in favor 6-0**

**MAYOR'S REPORT – No report**

**FOR YOU INFORMATION – No topics**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

Councilman Papaleo wanted an update on the "noise ordinance". Mr. Sarlo stated that he

spoke to the Council President Busted about sitting down with Councilman Chinigo since he incorporated some of Councilman Chinigo remarks into the current ordinance and wanted to run some things past him and hopefully prior to the next meeting we will have something for you so we could list for introduction and possibly more discussion. It will be ready to go.

Councilman Papaleo asked about our Cablevision and Fios since it didn't look like we are taping, where are we with that. The Clerk stated that the gentleman needs to come in and see what else we need is currently in the hospital, but he will be released tomorrow.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Nothing

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**Motion by Councilman Gautier, second by Councilman Chinigo**

**All in favor 6-0**

Jim Claffey, 445 Kinderkamack Rd – He had a couple of questions. He has been waiting for the curbs outside of his house, they have paved the road haven't put in any curbs in 41 years.

One of his complaints is Kress Plaza, they have been working on it for a while. The first half owned by one landlord is done, the second half is waiting to be worked on. It's been a long time. He felt for River Edge Day we should look as good as Oradell, Westwood, Emerson on Kinderkamack Rd. He thinks there is a lot of stuff that is going on on Kinderkamack Rd that should be looked in to. One is, he believes is Dante's move from the vacant building that is sitting there for 5 years. Does anybody say anything about it, does anybody say just open the store and make look like we have a business there. Everybody has to come north to get to those other towns, off of Rt 4 and up Kinderkamack Rd. We are suffering part of that to because we put a light at Howland that we always wanted and now that we have it we don't want it. All the traffic is in front of our door from 7am, all day and all night. Can we find out if the construction on the strip mall is ever going to get finished. He would like the town to look a little nicer in appearance. The house on the corner of Wayne and Kinderkamack he thinks they stopped work on that maybe 5-6 weeks ago. There is a dumpster sitting out there. He doesn't understand how they got the ok to put another house there. The garage is going to back right out onto Kinderkamack just like his driveway does. He was wondering how much longer there is going to be no work on it, when is it going to get done. He thinks we are better than up and coming and he wants to know how come we cannot get our taxes paid online. Mr. Poerio stated that we are doing a conversion over to Edmunds, which is a software program that will ultimately allow us to do taxes online by the end of the year, he hopes.

Councilwoman Busted wanted to address his two questions. As far as the strip mall we have had an extensive memo from Mr. Poerio, who has talked with the landlord. The landlord has everything that is needed from the Borough to move forward to continue those repairs. We are similarly frustrated that those repairs have taken so long, but she can speak with confidence that this Borough and its employees have done everything possible, even turning things around in more timely fashion than they are required to provide that property owner with what they need to make the improvements. She just wanted the public to understand that. Councilman Gautier added as has the Building Dept. Councilwoman Busted mentioned again all of our employees exactly. As for Dante's we also share your frustration in their new property in it not being occupied. Our understanding is that they are guided by State regulations which provide that as long as there is some work done at some point during a year when permits are there they can continue to just work on the property

until they are done. We do share your frustration but the Borough employees, particularly the Building Dept., have worked very hard to help the property owner of the strip mall to have what they need to make those improvements. Our Borough Administrator has a relationship with that property owner and she is going to ask him to please follow-up and get us a status report.

**CLOSE TO PUBLIC AND ADJOURN WORK SESSION @ 7:22 PM**

**Motion by Councilman Chinigo, second by Councilwoman Davis**

**All in favor 6-0**

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Stephanie Evans, RMC  
Borough Clerk