



BOROUGH OF LEONIA

COUNCIL- Work Session Meeting
~ Minutes ~

Trina Lindsey, Borough Clerk

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

March 20, 2023

7:30 pm

Leonia Senior Center

A Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia was held in person at the Leonia Senior Center at 305 Beechwood Place, Leonia, NJ, and virtually via GoToMeeting on March 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 by Mayor Zeigler.

Those present were led in the Flag Salute by Council President Grandelis.

Mayor Zeigler read the following statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting by the January 8, 2023 Sunshine Notice containing the time, date, and access information was published in the Record, Star Ledger and has been posted at Borough Hall and on the Borough website."

PRESENT: Mayor Judah Zeigler, Council President Grandelis, Councilwoman Maureen Davis, Councilman Pasquale Fusco, Councilman Christoph Hesterbrink, Councilwoman Joanne Terrell and Councilman William Ziegler

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie
Borough Administrator Andrea Wardrop
Chief Financial Officer Cameron Keng
Borough Engineer Drew Di Sessa
Borough Clerk Trina Lindsey
Deputy Borough Clerk Jonathan Mandel

Public Comment

Analia Brown, 416 Christie Lane, noted that she received information that one potential item of discussion was regarding cuts to the budget of the library and wished to speak as to the value of the library and her concerns.

Donna Racik, 342 Park Avenue, stated that the library is the hub of the community and believes in the value of the resources it provides. Ms. Racik asked that the budget cuts be taken from elsewhere.

Sherry Firestein, 217 Harrison Street, noted her support of what has been said already regarding the library and also hopes that the budget cuts can be taken from elsewhere.

Susan Boyd, 112 Prospect Street, disclosed that she is the chair of the Library Board but wished to speak as a resident of Leonia. Ms. Boyd stated her understanding that times are difficult economically and completely understands the need for budget cuts but wished to say that the library is more than just books. Ms. Boyd provided a statement explaining the value of the library and the various things it offers, such as being a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to foster growth, escape the stresses of everyday life, and freely access various tools. Ms. Boyd completed her statement by asking that the Governing Body provide the library with adequate funding to continue its work.

Former Mayor Mary Heveran, 562 Broad Avenue, came as a resident but also serves as a member of the Library Board. Former Mayor Heveran spoke about the diverse programs offered by the library and echoed the previously stated sentiments that the library is far more than just a place to read books and find information.

Monica Weiss, 465 Broad Avenue, shared quotes about the library to express its value and her opinion on its necessity.

Eun You, 204 Moore Avenue, spoke as to her support of the library and stated concern over the potential lessening of hours and fewer purchases of new books. Ms. You expressed her family's appreciation of the Korean section of the library and how it is always up to date. Ms. You also spoke about the amazing success of various programs within the library and how they could be expanded to fit the demand.

Charlie Platis-Moore, 212 Warwick Lane, stated that as someone who visits the library frequently, she loves going to the various teen programs offered. Ms. Platis-Moore expressed her enjoyment over the selection of books offered and mentioned that she is always looking forward to visiting the library.

Carolyn Steinberg, 541 Ridgeland Terrace, expressed that the library provides invaluable services and made the statement that the library is being attacked and that funding can be taken from elsewhere. Ms. Steinberg said that there must be other departments that could give up a bit of their budget to cover the potential cuts to the library budget.

Betty Carillo, 350 Sylvan Avenue, as a Library Board member wished to advise the Mayor and Council that this year when the library submitted its budget, it had to absorb the premiums of the retiree's health care benefits, stating that it was not in their budget before. Ms. Carillo explained that even with the absorption of the premiums, the library only came in with a 2% increase and in essence already took a budget cut due to this. Ms. Carillo wished to speak tonight to make the Mayor and Council aware of the premiums before voting on the budget.

Lydia Maurice, 392 Grand Avenue, wished to reiterate every positive thing that has been said about the library and say that the library is a great place to be.

