

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 20, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to our official newspapers and other publications circulated in the Borough of Old Tappan, and notice posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:	Mayor John Kramer	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Matthew Nalbandian	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

Also Present:	Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch
	Borough Attorney Allen Bell

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRAYER – Councilman William Boyce

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Yhu

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

2020 Municipal Budget - Resolution of Adoption

Councilman Gallagher made a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

Councilman Gallagher read the resolution

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

Mayor Kramer complimented the Council, CFO, Borough Administrator and Auditor on a job well done. There is a zero percent increase this year for the Borough.

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Gallagher read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes

Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
Councilman Yhu	Yes

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION / HEALTH

Recreation Commission held a Zoom meeting. Everything is status quo until the quarantine is lifted.

Board of Health held a Zoom meeting. The Health Officer reported to the board on the Covid-19 cases and deaths. They will continue to monitor the situation.

COUNCILMAN YHU – SCHOOLS / SENIORS

As of now the schools are closed until May 15th.

The Seniors are doing well and the food pantry is well stocked.

As far as telecommunications we are still waiting for the new phones to be installed.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – POLICE / AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Police Department is receiving very few calls. There is a program going on now where a police officer plays Fortnite in the late afternoon with the local kids.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF / PLANNING BOARD / ENVIRONMENTAL

Golfers are getting antsy. He requested that the Mayor & Council send a letter to the Governor to open the golf courses since the ones in New York are open. The Golf Commission is conducting Zoom meetings. He would like the restaurant to start doing takeout. Asked how the Mayor & Council feel about giving the restaurant a break on the rent. Paying 50% of the rent was suggested. Utility payments were not brought up to him. All were in favor of the 50% rent reduction.

The Environmental Commission held a meeting via Zoom. It was suggested that more people could be let into the Community Garden as long as social distancing was maintained. All were ok with this. There will be a prize awarded for the photo contest if the budget allows.

Everything with the Boy & Girl Scouts is on hold. They are trying to hold meetings via Zoom. They have some ideas for the food pantry.

COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN – DPW / CONSTRUCTION

There is nothing new going on with the DPW. He explained their staggered work schedule. Chipping will be starting soon.

The Pearson building is almost completely down. Discussed how the Building Department is

handling inspections. They are following the rules set forth by the DCA. The inspectors are going to vacant homes or when the workers are not there. They are not doing CCO inspections. Instead they are getting letters from the sellers and buyers and will do the inspections once the quarantine is lifted.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE / FIRE / FIRST AID

Thanked the Borough Hall staff for sticking things out. All guidelines are being followed. Taxes are due May 1st.

The Fire Department is following protocols in order to reduce the volunteer's exposure. They are wiping down the rigs after calls, wearing masks, etc.

The First Aid Corps needs N95 masks and gowns. They are working with the OEM to get these much-needed items. During the month of March, they had a 100% response rate. They have created a Covid-19 task force. Some members had to step away for the time being because of health concerns. The officers are available at all hours for guidance.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS - None

ACTION ON MINUTES

Councilman Gallagher made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Closed Meeting, March 16, 2020
- Regular Meeting, March 16, 2020
- Regular & Executive Meetings, April 6, 2020

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Pet License Fees

Councilman Gallagher explained that the number of pet registrations is down so far this year. The due date with no late fees was the end of February. This could be because of Covid-19. The late notices have not been sent out yet. Waiving late fees until June 1st was suggested. All were ok with this. We might have to put money into next year's budget or raise the fees if we don't collect enough this year. Reminders will be mailed out.

Ordinance 1163-20 – 2020 Salary Ordinance – Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Gallagher read the resolution.

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

Ordinance 1164-20 – Capital Ordinance - Various Improvements & Acquisitions – Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Gallagher read the resolution.

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

Ordinance 1165-20 – Capital Ordinance - Various Sewer Improvements & Acquisitions – Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Nalbandian read the resolution.

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
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Councilman Boyce	Yes
Councilman Carnazza	Yes
Councilman Gallagher	Yes
Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
Councilman Yhu	Yes

Ordinance 1166-20 – Capital Ordinance - Various Improvements & Acquisitions (Fully Funded)– Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Gallagher read the resolution.

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

Councilman Binaghi asked to speak about police staffing. He explained that the Mayor & Council had previously approved the hiring of 2 new police officers. We would hire one officer now and another in October possibly. We need to cover shifts. A Lieutenant is retiring in July which will affect all shifts. We are paying quite a bit in overtime right now.

Councilman Carnazza asked why there is overtime.

Councilman Nalbandian explained that there is an issue with new hires because we are currently negotiating the new Police contract. The negotiations have been put on hold because the courts are closed. He does not feel that this decision needs to be made now. We could lose all of the items that have been negotiated and agreed to. He suggested going back to 8-hour shifts.

Mayor Kramer stated that we are going to run into short staffing. We are down to 12 officers and will soon be down to 11. It is not a safe situation. He is in favor of hiring one officer now and the second when the Police Chief deems appropriate.

Councilman Carnazza is not in favor of hiring right now. He then resigned from the Police Negotiating Committee.

The Mayor accepted the resignation.

Councilman Nalbandian explained that the changes in the new contract only affect new hires. The rank and file are not affected. They are now bringing up issues with health insurance contributions after retirement.

Borough Attorney Bell suggested that this conversation be moved into Closed Session.

Councilman Gallagher made a motion to go into Closed Session once the regular meeting is adjourned.

Second - Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion - None

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

Councilman Yhu suggested that the Mayor & Council forgo their salaries for the next month or two as a symbolic gesture to our residents.

No one commented on this.

PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Gallagher

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion - None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion - None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Binaghi

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed and approved:

Sylvia Kokowski, Recording Secretary

Jean M. Donch
Borough Clerk

cc: Mayor and Council
Allen Bell, Esq.

Date Approved: May 18, 2020