



BOROUGH OF LEONIA

COUNCIL- Regular Meeting
~ Minutes ~

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

June 13, 2022

7:30 pm

Leonias Senior Center

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonias was held in person at the Leonias Senior Center at 305 Beechwood Place, Leonias, NJ, and virtually via GoToMeeting on June 13, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Mayor Zeigler.

Those present were led in the Flag Salute by Council President Flaim

Mayor Zeigler read the following statement: "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 Reorganization 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. Notice of this meeting was published in the January 11th edition of the Record, sent to the Star Ledger, and posted on the public bulletin board in Borough Hall and on the Borough website."

PRESENT: Mayor Judah Zeigler, Council President Bernadette Flaim,
Councilwoman Maureen Davis, Councilman Pasquale Fusco,
Councilman William Ziegler, Councilwoman Joanne Terrell,

ABSENT: Councilman Louis Grandelis

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie
Borough Administrator Andrea Wardrop
Deputy Borough Clerk Jonathan Mandel

Presentation/Remarks**Bond Sale Results – Sherry Tracey – Phoenix Advisors**

Financial Advisor Sherry Tracey presented the results of the Bond Sale conducted on May 19, 2022 with a closing date of June 1, 2022. The purpose of the Bond Sale was the acquisition of the new municipal building to be built as well as the remediation of the Borough Hall. The Bonds were sold as tax-exempt with a Standard and Poor's rating of AA. The total proceeds of the bid were \$12,415,000.

Mayor Zeigler asked if there was a softening generally in the interest of municipal bonds. Financial Advisor Tracey stated that Municipal Bonds are seeing to see investors return to the market but there was softening around March-April when withdrawals from Municipal Bonds and Municipal Bond Funds were rather significant. Municipal Bonds remain a favored investment, however, particularly in New Jersey where there is a higher income tax and the bonds are tax-free.

Councilman Ziegler congratulated Financial Advisor Tracey and her team work with Bond Counsel Steven Rogut for securing a good interest rate considering the unknown factors in play with the world. Councilman Ziegler however wishes that in the future more transparency is provided to the Mayor and Council so that they and the public are aware of when interest rates are to exceed a previously predicted range.

Public Comment

Kim Queren, 175 Highwood Avenue, wished to speak as to the petition, listed as item 14 on the agenda. Ms. Queren expressed her disappointment and felt ashamed for those Leonians who took the time to create the document. Ms. Queren asked those that signed the petition to reflect on how singing affects their neighbors and fellow Leonians. Her statement finished by encouraging the town to continue proudly flying the pride flags.

Supriya Shankar requested permission from the Mayor and Council to place a banner on Broad Avenue to advertise her upcoming Color & Kite festival. Mayor Zeigler noted the request and mentioned that it shall be up for discussion later in the meeting.

Alec Melman, 172 Highwood Avenue, expressed his agreement with his neighbor Kim Queren for her earlier public comment but mainly wished to express his dissatisfaction with the repaving project on Broad Avenue, stating it has been not only nine months in progress but subpar work. Mayor Zeigler agreed that the amount of time taken to finish the project is an issue and expressed his displeasure with the progress of the project. Borough Engineer Drew DiSessa gave an update on the project, stating that the following week milling and paving will begin. Borough Engineer DiSessa stated that due to scheduling issues with the contractor the project has taken longer than expected. Mayor Zeigler requested that the Borough Engineer provide a timeline of everything done to move the project along to be presented at the June 27, 2022 Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Appointments**RES. 2022-147 Appointment of Borough Auditor**
[2022-147 Appointment of Borough Auditor.pdf](#)

Mayor Zeigler requested a correction in the second line of the resolution, changing the verbiage to “Gary W. Higgins was the LVH Partner.” With this change, the resolution was introduced.

Mayor Zeigler explained that Borough Auditor Gary W. Higgins is leaving his current firm Lerch Vinci & Higgins, LLP and is moving on to a new position at PKF O’Connor Davies, LLP. As Borough Auditor Higgins has provided exceptional service to the Borough of Leonia, there is a desire to reappoint him as Borough Auditor at his new firm.

