

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
August 17, 2020

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.

Please note fire exits located at the main entrance to the Council Chambers and in the rear of the Council Chambers.

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 Attorney Brian Giblin
	Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch, RMC

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRAYER – Councilman Yhu

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

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 Gallagher

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

PROCLAMATION

Overdose Awareness Day

Mayor Kramer read the proclamation claiming Monday, August 31, 2020 as Overdose Awareness Day in Old Tappan.

STAFF APPOINTMENT

Code Enforcement Officer – Ronald Cenicola, Sr.

Motion to accept the Mayor's appointment – Councilman Nalbandian

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 1170-20 – Amend 2020 Salary Ordinance – DPW – Resolution of Adoption

Councilman Nalbandian described the ordinance and then made a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Nalbandian read the resolution

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

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Borough Engineer Thomas Skrable reported as follows:

Construction Projects - DeWolf Road work is complete. Howard Drive is essentially complete, some paving work remains. The NVOT parking lot was paved last week. Work on Borough streets will begin next week; notices will be sent.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION / HEALTH

The Recreation Commission meeting was held one week later than scheduled due to the storm and some without power. Summer programs are cancelled; winter programs are on hold. Discussion was held on football and possibly merging the peewees and placing them in the PAL program. Board of Health meets in September, update on COVID is 83 cases, 4 deaths. We have a new Health Officer as Angela Musella has retired.

COUNCILMAN YHU – SCHOOLS / SENIORS

Local schools are discussing plans to for their return in September. The Regional Board of Education

is conducting interviews for vacant board seats. Library – after Labor Day patrons can make appointments to browse through the library. All Senior Citizen programs are on hold. Our Local Assistance pantry is stocked. He thanked Councilman Binaghi and Stokes Farm and our Community Garden for their donations. Community Development – Alumni in Recovery held its Black Poster Project in Oakes Park last Sunday. Councilman Yhu thanked the DPW for their cleanup work after the storm.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – POLICE / AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Police Department – two recently hired officers are on the road; two other officers will be out due to injuries which makes us tight on manpower. He spoke highly of recently retired officer Brett Terjanian; commenting on his character, adding that he will be missed. Councilman Binaghi reported an incident involving a gun firing and another which was a car accident landing the car in the Hackensack River on the Old Tappan side. There is a spike in COVID cases for those 17 to 30 years old.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF / PLANNING BOARD / ENVIRONMENTAL

The Golf Course is open; we have 290 members; up by 59 from last year. The recent storm did very little damage to the course. The concessionaire is hosting outdoor concerts; Councilman Boyce encouraged all to attend. The Golf Commission will review the Code of Conduct and the Rules of the Golf Course at their next meeting. Councilman Boyce commended Doug Meeks for making the golf course successful and bringing in new memberships. Environmental Commission believes in diversity in the Community Garden by growing a variety of crops this year. They will discuss a second garden location and the tree ordinance at their next meeting in September. The Planning Board will meet on September 9th. The Boy and Girl Scouts are discussing what they will be doing in the fall.

COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN – DPW / CONSTRUCTION

The DPW is working overtime due to the recent storm; they are doing a good job. Our Superintendent advised that our recent new hire is working out well. He also advised that he would like to expand our mechanic shared services agreement. Construction – as follow up to Mrs. Binaghi's complaint about her neighbor's invasive bamboo plants, the neighbor purchased material for a bamboo barrier but it has not been installed yet; however, the complaint seems to be taken care of.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE / FIRE / FIRST AID

Our volunteer EMS and Fire continue to answer calls for the residents and businesses in Old Tappan during the coronavirus and recent storm. They are doing an outstanding job. Engine 64 had minimal repair work done and is back in service. The Borough Hall staff had a meeting in late July, they discussed COVID and safety precautions put in place. A video was shown – Fire Prevention in the workplace. Second quarter tax collections – in 2019 we were at 96.97%; in 2020 we are at 98.7% of taxes being collected. In 2019, our third quarter tax collections were 95.72% - in 2020 just short of 95%. In general, our tax collections are strong. Thirty-eight properties have not paid their tax.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

No Comments

ACTION ON MINUTES

Councilman Gallagher made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Closed Meeting, July 20, 2020
- Regular & Executive Meetings, July 20, 2020

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – Councilman Gallagher abstained on both meetings.

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

OLD BUSINESS

OTFD Engine 62

Councilman Gallagher reported that Engine 62 is in very bad shape, it failed a pump test and a door won't close, for example. It is not worth spending money to repair it; he recommends that it be put out of service. The Fire Chief would like to have it removed from the garage. Councilman Carnazza advised that Tom Jung was to obtain estimates to have it repaired; no estimate has been received. He will contact Tom to discuss.

OTFD Revised Membership Application Process

Councilman Gallagher advised that some points in the application conflict with our Borough ordinance. Brian Giblin reported that it requires Mayor and Council approval. Councilman Gallagher commented that the new application tightens up some requirements. He will redistribute for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Trinity Reformed Church Tax Exempt Status

CFO Rebecca Overgaard reported that when the church had a school in it they paid partial taxes for the area the school used; the school has since moved out. Trinity Church is asking for a refund for the 3rd quarter taxes, July, August and September as the school moved out in June; and future tax exempt status.

Motion to grant the request made by Trinity Reformed Church – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – none

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

Ordinance 1171-20 – Vacate Portion of Forest Avenue Right-of-Way – Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Nalbandian read the resolution.

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion - None

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

Maryellen LaFronz, 15 Kristin Place, requested an update on her inquiry at the last Mayor and Council meeting pertaining to 140 Old Tappan Road the Chabad. She reported that each Saturday there are religious services being held. She asked what the difference is between a house of worship and a parsonage and what is allowed in a parsonage. Borough Attorney Brian Giblin looked into the ruling advising that services for 25 people on a weekly basis did not violate a residential zone; he referred to case history. Mr. Giblin has been asked by the Mayor and Council to look into other remedies.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion - None

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

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Boyce

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
Brian Giblin, Esq.

Date Approved: September 21, 2020