



BOROUGH OF LEONIA

COUNCIL- Work Session
~ Minutes ~

Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

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

January 20, 2021

7:30 pm

Leonia Borough Hall - Virtually

A Work Session 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 January 20, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor Judah Zeigler.

Council President Terrell led those present in a salute to the flag.

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 and on the Borough website, published in the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year, and copies are sent to the Star Ledger."

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

ABSENT: None

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

Appointments

Mayor Zeigler advised that there has been a vacancy in the position of Chief of Police since October and Captain Tamagny has been serving in the position of Acting Chief of Police since that time. He noted that it is the recommendation of the Police Committee that Captain Tamagny be appointed as Chief of Police and expressed confidence that Captain Tamagny will serve the Borough with honor and distinction.

RES. 2021-56 Appoint Chief of Police [2021-56 Appoint Chief of Police.pdf](#)

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, second by Councilwoman Flaim, that Resolution #2021-56 be approved.

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

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

Mayor Zeigler administered the Oath of Office to Chief of Police Tamagny.

Chief Tamagny thanked the governing body and Borough Administrator for giving him this opportunity and for their support. He thanked his family for their love and support, former Chief Rowe, and the department.

Public Comment

Mike DeGidio, 408 Grand Avenue, congratulated Chief Tamagny and asked that the purpose of Resolution #2021-64 be explained.

Robyn Platis, 212 Warwick Lane, congratulated Chief Tamagny and thanked emergency services for assisting her family on Thursday. She questioned whether Fort Lee Road is a County road.

Mayor Zeigler confirmed that Fort Lee Road is a County road. He expressed his condolences to Ms. Platis for the loss of her dog and extended his best to her husband. He advised that he will be reaching out to the County Executive to request that additional safeguards be put into place in that area.

Consent Resolutions

With respect to Resolution #2021-64, Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that the purpose is to notify the State Health Benefits Program of new retirees who will be receiving health benefits.

- A. RES. 2021-57 Authorize Bill List
[2021-57 Authorize Bill List.pdf](#)
[2021-57 Backup.pdf](#)
- B. RES. 2021-58 Authorize Receipt of Bids - Demolition of Properties - New Municipal Building Site
[2021-58 Authorize Advertisement - Receipt of Bids - Demo of Properties.pdf](#)
- C. RES. 2021-59 Authorize Receipt of Bids - New Municipal Building Construction
[2021-59 Authorize Advertisement - Receipt of Bids - New Municipal Building Construction.pdf](#)
- D. RES. 2021-60 Authorize Receipt of Bids - Signal Improvement Project
[2021-60 Authorize Advertisement - Receipt of Bids - Signal Improvement Project.pdf](#)
- E. RES. 2021-61 Extend Outdoor Dining
[2021-61 Authorize Extension of Outdoor Dining.pdf](#)
- F. RES. 2021-62 Amend RES. 2020-166 - Recreation Office Manager Salary
[2021-62 Amend Res. 2020-166 - Recreation Office Manager Salary.pdf](#)
- G. RES. 2021-63 Appoint Recycling Coordinator - John Villareal
[2021-63 Authorize DPW Superintendent to Fulfill Duties of Recycling Coordinator.pdf](#)
- H. RES. 2021-64 Adopt Provisions of Chapter 48 - SHBP

[2021-64 Adopt Provisions of Chapter 48 - SHBP.pdf](#)

- I. ~~RES. 2021-65 Authorize Proposal - Pennoni Engineering - Leonia Recreation Center~~
Pulled for separate vote
[2021-65 Authorize Proposal - Pennoni Engineering - Leonia Recreation Center.pdf](#)
- J. ~~RES. 2021-66 Authorize Proposal - GZA Environmental - Leonia Ambulance Corps~~
~~Environmental Analysis~~ *Pulled for separate vote*
[2021-66 Authorize Proposal - GZA Environmental - Ambulance Corps Soil & Groundwater Site Investigation.pdf](#)
- K. 2021-67 Authorize Proposal - Transfer of Generator from Ambulance Corp Building to Recreation & Transfer Switch Installation
[2021-67 Authorize Proposal - Transfer of Generator to Ambulance Corps - COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic.pdf](#)

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, second by Councilman Grandelis, that the Consent Agenda be approved as amended.

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

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

RES. 2021-65 Authorize Proposal - Pennoni Engineering - Leonia Recreation Center
[2021-65 Authorize Proposal - Pennoni Engineering - Leonia Recreation Center.pdf](#)

Councilman Ziegler inquired whether this assessment is being undertaken to address specific concerns.

Mayor Zeigler explained that this assessment is being undertaken as a result of last year's budget process during which it was decided to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the Recreation Center to determine all issues that exist.

Motion by Councilman Grandelis, second by Councilwoman Davis, that Resolution #2021-65 be approved.