Motion by Councilman Ziegler, Second by Councilman Fusco, that RES. 2022-147 be approved.

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

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

RES. 2022-148 Authorize Hires – 2022 Summer Camp Season
[2022-148 Authorize Hires – 2022 Summer Camp Season.pdf](#)

Motion by Council President Flaim, Second by Councilwoman Terrell, that RES. 2022-148 be approved.

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

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

RES. 2022-149 Amendment to Resolution 2022-133 Authorize Hires – 2022 Swim Club Season
[2022-149 Amended Authorize Hires – 2022 Swim Club Season.pdf](#)

Mayor Zeigler confirmed with Borough Administrator Wardrop that the reason for the introduction of this resolution is that all the information contained within was changed, to which it was confirmed. Mayor Zeigler asked Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie if Resolution 2022-133 should be rescinded prior to the adoption of 2022-

149, to which the Borough Attorney confirmed. Mayor Zeigler requested a motion to rescind Resolution 2022-133.

Motion by Council President Flaim, Second by Councilman Fusco that RES. 2022-133 be rescinded.

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

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

Mayor Zeigler deferred making the nominations within RES. 2022-149 due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Councilwoman Terrell, Second by Councilwoman Davis, that RES. 2022-149 be approved.

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

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

RES. 2022-150 Authorize Hire of Part-Time Summer Seasonal DPW Laborer
[2022-150 Authorize Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal DPW Laborer – Emre Ozmemili.pdf](#)

Motion by Councilman Fusco, Second by Councilwoman Davis, that RES. 2022-150 be approved.

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

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

RES. 2022-151 Appointment of DPW Laborer**[2022-151 Authorize Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal DPW Laborer – Joshua Suruy.pdf](#)**

Motion by Councilman Fusco, Second by Councilwoman Terrell, that RES. 2022-151 be approved.

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

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

Reports**Council President Flaim****Library Board of Trustees**

The Library Board of Trustees met on June 8, 2022.

The Adult Services Librarian Rebecca Spero hit the ground running, coming up with wonderful programs in the adult services area.

The summer reading program for all ages runs from June 20, 2022 through August 15, 2022.

Library representatives hosted tours of the library for Anna C Scott School students, leading to 122 Library Cards being issued.

Bathroom updates are almost complete on the library's main floor, with work continuing on the bathrooms of the other floors.

The library's employee handbook has undergone a complete overhaul, the first in 12 years.

To date, almost 29,000 people have stepped through the doors of the library. Also, for the first time in recent years, the physical circulation of library books is ahead of digital.

May was Pacific Islander Heritage Month within the Library.

Finance & Human Resources Committee

The Finance & Human Resources Committee is in the midst of hiring a new Chief Financial Officer to replace Chief Financial Officer Sheryl Luna.

Councilman Ziegler interjected that as the timeline was pushed back for this year's Capital Budget, the Shade Tree Commission and Environmental Commission wished

to make sure that they will have funding for their Fall Planting. Councilman Ziegler wanted to make sure that the Mayor and Council are aware of this time constraint.

Councilman Ziegler also wished to comment as to the library's mention of physical circulation, stating that he heard from a reliable source that e-books cost more than physical. Councilman Ziegler wished to know more as to the reason for this, asking Council President Flaim if she could perform some research into the topic.

Councilwoman Davis

Board of Health

The May 18, 2022 meeting of the Board of Health had to be postponed due to a lack of quorum.

Police Committee

Please see attached below for the May 2022 Police Committee Report

[May 2022 Police Committee Report](#)

Councilman Fusco

Department of Public Works

Please see attached below the Department of Public Works Monthly Report for May 2022

[May 2022 Department of Public Works Report](#)

Building Department

Please see attached below the May 2022 Construction Permit Activity Report and the Cash Receipts Audit Report.

[May 2022 Construction Permit Activity Report](#)

[May 2022 Cash Receipts Audit Report](#)

Planning Board

The Planning Board saw its third application for a subdivision, which was unanimously denied. Councilman Fusco stated that the Planning Board has stepped up its game and has held fast to the zoning that the town is so deeply proud of.