Kathy Pecht, 215 Fort Lee Road, stated that what is most important is providing for the population that cannot help themselves. The library provides a space with air conditioning and heating during bad weather and also free internet for those who cannot afford it. Ms. Pecht also asked that the Mayor and Council address how this budget cut compares to other departments.

Suzie Park, 15 Brook Terrace, spoke as to the popularity of the library amongst teenagers and the merits of the services that the library offers to the public for free.

Louis Steinberg, 541 Ridgeland Terrace, spoke as to his fears over a decline in services offered by the library as he believes it could contribute to a decline in democracy within the United States. Mr. Steinberg asked that an attempt be made to save the institution.

Aisha Siddiqui, 217 Warwick Lane, voiced her support for the library. Ms. Siddiqui also spoke on behalf of the residents of Warwick Lane, reading a written objection to parking not being allowed on the street's cul-de-sac. The full objection may be read [here](#).

Roberta Bronson Fitzpatrick, 221 Warwick Lane, as a recently retired library director spoke as to how budget cuts can lead to a substantial decrease in services. Ms. Fitzpatrick performed research into Firetrucks and the requirements of space needed to operate their ladders and other tools, claiming that Warwick Lane's cul-de-sac has enough space for these requirements.

Robyn Platis-Moore, 212 Warwick Lane, wished to reiterate what has already been said about the library and thank Chief of Police Scott Tamagny for serving as the liaison for the conversations on the parking situation of Warwick Lane. Ms. Platis-Moore also reiterated the issues the residents have been facing with parking.

Susy Levy, 107 Gladwin Ave, expressed concern that by cutting library funds kids will begin looking for other activities and that education will be affected.

Janey Choi, 20 Hawthorne Terrace, as a member of the Leonia Chamber Musicians, stated that her group performs at the library frequently and expressed concern that with budget cuts they will not have a partner to further present and enrich the community.

Mimi Morrison, 125 Palmer Place, reiterated concerns over the loss of democracy and spoke as to how in places in the United States books are being banned.

Sherry Tynan, 2B Lakeview Avenue, expressed the need to prevent cuts to the library and reiterated the point that the library is an equalizer for the community.

Jennifer Richards, 116 Gladwin Avenue, stated that she hopes the Mayor and Council take into consideration the number of individuals that have shown up to voice their support for the library.

Pat Lembo, 114 Leonia Avenue, asked what the budget of the library was and the amount that would need to be cut from its budget.

Mayor Zeigler addressed the Warwick Lane concerns by stating that the Mayor and Council did not change the no parking rule, rather it was an ordinance in effect since 1946 that was not enforced until now as the signs had gone missing. The Mayor and Council, as promised, looked into the matter through Chief of Police Scott Tamagny and it will be addressed.

Mayor Zeigler addressed the concerns over the library budget by explaining that no member of the Governing Body has recommended any budget cuts. There is a list of potential cuts to every department and the library is an item on said list. This list has yet to be discussed by

the Governing Body and no recommendations have been made to accept any of the potential cuts.

Mayor Zeigler advised the public that as this year is a Mayoral election year that they be careful and take what they are listening to with a grain of salt. Information is often either parsed out or withheld, and it is especially important to consider this during elections.

Mayor Zeigler explained the budget process to those in attendance and noted that the budget is reviewed by the Finance Committee, which is not a single individual but a group. Most of what the mayor has seen on the listserv blaming particular individuals is false.

Mayor Zeigler stated that due to the actions of Governor Murphy and the State, every municipality that participates in state health benefits programs was handed a 22.6% increase in costs while state employees were negotiated for only a 3% increase. Municipalities were also mandated to fund the pension funds with a 9.6% increase. Due to this, the Borough of Leonia began its budget process with a 22% increase over last year's actual. Allowing a budget increase this substantially would not only be irresponsible, but illegal as well.

It was explained by the mayor that the library by state statute is an autonomous body and that they must fund the retiree's cost, with it not being accounted for properly in the past. Under state statute, municipalities must fund the library at 1/3rd of a million dollars, or .003% of the total rateables. The Borough of Leonia would be required to fund the library at \$582,000, with \$799,250 being provided right now.

To the speaker who stated that the library is being attacked due to it being an easy target, Mayor Zeigler responded that the statement is false as the library is not being attacked as it is only one item on a list. No member of the Governing Body has agreed to any item on the list.

Mayor Zeigler provided more information as to the process of the budget and what will be discussed tonight.

Mayor Zeigler ended his replies to the public comments by urging those in attendance to trust what they hear but verify it for accuracy.

Operating Budget Review

OEM Deputy Coordinator Discussion – Robert Chace

Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator Robert Chace explained that he is looking to add two additional Deputy Coordinators to his department.

OEM Coordinator Chace gave an insight into the history of the position, leading there to be only one current Deputy Coordinator. It was mentioned that there is a need for additional assistance due to a large number of new directives given by the State as well as a need to complete other important functions of the office. This would be a flat budget item in the stipend line of the OEM budget as it has already been budgeted for but not used. The two individuals identified as candidates have complementary backgrounds to the role and are Leonia residents.

Councilman Ziegler thanked OEM Coordinator Chace for appearing to speak to the Mayor and Council. Councilman Ziegler mentioned the lack of visibility into the Office of Emergency Management, asking that more be more transparency. Councilman Ziegler spoke as to the storm caused by Hurricane Ida, stating that the mayor was performing all the necessary duties to ensure those that were subject to flooding could be safely evacuated and sheltered in the Leonia Library. Councilman Ziegler noted that he did not see anyone from the Office of Emergency Management that was available or onsite, nor were there plans in place for such a disaster situation. Councilman Ziegler stated that it is possible that these issues were resolved in the time since, but the lack of transparency to the Mayor and Council on their operational duties gives him some reservations.

Mayor Zeigler responded that after the Hurricane Ida event, he and the OEM coordinator worked together on the creation of a comprehensive plan and the use of the back of the Recreation Center as a storage facility for emergency supplies.

OEM Coordinator Chace mentioned that the response of OEM during Hurricane Ida speaks to the resource issue faced by the department. Based on the resources provided, OEM Coordinator Chace considers the Office of Emergency Management less of a response agency and is instead one that is more involved before and after disasters. In the past few years, the OEM was operating under three simultaneous disaster operations, which takes a lot of time and resources to deal with.

Councilman Fusco wished to know if there was a coordinated effort ongoing with other municipalities' OEM departments, to which it was confirmed.

Councilman Fusco inquired as to whether other funding has been pursued beyond grants. OEM Coordinator Chace responded that he works very closely with the Borough of Leonia's grant writers and that there most likely are other funding opportunities.

Councilwoman Davis asked that OEM Coordinator Chace provide information as to whether the Borough of Leonia's current staffing and funding of OEM is comparable to similar towns.

Councilman Hesterbrink wished to know if the OEM had the additional resources requested and what could have been done differently during Hurricane Ida.

OEM Coordinator Chace stated that there are thirteen annexes to the municipal management plan that will need to be updated as an ongoing process and that there are also training requirements for emergency services and borough staff that the Borough of Leonia must come into compliance with.

Councilwoman Terrell asked if the OEM had the additional staff requested, and if would it ensure the presence of OEM personnel on site should there be another disaster situation similar to Hurricane Ida.

OEM Coordinator Chace replied that it is difficult to guarantee but would increase the chances.

Mayor Zeigler stated that in all fairness, municipalities of all sizes and their OEM departments were caught by surprise by Hurricane Ida's severity.

Councilman Ziegler requested to know if the OEM department is willing to commit to providing some additional visibility of their activities so there is transparency.

OEM Coordinator Chace agreed that there will be more visibility and that there should be a liaison to the department.

Council President Grandelis spoke to his and the Borough Administrators' work with grant writers Millennium Strategies to create creative strategies to achieve additional funding and stated he would like to see the OEM coordinator do the same. Council President Grandelis also mentioned he would like to see a standard operating procedure put in place so that the Borough of Leonia is ready for any future surprises.

