

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR & EXECUTIVE MEETING
March 1, 2021

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, notice 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.

REGULAR MEETING

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 (remotely)
	Councilman Matthew Nalbandian	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

Also Present:	Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch
	Borough Attorney Brian Giblin

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

STAFF APPOINTMENT

Joseph DeSalvo, Jr. - Electrical Inspector - 4 Year Appointment

Motion to accept the 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 HEARINGS

Ordinance 1176-21 – Stormwater Control Ordinance – Resolution of Adoption

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

Second – Councilman Yhu

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Nalbandian read the resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

Ordinance 1177-21 – Amend 2020 Salary Ordinance – Resolution of Adoption

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

Second – Councilman Yhu

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Nalbandian read the resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

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

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Carnazza read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – Councilman Binaghi had some questions in regard to the Community Development Block Grant for a Utility Vehicle and Sprayer resolution. Mrs. Haverilla explained that it is for disinfecting the playgrounds. We have not gotten it yet, just making an application for it.

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

PRESENTATION

Central Avenue Community Garden

Bill Howe, Environmental Commission member, explained the location that they are looking at on Central Avenue, across from the leaf dump. Looking to develop into a very rustic type park. This can be developed into an additional garden and walking paths. The garden would be rented just like the current one. There would be minimal work to develop and maintain the area. There are no problems with the County or the State. In the long term, the path could be extended to Harrington Park.

Councilman Binaghi stated that the path will be on top of a sewer easement.

Mr. Howe stated that the path will not be on top of the easement.

Councilman Nalbandian asked if people would drive here.

Mr. Howe answered yes and explained that the parking lot is probably the most complicated part of the plan. He described the location and that he would like it to be stone, not paved. Some trees might need to be removed. He will need to work with the Borough Engineer on it.

Councilman Carnazza asked if all of this was discussed with the DPW Superintendent.

Mr. Howe answered yes and then spoke about the deer dump.

Councilman Binaghi commented on the County and deer carcass removal.

Mr. Howe explained what the expenses would be. A Boy Scout has already volunteered to raise money for the fence around the garden.

Mrs. Haverilla asked if anyone has come up with a list of expenses and an estimate.

Mr. Howe answered no, but there are very few expenses.

Councilman Nalbandian asked Councilman Boyce asked if the DPW Superintendent could utilize some of the trees he's taken down in the parking lot area? It would give the area a natural look.

Councilman Boyce thinks that there could be some creative solutions to using some of the ash trees that were taken down. It is a very underutilized area so this project is perfect for the location.

Councilman Gallagher asked Mr. Howe to email his presentation and plan to Mrs. Haverilla for distribution to the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Nalbandian suggested the that liaisons of the Environmental Commission, DPW and Police Department speak to their board/department heads about the project to help guide it and eventually bring it back to the Mayor & Council when there's a more definitive plan. Mr. Skrable will also need to be brought in.

NEW BUSINESS

Oakes House

Councilman Binaghi explained that what to do with the Oakes House has been spoken about many times but nothing has happened. The Building Inspector has deemed it not worthy for people to be inside. He walked around it with the DPW Superintendent and it is a wreck and ready to come down. He proposes taking it down, installing a small barn or garage that fits the décor of the park. We can put bathrooms, utilities and one bay for the DPW in it. The electric utility is already there in a weather proof box. The water and sewer are both there. To take it down and take it away will cost about \$18,000.00. he got

one price and the DPW Superintendent is getting another. Is waiting for an official price on a building. He contacted a pole barn company and they said less than \$50,000.00.

Mrs. Haverilla stated that maybe the Recreation Director can go there and put Social Services at the Senior Center.

Keeping the basement was discussed.

Mr. Binaghi will bring some prices to the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Mr. Howe suggested moving the house that is next to the Syrian Church to where the Oakes House is.

Mr. Binaghi said that the house is in terrible condition.

Mr. Howe then brought up ATVs for emergency services. The Police Department has one but sometimes the Ambulance Corps and Fire Department need them as well.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the Police Department got their ATV from Suez.

Councilman Gallagher explained that the ATV is readily available for all emergency services.

Motion to close meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Carnazza

Discussion – None

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

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

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

EXECUTIVE MEETING

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL:	Mayor John Kramer	Present
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Also Present:	Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch
	Borough Attorney Brian Giblin

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Skrable attended a couple of different meetings about the former Pearson Property. It seems like they are very eager to get started. The Central Avenue property appears to have a new owner because an engineer is trying to resolve the drainage issues. The new owner wants to makes some changes but he has not heard any details yet.

Councilman Nalbandian explained how the utility companies are ruining O'Connors Lane. They keep digging it up and a sinkhole is forming and spreading down the street. At some point this is going to need to be addressed.

Mr. Skrable suggested to the DPW Superintendent to video the sewer so we know the problem is not on our end. That's the only thing the could be on the Borough.

Mayor Kramer asked if we have determined if the NJDOT grant is for DeWolf Road?

Mrs. Haverilla answered that is for drainage only, not paving.

CANNABIS LEGISLATION

Mr. Giblin explained that the Borough currently has an ordinance prohibiting the sale or possession of cannabis in town. New legislation just recently signed by the Governor makes the ordinance invalid. You have 180 days to adopt legislation or you can't adopt it

for 5 years. If you want to continue to restrict cannabis, action will need to be taken in the next couple of months.

Councilman Nalbandian questioned the resolution sent by Mrs. Haverilla in regard to how this new legislation affects law enforcement. Are these 2 separate issues?

Mr. Giblin answered yes.

Mayor Kramer commented on medicinal cannabis.

Councilman Gallagher commented that recreational marijuana will probably become legal in the next few years. How can we restrict that but not liquor stores?

Councilman Nalbandian answered that Old Tappan is a tiny town. Just because we don't have it doesn't mean our residents can't get it nearby. He doesn't want the foot traffic and that element in our town.

Mayor Kramer asked if we would like to adopt a resolution similar to the Upper Saddle River one that Mrs. Haverilla circulated in regard to the effects of this new legislation on law enforcement. The Police Chief's Association and PBA are very much opposed to this portion of the new legislation.

All were in favor of adopting the resolution at the next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

COUNCILMAN YHU – FIRST AID/SCHOOLS/SENIORS

Hybrid and virtual learning continue at both the grade schools and high school. Both school districts received a good report from their auditors.

The Library had an employee test positive for COVID a few weeks ago. In an abundance of caution the board closed the building to staff. They are looking to reopen sometime this week pending test results.

Many of our Senior Citizens have managed to get vaccination appointments. Has found a volunteer to fill the role of Chairman while our current Chairman recovers.

The First Aid Corps responded to 19 calls in February. He is still working on the LOSAP additional award proposal.

The Black Poster Project sponsored by Alumni in Recovery will be held on June 5th at Oakes Park. He is working with Nancy Labov to setup a zoom version of the Community Outreach Program for Old Tappan and the surrounding area for some time in May.

COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN – DPW/CONSTRUCTION

The DPW is looking to hire a new employee due to an upcoming retirement. The DPW gets a discount on salt by going through the County but the salt supply from them is at a very low level. If we need salt it will have to be outsourced and could be expensive. Trying to make due with what they have and hopefully there will be no more snowstorms. Spoke about a utility truck that needs to be replaced. We can get rid of the equipment on it and repurpose the physical truck.

Councilman Carnazza went and saw the utility truck and explained his findings. The DPW might put the brine tank on the back of it since the body is still in good shape. Have to decide if we are going to sell it or keep it.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/ENVIRONMENTAL

The Golf Course had an event on Saturday which drew some new members. 3 bids have been received for the fence. Hoping it will be done by opening day. They need a new gator to tow the sprayer.

The Environmental Commission will be creating a budget for the proposed walking paths and garden.

The Planning Board meeting for March is cancelled.