The outdoor advertising billboard application has been pushed to this coming month.

There was one approval for a long fence bearing at 402 Highwood Avenue.

Councilman Ziegler asked Councilman Fusco if the application for 131 Fort Lee Road was considered by the Planning Board, to which Councilman Fusco confirmed it has not yet been. Councilman Ziegler wished to know if the redevelopment plan is going to be ready. Mayor Zeigler stated that this is to be addressed in June but there is not yet a plan in place.

Councilwoman Terrell

Law and Ordinances Committee

The Law and Ordinances Committee met in regards to proposed changes in the Fire Code. Discussion was also held over the municipal parking lot and the types of vehicles that should be allowed to park there.

Board of Education

The Board of Education held two meetings in May.

Councilman Ziegler

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee continues to meet and as stated earlier, the Bond Issuance has been completed for the new municipal building and refurbishing of the Borough Hall. A 100-page booklet is available, containing all the information relating to the bond and its finances.

The Contractor for the new municipal building shall going forward meet two times a week with borough officials to discuss the project. Construction shall begin soon, possibly as soon as June 15, 2022.

Mayor Zeigler asked Borough Administrator Wardrop as to third party mandatory inspections that must occur, as mentioned by the Borough Engineer and Project Manager John Bertolli. These third-party inspections must be approved by resolution that is to be provided in the next agenda for the June 27, 2022 Work Session Meeting.

Historic Preservation Commission

At the May meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, a video on the alternate High School in Leonia called "To Leonia with Love" was discussed. This video may be viewed on Vimeo by any interested residents.

Two homeowners on Paulin Boulevard are potentially interested in having their homes designated as historical properties.

Environmental Commission

A new power plant is being proposed in the Ironbound in Newark, NJ with another likely proposal in North Bergen, NJ. The Environmental Commission shall be discussing the pros and cons of these proposed plants. The Environmental Commission shall discuss more into this topic and discuss a potential official written stance.

Councilman Ziegler highlighted the great work that has been done by the Environmental Commission on Highwood Hills.

Shade Tree Commission

Councilman Ziegler gave thanks to Co-Chair Imanta Bergmanis for her great work in the Shade Tree Commission.

The Shade Tree Commission shall be approaching the Mayor and Council soon to discuss some much needed amendments to the Shade Tree Ordinance. In these amendments will be some new restrictions made based upon observations made throughout the town.

30 trees were planted as part of the Shade Tree Commissions spring planting program.

Council President Flaim wished to know how new residents of Leonia are made aware of the need to acquire a permit to cut trees. Councilman Ziegler stated that the Shade Tree Commission has made sure to keep the public well informed through brochures as well as through information placed on the website.

Council President Flaim also wished to ask as a committee if the Shade Tree Commission has discussed the Lanternfly infestation. Councilman Ziegler responded that the Shade Tree Commission has had some discussion about the infestation and its dire effect on the environment.

Mayor Zeigler asked how residents can request to be part of the private property planting program. Councilman Ziegler responded that residents may go onto the Borough of Leonia's website to learn more about the program and reach out to the Shade Tree Commission to express their interest in participation. The Shade Tree Commission may also reach out to residents should they find a particularly desirable spot for a tree, opening up the discussion to see if they would be interested. On the website as well is a form that residents may fill out.

In response to a question from Mayor Zeigler, Councilman Ziegler confirmed that an inventory is kept of trees on right-of-way sidewalks.

Mayor's Report

On May 30, 2022 the Mayor participated in the Memorial Day Parade, which was well attended.

A gun violence awareness event was held in Wood Park on June 4, 2022.

Due to anticipated rain the Leonia Pride Event hosted on June 14, 2022 was moved indoors of the Recreation Center. Representative Josh Gottheimer was in attendance for the event. Many young participants came to the event to show their support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Mayor Zeigler made mention of the various residents who have come to him to compliment the helpfulness and professionalism of the Clerk's Office. Mayor Zeigler also expressed his appreciation for all the work done by the DPW and Recreation Office on all the recent and upcoming events.

Borough Administrator's Report

The site superintendent trailer has been placed on the worksite of the new municipal building, with work expected to begin within the upcoming weeks. Groundbreaking is expected to begin as soon as June 15, 2022.

The electric vehicle charging station project is well underway, with a representative from Bryan Electric to occur to discuss the master service agreement with ChargePoint. Discussion over policy and fee setting for use of the station shall occur with the Law and Ordinances Committee and Mayor and Council.

The Capital Budget is to be provided to the Finance Committee, with decisions being held as to which Departments are desired to discuss their budget further in person.

The DPW no longer has any full-time vacancies, with two additional summer seasonal positions approved for this meeting.

In regards to the Chief Financial Officer recruitment, diligent work has been done to find a replacement with one projected to be presented to the Mayor and Council in a month.

Cross-training from the Clerk's Office has been used to help supplement the current technical assistant vacancy in the Building Department.

Brought before the Mayor and Council tonight is a resolution to approve technical solutions for Mayor and Council Meetings. Cooperative pricing and discounts were provided, bringing total costs down for the project.

The 2022 Salary Ordinance will be on for introduction during this meeting.

Borough Administrator Wardrop was voted in as CDBG South East Regional Vice-Chair, working this week on allotments for funding.

Mayor Zeigler congratulated the Borough Administrator on her election.

Borough Attorney's Report

Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie stated that in respect to the compost facility, he has been working with Downes to finalize their lease agreement.

Affordable Housing issues have been discussed extensively with the Borough Planner. What the anticipated requirements for affordable housing are shall be brought before the Planning Board.

In regards to the AT&T cellular tower, the project is currently in a standstill as the Borough still awaits response from the company.

Councilwoman Terrell has worked extensively with the Borough Attorney in regards to updating the Noise Ordinance, which shall be adopted tonight.

In regards to the Downes Lease, Mayor Zeigler noted that he permitted the Borough Attorney to proceed forward with the creation of the lease. The lease shall be brought before the Mayor and Council for their reviewal before potential adoption.

Borough Engineer's Report

Borough Engineer Drew DiSessa stated that work is underway in creating design work for Broad Avenue Section 11, with the Shade Tree Commission and others being invited to take part in a walkthrough.

The Senior Center waterproofing project design is being completed, with the desire to bring it out to bid within the next few weeks.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has come out with new guidelines and emergency damage stormwater rules. The implementation of these rules shall be postponed until sometime in the summer. These rules change the design requirements for rainfall events, incorporating a lot more properties to now be considered to be part of a flood zone. The emergency rule requires that municipalities are to pass an ordinance implementing the rules within a year of its adoption.

Mayor Zeigler inquired as to the status of the storm sewer that services Wood Terrace. The Borough Engineer stated that his office is still evaluating the storm sewer to see if any improvements can be made to allow for better collection of stormwaters. Within the next month, some preliminary answers can be collected and provided to the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Ziegler asked if there were any solutions that could be made to continue to improve the infrastructure to prevent future occurrences. Councilman Ziegler also inquired as to whether other areas could be included in the remediation efforts. Borough Engineer DiSessa stated that others areas may be included but due to some piping falling out of the Borough of Leonia's maintenance jurisdiction it brings complications.

Councilman Ziegler wished to also ask the Borough Engineer if any air monitoring has been held to determine the air quality and safety within the Borough Hall. The

Borough Engineer responded that an inspection found that the asbestos situation was stable and thus there has not been any air testing as of yet.

Adoption of Ordinances

Ordinance 2022-07

The Deputy Borough Clerk read the title of the ordinance into the record:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 181 ENTITLED
“NOISE” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie explained that this is the updated version of the model noise ordinance, with changes made as requested by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Let the record show that no members of the public came forward either virtually or in person during the public hearing of Ordinance 2022-07.

Motion by Councilwoman Terrell that the foregoing ORD. 2022-07 be passed and adopted on second reading. Second by Councilwoman Davis.

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

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

Introduction of Ordinances

Ordinance 2022-08

The Deputy Borough Clerk read the title of the ordinance into the record:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARIES, WAGES AND/OR COMPENSATION AND TO ESTABLISH SALARY & WAGE RANGES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022.

Borough Administrator Wardrop stated that the salary ordinance lists the comprehensive salary ranges of non-contractual employees of the Borough of Leonia. Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that this is not an amendment to the 2022-08 ordinance but a newly introduced resolution.

Motion by Council President Flaim, Second by Councilwoman Terrell that ORD. 2022-08 be introduced and passed on first reading, setting June 27, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard for second reading and adoption.

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

Council President Flaim: aye Councilman Grandelis: absent

Councilwoman Davis: aye Councilwoman Terrell: aye

Councilman Fusco: aye Councilman Ziegler aye

Consent Resolutions

RES. 2022-152 Authorize Bill List

[2022-152 Authorize Bill List.pdf](#)

[2022-152 Bill List Backup.pdf](#)

RES. 2022-153 LRHC Senior Bus Service Agreement

[2022-153 Authorize Execution of a Payment Agreement with Leonia Housing Retirement Corp.pdf](#)

RES. 2022-154 Purchase of Audiovisual Equipment for Leonia Senior Center Facility

[2022-154 Authorize CTCI Installation of Equipment in Leonia Senior Center.pdf](#)

RES. 2022-155 Pennoni Asbestos and Air Monitoring Plan

[2022-155 Pennoni Asbestos and Air Managing Plan.pdf](#)

RES. 2022-156 Fire Department Stipends

[2022-156 Authorize Fire Department Stipends.pdf](#)

RES. 2022-157 Authorization to Serve Alcohol at Pool – Sportsboosters

[2022-157 Authorization to Serve Alcohol at Pool – Sportsboosters.pdf](#)

RES. 2022-158 Authorization for LOSAP Payment

[2022-158 Authorization for LOSAP Payment.pdf](#)

RES. 2022-159 Authorize Salary Increase for Administrative Assistant to the Borough Administrator Effective January 1, 2022

[2022-159 Authorize Salary Increase for Administrative Assistant to the Borough Administrator.pdf](#)

~~RES. 2022-160 Authorize Application for the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Grant with Teaneck~~

[2022-160 Leap Grant Authorization.pdf](#)

2022-161 Authorize Estimated Tax Bills

[2022-161 Authorize Estimated Tax Bills.pdf](#)

2022-162 Authorize Refund to Food Vendor[2022-162 Authorize Refund to Food Vendor.pdf](#)

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, second by Councilwoman Terrell, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

Council President Flaim: aye Councilman Grandelis: absent

Councilwoman Davis: aye Councilwoman Terrell: aye

Councilman Fusco: aye Councilman Ziegler aye

RES. 2022-160 Authorize Application for the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Grant with Teaneck[2022-160 Leap Grant Authorization.pdf](#)

RES. 2022-160 was pulled by Mayor Zeigler for additional comment. Mayor Zeigler wished to highlight the benefits of working with Teaneck. The Borough of Leonia will be applying for a \$250,000 grant together with Teaneck for soft costs related to the shared service agreement.

Motion by Council President Flaim, second by Councilman Ziegler, that RES. 2022-160 be approved.

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

Council President Flaim: aye Councilman Grandelis: absent

Councilwoman Davis: aye Councilwoman Terrell: aye

Councilman Fusco: aye Councilman Ziegler aye

Unfinished Business**Alternate Size Parking**

Mayor Zeigler requested for a status update as to signage for the new Alternate Side Parking regulations. Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that DEPTCOR has finished the manufacturing of the signage and that they were shipped the previous week.

Mayor Zeigler expressed his desire to have a town-wide mailing of information to residents of Leonia, so as to have them fully understand how these new regulations will affect them. With this needs to be a warning period that allows for the public to gain a better understanding of the regulations in practice.

Councilwoman Terrell made note of her gratitude that this shall be performed during a non-snow period.

Council President Flaim stated that the note provided to residents as part of the mailing should also give more guidance to residents as to how it will affect them should they have guests.

New Business

Vaccination Policy Discussion – Andrea Wardrop/Adam Abramson

Mayor Zeigler opened the discussion, asking if this is an item that can be discussed in Open Session, which the Borough Attorney confirmed as it constitutes a general policy.

Mayor Zeigler explained that the conversation arose due to a raised question of religious exception to the Borough of Leonia's staff vaccination policy.

Labor Attorney Adam Abramson was in attendance to explain the new draft vaccination policy amendments. Labor Attorney Abramson begun by explaining the history of the vaccination policy and addendum that explained how to prove vaccination status and accommodations made for requested religious exemptions. Due to a recent request for religious exemption, a request was made to the attorney to update the vaccination policy, providing accommodations to both current and future employees. Under the law, the Borough of Leonia must make accommodations to both religious and medical exceptions. The new draft amendments further delved into the topic and minor revisions were made.

On a question from Mayor Zeigler, Labor Attorney Abramson explained that each case requesting an exemption must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with generally a weekly Covid-19 test being required as part of the accommodation. In certain scenarios however, the accommodation may change and is thus why each case must be reviewed individually. The expense of the test is on the employee but guidance from the Department of Labor has set forward policy that depending on the timeline of the testing it may be the responsibility of the employer to afford the employee some form of compensation. If the test is during regular hours of employment the employee will be paid as normal but for off hours it is muddled and further review of the Department of Labor's guidance must be held. Unless a test is afforded to the employee during the working day, how the employee receives the test is their decision. According to the policy the test required is a PCR test.

Borough Administrator Wardrop stated that during the time of the original policies creation the Borough had a Public Health Nurse to which the testing was meant to be sent to. Mayor Zeigler, with support from the Labor Attorney, gave guidance that going forward the testing can be sent to the Borough Administrator.

On a question from Councilwoman Davis, it was explained by the Mayor and Labor Attorney that an individual does not state what religious organization they are a part

of to be granted a religious exemption. Labor Attorney Abramson added in that the denying any religious exemption runs a high risk of litigation.

Councilwoman Terrell requested if there were any restrictions that could be put in place to make sure the employee does not decide to go to a facility where the testing will take all day. Labor Attorney Abramson will look more into the topic to see if these restrictions could be put in place.

Councilwoman Terrell inquired as to why there was a differentiation between employees hired before and after September 7, 2021. Labor Attorney Abramson stated that the difference is in that those who were hired previous to September 7, 2021 had no mandate of providing proof of vaccination, section 2 was updated to apply to anyone hired after the date as those who were hired previously would have already provided their information to the Borough of Leonia. Councilwoman Terrell requested that the Labor Attorney place a line in the policy stating that any employee hired prior to September 7, 2022 should have already provided their vaccination information.

Mayor Zeigler requested to know if the definition of vaccinated includes boosters and whether or not the Borough of Leonia should request boosters, to which the Labor Attorney stated that you would need to request that information from the local health officer.

Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie gave guidance in that a resolution should be created to approve of the adoption of the new vaccination policy.

Authorization to Place Banner on Broad Avenue – Leonia Kite & Color Festival – Supriya Shankar

Borough Administrator Wardrop explained that due to the circumstances of this particular banner never being approved prior, she wished to have the Mayor and Council review the application prior to approving its placement.

The Mayor and Council had no reservations or issues and thus approved the placement of the event's banner on Broad Avenue.

Architect for Leonia Fire Department – Louis Grandelis

Due to the absence of Councilman Grandelis discussion into this topic was deferred until June 27, 2022.

Correspondence**Petition Received**[Petition.pdf](#)

Mayor Zeigler stated that the petition is a reminder that much work still needs to be done within Leonia.

Councilwoman Davis stated that the petition is proof that the Borough needs to be supportive and embrace diversity to create a safe space for those groups that may be targeted.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Ziegler, second by Councilman Fusco, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.