Operating Budget Review – Andrea Wardrop / Louis Grandelis / Cameron Keng

Council President Grandelis spoke as to the various issues and irregularities faced by the Borough of Leonia financially. With the assistance of the Chief Financial Officer, Administrator, and Finance Committee, many of these issues have been resolved and there are noticeable improvements. The town's debt represents a significant portion of the tax burden, with the new municipal building being an increasing factor. Active discussion is being held on the best ways to mitigate the issue while keeping almost the same level of services being offered to residents. Council President Grandelis highlighted the desire to be as transparent to the public as possible and stated that together the Borough of Leonia can work to strive towards a brighter future for the municipality. The discussion on the budget was turned over to CFO Cameron Keng and Auditor Ralph Piccone.

Chief Financial Officer Keng thanked the Governing Body and all volunteers who assisted with the budget process. CFO Keng wished that everyone understands that it is his responsibility statutorily to provide as many opportunities as possible to save on costs for the municipality. Everything on the proposed list of reductions to the budget is provided by the CFO and is to be decided later by the Governing Body on whether to accept or reject the suggestions. CFO Keng stated he is appreciative that so many residents came out to speak as to their concerns but wished to let them understand that the proposed cuts are for every department, with some departments like the DPW having proposed cuts in the vicinity of \$156,000.

CFO Keng explained that the Borough of Leonia began with a budget of \$18.2 million with proposed cuts of around \$752,000. If the budget was taken into consideration as is with the proposed cuts, there would be a negative municipal tax rate. The reason however for the difficulty of this year's budget is unfunded mandates from the State and municipal debt. CFO Keng explained that the Borough of Leonia this year made great sacrifices for the budget and that it is a work in progress. He also asked that the residents take into consideration the amount of work that is put into it and that the Governing Body are volunteers.

Auditor Ralph Piccone spoke as to how the same issues that currently the Borough of Leonia is facing are also being faced by every municipality in New Jersey. Auditor Piccone explained that many of the items currently in the draft budget are beyond the control of the Mayor and Council. Auditor Piccone spoke in further detail as to these items. If the five mandatory items were to be taken out of the budget, the Borough of Leonia is looking at a decrease in budget of \$222,000. Auditor Piccone gave more insight into the budget introduction and adoption process.

On a request from Council President Grandelis, the Borough Auditor explained what the tax impact will be from the budget as it is currently. Currently, utilizing \$500,000 of surplus the tax impact on the average home, assessed at \$440,000, the average increase will be approximately \$410.

Chief Financial Officer Keng mentioned that municipalities all over Bergen County are looking at significant increases and using all their bank reserves to fund their budgets. Pension and medical payments in many places are being defferered for a whole year.

Councilman Hesterbrink noted his appreciation of the information provided but wishes to be given further information to better discern what reductions are discretionary and which are not.

CFO Keng replied that it is difficult to discern what is necessary and what is not, giving the example of vehicle maintenance as such a line item that can ebb and flow in terms of use. The reductions that are being proposed right now are those that are necessary to maintain the same level of service as before.

Councilman Hesterbrink wished to see percentages to better understand the impact each of the reductions would have.

Auditor Piccone explained the non-recurrent funds in the budget.

Council President Grandelis drew attention to the spreadsheets provided to the Governing Body for their review. One item of note was the proposed hiring of an accountant to assist the CFO in their daily operations. In addition, the Borough Administrator has found a potential opportunity for there to be a shared service agreement with another municipality for our certified tree expert. In total, the budget was brought down to a 7.89% increase over last year's budget.

Councilman Hesterbrink inquired as to whether the actual budget for the year prior was under what was funded, noticing it was significantly lower than what was budgeted. This was confirmed and was explained to be usual in New Jersey by the Borough Auditor.

Council President Grandelis noted that the Auditors were confident that the funds can be regenerated.

CFO Keng stated that the 7.89% increase is taking into consideration the unfunded mandates and it is a number that much consideration and time was spent reaching and that anything lower would be impossible.

The Borough Administrator explained the history of the Borough of Leonia's parking trust and how it could be used to save on costs.

The Mayor and Council discussed the proposed reductions for each department as well as savings that were able to be secured on other items such as copper lines and diesel fuel.

It was clarified that of the \$73,000 proposed reduction to the library budget, \$60,000 is a direct deduction of the quarterly contribution and \$13,000 is for pension contributions. Councilman Grandelis explained that the \$13,000 was an overbudgeted amount and the reduction is a correction.

Councilman Ziegler wished for clarification as to the \$13,000 amount.

Borough Auditor Piccone explained that when the budget was first sent as a draft there were the Borough's appropriations for the public employee's retirement system and a portion of

the library's contribution. Together the contributions exceeded the pension bill by \$13,000, which was the reason for the decision to reduce the budget by that amount.

Mayor Zeigler reiterated that the \$13,000 reduction is due to an overbudgeting for the pension.

On a question from Councilman Ziegler, Auditor Piccone explained that the other \$60,000 of the proposed reduction is for discretionary funding.

Bookkeeper Jeremy Doyle explained that when the library began the budget process the retiree rate was unknown. It was later clarified that the retiree rate would be reduced, thus the \$13,000 reduction is due to the overbudgeting.

Chief Financial Officer Keng confirmed the mayor's understanding that the \$60,000 proposed reduction to the library's top-line contribution is an arbitrary number that is subject to change. CFO Keng explained that the \$60,000 reduction was chosen after reviewing the Borough of Leonia's statutory rate of contribution and would bring the Borough of Leonia closer to being comparable to other similar municipalities' contributions.

Councilman Ziegler stated that he believes everyone can agree they want to do what is right and that the input shown by the public tonight shows that the library is very important to the community.

Councilman Ziegler wished to raise the point that the library has been consistently responsible with its budget and has always come in below the 2% cap. Councilman Ziegler also wished to state that the statutory minimal funding that is appropriate for other municipalities does not reflect the value that Leonian's place in the public library and hopes that all the input heard tonight will be appropriately reflected in the final budget decision.

Councilman Ziegler explained that in prior finance committee meetings, the library was the only major department listed as having a \$50,000 or more decrease in funding, and is happy to see that the requested reductions in other departments are coming in comparable amounts. Councilman Ziegler also wished to note the proposed reduction to the library's only direct revenue stream. Councilman Ziegler reiterated that it is important to understand the library's responsibility with its budget and that the community takes tremendous pride in the library and its services and thus requires more funding than the minimum set by other New Jersey municipalities.

Mayor Zeigler wished to clarify if Councilman Ziegler is inferring that other departments have been irresponsible with their funding. Councilman Ziegler replied that he is not suggesting that the other departments are irresponsible, but wished to highlight that the library has historically been incredibly responsible with its budget. Councilman Ziegler also stated that often when receiving initial budget requests many departments tend to come in above the 2% cap and he stands by his statement.

Mayor Zeigler wished to clarify that the statement of the library only having one direct revenue stream is not entirely accurate as it has an active fundraising program and other sources of income. Mayor Zeigler also stated that he believes it would be beneficial to know what percentage these cuts represent for each department.

Council President Grandelis stated that what the finance committee is looking for tonight is suggestions on what is being proposed so that the budget may be finalized.

The Mayor and Council further discussed the impact that the budget as proposed will have on taxes for Leonia residents. It was calculated that if the \$60,000 reduction was not accepted it would cost the average homeowners an additional \$18 in tax increases.

Councilwoman Davis stated that she is profoundly disappointed to hear politicized statements being made such as being happy to see that other departments are receiving budget cuts. Councilwoman Davis stated that other departments' services are also important and do affect the daily lives of Leonians.

Councilwoman Davis explained that what the Mayor and Council are trying to do is keep the budget legal and ensure that essential services can be provided to the town. Councilwoman Davis spoke as to how no member of the Governing Body is suggesting that the library be closed down or programs not be provided and that many of the accusations made are not based on fact and some contained vitriol.

Councilman Ziegler thinks that what was witnessed tonight is a true exercise of democracy.

Mayor Zeigler replied that he hopes Councilman Ziegler can agree that statements such as those inferring that the library budget is being attacked as it is an easy target potentially can qualify as vitriol. Mayor Zeigler explained that the library budget is not being attacked and that the Mayor and Council are trying to perform their duty. Statements such as those are what Councilwoman Davis is referring to when she speaks of vitriol.

Councilman Ziegler replied to Mayor Zeigler by stating that he believes that the first amendment right takes precedence and that comments such as those can be made without the intent of vitriol. Councilman Ziegler stated that the bulk of what he saw on the listserv was a very valuable perspective and insight into what the community was reacting to, leading to several individuals coming to the Mayor and Council to express their opinions. Councilman Ziegler explained that he believes that shared responsibility in budget cuts is important and that it was not something originally seen in the earlier Finance Committee meetings.

Mayor Zeigler explained that he does not recall any discussion relating to first amendment rights but that the issue is there is a difference between stating an opinion and personally attacking someone through a comment.

Motion by Council President Grandelis, Second by Councilwoman Davis, and all in favor, that the meeting be extended to 10:30 PM.

Council President Grandelis said that the next steps will be to give the Mayor and Council percentages and additional information for further discussion before the introduction of the budget.

The Mayor and Council briefly discussed the budget further and the additional information required before the formal introduction.

Due to time constraints, it was decided to hold a Special Meeting for the Introduction of the Budget on March 27, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

Introduction of Ordinances

Ordinance 2023-04

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

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 194 OF THE ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”, SECTION 194-30 ENTITLED “SCHEDULE I: NO PARKING””

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie explained that this ordinance would remove the no-parking regulations on Warwick Lane. Warwick Lane however will still be subject to the alternate side of street parking and snow emergency regulations.

Motion by Councilwoman Terrell, Second by Councilwoman Davis that ordinance 2023-04 be introduced and passed on first reading, and setting April 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard for second reading and adoption.

Councilman Ziegler questioned if this was the language the Chief of Police and other emergency services were comfortable with adopting. Mayor Zeigler confirmed this.

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

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

Ordinance 2023-05

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

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 290 “ZONING”, ARTICLE II “DEFINITIONS”, SECTION 290-3 “TERMS DEFINED WORD USAGE” AND ARTICLE IV. “A DISTRICTS”, SECTION 290-7 “PERMITTED USES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA”

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie spoke to the ordinance and explained its purpose in amending definitions as to what would be allowed for home-based businesses.

Motion by Councilman Fusco, Second by Councilwoman Terrell that ordinance 2023-05 be introduced and passed on first reading, and setting May 1, 2023 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 Grandelis:	aye	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	aye
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

Non-Consent Resolutions

RES. 2023-89 Authorize Lease of Borough Property

[2023-89 Lease of Borough Property.pdf](#)

Lease Agreement for Vacant Land

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, second by Councilwoman Terrell, that Resolution #2023-89 be approved.

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie spoke as to the purpose of the resolution, which is authorizing a lease that was bid and awarded recently. The resolution authorizes the signing of the lease agreement by the Borough of Leonia.

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

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

Consent Resolutions

RES. 2023-86 Equal Opportunity Employment

[2023-86 EOE Cert Affidavit.pdf](#)

[Memorandum EEOC Guidance Resolution 2023-86 A Wardrop.pdf](#)

[LFN 2017-27.pdf](#)

~~RES. 2023-90 Authorize Bill List~~

[~~2023-90 Authorize Bill List.pdf~~](#)

[Bill List Backup.pdf](#)

RES. 2023-91 Authorize Purchase of Body Cameras

[2023-91 Authorize Purchase of Body Cameras.pdf](#)

[BWC Renewal.pdf](#)

RES. 2023-92 Change Orders #20, 21 and 22 – New Municipal Building Project

[2023-92 Change Orders 20, 21 and 22.pdf](#)

[Leonia Police CO #020.pdf](#)

[Leonia Police CO #021.pdf](#)

[Leonia Police CO #022.pdf](#)

RES. 2023-93 Authorize Developers Escrow Refunds

[2023-93 Developers Escrow Refunds.pdf](#)

[Escrow Refund – Helen Voss – 164 Spring St.pdf](#)

[Escrow Refund – Janet DeMichele – 13 Palmer Pl.pdf](#)

RES. 2023-94 Authorization to Advertise – Part Time CFO

[2023-94 Authorization to Advertise – Part Time CFO.pdf](#)

Motion by Council President Grandelis, second by Councilwoman Davis, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

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

RES. 2023-90 Authorize Bill List

[2023-90 Authorize Bill List.pdf](#)

[Bill List Backup.pdf](#)

RES. 2023-90 was pulled by Councilwoman Davis for a separate vote.

Motion by Councilman Ziegler, second by Councilwoman Davis, that RES. 2023-90 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote on RES. 2023-90 was recorded as follows:

Council President Grandelis:	aye	Councilman Hesterbrink:	aye
Councilwoman Davis:	aye	Councilwoman Terrell:	abstain
Councilman Fusco:	aye	Councilman Ziegler:	aye

Unfinished Business

Discussion of Leonia Ambulance Contractual Services – Bill Ziegler

Deferred to the April 17, 2023 Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Liquor License Sale – Brian Chewcaskie / Joanne Terrell / Pat Fusco

Deferred to the April 17, 2023 Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Charge Point Fee Structure – Andrea Wardrop / Brian Chewcaskie

Deferred to the April 17, 2023 Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Vaccination Policy Discussion – Louis Grandelis / Andrea Wardrop

Borough Administrator Wardrop held discussion with legal counsel and the HR Committee Members. As the Recreation Department in particular is seeking new employees for the summer season, the vaccination policy in place was brought into question. As the legal counsel has advised that the CDC has removed all guidance for the workplace and it is believed that the best course of action would be to rescind the policy at this point but continue to monitor the situation.

Mayor Zeigler replied that the Borough of Leonia has always followed CDC guidance and asked for a motion to rescind the vaccination policy adopted on August 16, 2021 and amended through RES. 2022-167.

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, Second by Council President Grandelis that the vaccination policy and RES. 2022-167 be rescinded.

On a roll call, the vote on the rescindment of the vaccination policy and RES. 2022-167 was recorded as follows:

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

New Business

Leonia History Museum – Bill Ziegler

Deferred to the April 17, 2023 Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Players Guild Lease – Brian Chewcaskie / Jonathan Mandel

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie explained that due to a signed lease being unable to be found for the Players Guild, it is being asked that the Governing Body sign it now. An Ordinance has been in place since 1993 authorizing the lease.

Motion by Councilwoman Davis, Second by Councilman Fusco, to authorize the mayor to sign the lease.

On a roll call, the vote on authorizing the mayor's signature of the lease was recorded as follows:

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

Ordinance Chapter 232 Signs – Codification – Joanne Terrell / Brian Chewcaskie

Deferred to the April 17, 2023, Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Towing Licenses – Joanne Terrell / Brian Chewcaskie

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie explained that it was suggested that the Borough of Leonia adopt the state fees for towing licenses by the Police Chief. It shall be brought forward as an ordinance at a future meeting.

Residential Parking Permit Ordinance – Joanne Terrell / Brian Chewcaskie

Borough Attorney Chewcaskie drafted an ordinance updating Parking Regulations on Broad Avenue, based upon suggestions made by the Chief of Police.

Closed Session**RES. 2023-95 Authorize Closed Session**
[2023-95 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.

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 Council President Grandelis, seconded by Councilman Fusco, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Executive Session at 10:18 p.m.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Ziegler, second by Councilwoman Terrell, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Mandel,
