



## BOROUGH OF LEONIA

### COUNCIL- SPECIAL MEETING ~ Minutes ~

Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

312 Broad Avenue  
Leonia, NJ 07605  
<http://www.leonianj.gov/>

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May 21, 2020

7:30 pm

Leonia Borough Hall - Virtually

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A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia was held virtually via GoToMeeting in the Leonia Borough Hall at 312 Broad Avenue, Leonia, NJ on May 21, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor Judah Zeigler.

Mayor Zeigler read the following statement into the record: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. The meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting, are posted on the public bulletin board in Borough Hall, published in the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year, and copies are sent to the Star Ledger. Notice of this virtual meeting by the May 19, 2020 Sunshine Notice containing the time, date, and information on how to access this meeting were sent to the Record, Star Ledger and have been posted at Borough Hall and on the Borough website."

PRESENT: Mayor Judah Zeigler and Councilmembers Pasquale Fusco, Maureen Davis, Louis Grandelis, and William Ziegler

ABSENT: Councilmembers Bernadette Flaim and Joanne Terrell

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie  
Borough Administrator Andrea Wardrop  
Borough Clerk Anne Dodd

#### ***Public Comment***

No one came forward.

#### ***Non-Consent Resolutions***

#### **RES. 2020-122 Authorize Advertisement – Receipt of Bids – Leonia Turf Field Project**

Mayor Zeigler explained that the reason for this resolution is that the Borough is the lead funding authority rather than the Board of Education. He advised that the Borough taking on this role will allow for a 10-year term versus a 5-year term which will lessen the tax impact for residents. He noted that the specifications were reviewed and approved by the current Borough Engineer, Planning Board, and Department of Environmental Protection & Energy.

Motion by Councilman Grandelis, second by Council President Fusco, that Resolution #2020-122 be approved.

Councilman Ziegler acknowledged all of the work that has gone into this project and noted that it has been discussed at length by the governing body. He questioned whether the municipality should be taking on any non-essential debt under the current economic circumstances.

Mayor Zeigler expressed his opinion that, although he shares Councilman Ziegler's concerns, there is a need to invest in the community as developers want to see an active, vibrant community that invests in itself. He noted that \$100,000 in grant money was received for this project and additional grant funding is being sought this year which is anticipated to be awarded and will further reduce costs. He expressed his belief that the governing body should proceed with this project.

Council President Fusco stated that, although he also shares Councilman Ziegler's concerns, he believes that this project is enhancing one of the Borough's most important facilities. He commented that investing in this school facility will be key in attracting new residents to the municipality. He noted that the Borough will have use of this facility as well.

Councilwoman Davis remarked that there has been some relatively good news in the last few days regarding availability of funding related to COVID-19 expenses. As grants are currently available for this project and it is unknown if this grant money will be available in the future, she expressed her opinion that the Borough should take advantage of these opportunities while they exist.

There was discussion regarding an odor in this area that is emanating from Downes Tree Service. Borough Administrator Wardrop is to speak with the representative from Downes Tree Service to convey that any and all measures to minimize this odor are to be taken at all times.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Fusco:	aye	Councilman Grandelis:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	absent
Councilwoman Flaim:	absent	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

***Adjournment:***

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Ziegler, second by Councilwoman Davis, adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC  
Municipal Clerk