The Girl Scouts are seeking donations and the Boy Scout meetings will resume now that it's warmer and they can meet outside.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – POLICE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

He has had several conversations with the Police Chief in regard to the steady stream of unfunded mandates coming from the State. This makes getting the accreditation even more important. He gave some examples of these mandates.

Received an email from a gentleman who tied his dog to the bike rack at the Library. When he came out the dog pulled the rack over and broke his toe. Wants to know if we can pay his out of pocket expense for the doctor. Claims the bike rack was faulty. He sent it to the Borough Administrator.

Mrs. Haverilla believes the claim should go to the Library since they own the property and have their own insurance.

Mr. Giblin suggests telling the person that we will not cover it and they can take whatever action they deem appropriate. He would notify our insurance carrier.

Mrs. Haverilla will get in touch with him.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE/FIRE

Thanked everyone for doing a great job at the budget meetings. Thanked the Borough Administrator and CFO.

He knows Councilman Carnazza has some questions about the new Fire Department truck decals that he can possibly answer.

Councilman Carnazza explained that it was brought to his attention that the decals were changed on the Chief's and Deputy Chief's vehicles. He went to check it out and inspected the service records. He commented on the Fire Chief's purchasing procedures. Asked if there as an issue with the old decals.

Councilman Gallagher explained that the old decals were peeling off. He approved the purchase as Council Liaison. The purchase was well within their budget so he doesn't understand the issue.

Councilman Carnazza explained his concerns with the Fire Chief's purchases and budgeting.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION/HEALTH

He tried to get the number of COVID infections and deaths from the County Board of Health. He received a report with the infections but deaths were not reported. He had been told by our previous Board of Health that we had 5 deaths. He was told that the OEM Manager and Mayor get this report. He doesn't know who to contact to get the deaths.

Mayor Kramer said he has never heard anything from pretty much the onset of COVID in regard to the deaths. He had heard that 5 people had died but he doesn't know where that number came from.

He was waiting for the next Recreation Commission meeting to talk about what we are going to do with our sports programs. Asked the Borough Attorney if the individual sports committees within the commission need to allow the public at their meetings.

Mr. Giblin asked if the committees keep minutes.

Councilman Carnazza explained that notes are made at the meetings that are then reported at the Recreation Commission meeting. He has been questioned by 2 parents about when the basketball meetings are so they can attend.

Mr. Giblin explained that since it is a sub-committee it would not be deemed a public meeting so the public does not need to be invited, however, they could be but legally they don't have to be. A person would need to request attendance at the Recreation Commission meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

There has been some interest in creating a vaccine site somewhere in the Northern Valley. A Councilwoman from Norwood attended the Old Tappan Board of Health meeting to propose this. He participated in a zoom meeting where the Closter Mayor was interested in doing it as well. The Closter Mayor is going to contact Hackensack North to see if they would be of some assistance. The Demarest Mayor was doing likewise with Englewood Hospital. That was about 2 weeks ago and no action has been taken at this point that he is aware of.

Councilman Nalbandian has had some issues with these hospitals trying to get his staff vaccinated. It is a very frustrating process. He explained how the hospitals are scheduling and giving out the shots.

Participated in a Bergen County League of Municipalities meeting where an infectious disease doctor explained COVID. Also attended preconstruction meeting for 200 Old Tappan Road, explained the project timeline and the various questions that arose. It was a good meeting.

Received an email from a resident on Kristin Place in regard to her parents who are long time residents. There was a slip and fall on the ice and they commended the Police Officers and First Aid Corps members who aided them.

Councilman Yhu asked if Old Tappan will definitely be involved in the proposed local vaccination site. Just in case anyone asks.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that they are looking for a Northern Valley site with a hospital backing it. From us they are looking for volunteers to work it.

Mayor Kramer explained that the hospitals have the administrative staff and abilities to do this. Dr. Bhatia, a Board of Health member, volunteered to be the Chief Medical Officer.

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: March 15, 2021