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

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

RES. 2021-66 Authorize Proposal - GZA Environmental - Leonia Ambulance Corps Environmental Analysis
[2021-66 Authorize Proposal - GZA Environmental - Ambulance Corps Soil & Groundwater Site Investigation.pdf](#)

Councilman Ziegler advised that this proposal has not been reviewed by the Facilities Committee. He commented that the fee strikes him as being high and inquired whether the cost can be brought down by leveraging the soil boring work that has already been completed at this site. He advised that he would like to discuss this proposal at the next Facilities Committee meeting.

Motion by Councilman Ziegler, second by Councilman Fusco, that Resolution #2021-66 be tabled.

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

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

Unfinished Business:

COVID-19 UPDATE – Mayor Zeigler

Mayor Zeigler reported that COVID-19 is very active within the State, County, and Leonia. He urged residents to continue to wear face coverings, practice social distancing, and avoid indoor gatherings. With respect to the vaccine, he commented that an order has been placed and it is anticipated that the vaccine will begin to be administered in mid-February. He noted that he has received an overwhelming response to the call for volunteers to assist with the vaccine clinic and it is possible that the hours of operation can be expanded. He expressed his opinion that the State has done a poor job with the vaccine rollout, and as a result, the Borough will be implementing its own scheduling system. He advised that he had a conversation with the Mayor of Tenafly who has agreed to pay part of the cost for supplies and provide volunteers.

Recreation Staffing/Budget Requirements - Mayor Zeigler

Mayor Zeigler explained that he had requested that the Finance Committee review the Recreation Department staffing requirements with the Recreation Commission to ensure that the recommendation for the promotion to Program Director was appropriate.

Councilwoman Flaim confirmed that the committee had a very substantive conversation with Sean Krakower, Recreation Superintendent, and Jon Abouaf, Recreation Commission Chairperson, during which detailed information was provided on the responsibilities assigned to each position within the department. She expressed comfort in what was presented, noting that an alternative was not provided.

RES. 2021-68 Confirm Appointment – Recreation Program Director [2021-68 Confirm Appointment of Program Director - David Torres.pdf](#)

Motion by Councilman Grandelis, second by Council President Terrell, that Resolution #2021-68 be approved.

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

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

Snow/Alternate Side Proposal – Council President Terrell

As Councilman Grandelis has not had the opportunity to obtain data on how many times the ladder truck has had to deploy its outriggers, it was decided to move this discussion to the February Work Session.

Ordinance - Use of Right of Ways - Borough Attorney

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie explained that this ordinance codifies the procedures for review and approval of 5G wireless facilities within the Municipal Rights-of-Way and is consistent with FCC requirements and regulations. He noted that it includes provisions to ensure protection of the tree canopy. He noted that he has prepared an application form and form of agreement which will be implemented upon adoption of the ordinance.

Council President Terrell added that there is language included that will minimize equipment that is left behind when newer equipment is installed.

It was decided to place this ordinance on the February 1st Regular Meeting agenda for introduction.

Discussion on Downtown Analysis & Recommended Actions - Mayor Zeigler

Mayor Zeigler advised that this agenda item will be pushed to the February Work Session.

Council President Terrell expressed concern that no Korean restaurants were interviewed when this analysis was done and asked that doing so be made a priority. Mayor Zeigler advised that this concern will be relayed to Karp Strategies.

CDBG Project Discussion - Mayor Zeigler

Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that the Community Development Block Grant application is due shortly. She suggested that funds be sought for improvements to the Senior Center basement which has extensive flooding issues and resulting water damage. She advised that CDBG has confirmed that this project would be eligible for funding.

Borough Engineer Di Sessa explained that the Senior Center basement door facing Broad Avenue is two feet below grade and extensive water damage to the vinyl flooring exists. He explained the work that would be involved to resolve the flooding issues and advised that a cost estimate has been prepared.

RES.2021-69 Authorize Submission CDBG Grant Application

[Resolution 2021-69 Authorize Submission of Community Development Block Grant Application.pdf](#)

Motion by Councilman Grandelis, second by Councilman Fusco, that Resolution #2021-69 be approved.

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

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

E-Blast of Mayor & Council Meeting Videos - Councilwoman Flaim

Councilwoman Flaim explained that the Borough of Fort Lee e-blasts Mayor and Council meeting videos to its residents and expressed her opinion that Leonia should do the same. She commented that it would be a great vehicle to keep residents apprised of what is happening.

It was the consensus of the governing body to send out Nixle notifications with a link to each meeting recording. This notification will be sent out using the community section of Nixle.

Fort Lee Road Crossing at Irving Street

It was decided that Councilman Ziegler will draft a resolution to endorse making the intersection of Fort Lee Road and Irving Street safer. This resolution will be listed on the February 1st Regular Meeting agenda for approval.

Closed Session:**RES. 2021-70 Authorize Closed Session**

BE IT RESOLVED in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia entered into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. Contract Negotiations
 - 1. Downes Tree Service Lease Agreement
 - 2. Acquisition of Properties

- B. Pending & Prospective Litigation
 - 1. Cell Carrier Settlements

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene to adjourn this meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from Councilman Fusco, seconded by Councilwoman Flaim, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Executive Session at 8:41 p.m.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Ziegler, second by Councilwoman Davis, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk