

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR & EXECUTIVE MEETING
May 3, 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 |
| | Councilman Matthew Nalbandian | Present |
| | Councilman Jin Yhu | Present |

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Mental Health Awareness Month

Mayor Kramer read the proclamation proclaiming the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2021 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 Carnazza

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Gallagher read the resolution

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

Ordinance 1184-21 – Amend Recreation Fees – Resolution of Adoption

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

Second – Councilman Binaghi

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Carnazza read the resolution

Second – Councilman Gallagher

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|-----------|-----------------------|-----|
| Roll Call | Councilman Binaghi | Yes |
| | Councilman Boyce | Yes |
| | Councilman Carnazza | Yes |
| | Councilman Gallagher | Yes |
| | Councilman Nalbandian | Yes |

NEW BUSINESS

Knickerbocker Lane & Foxwood Square Parking

Councilman Binaghi received an email from Barbara DiTrollo in reference to parking at Foxwood Square. This is not the first email, it has been going on for about a year. There are a couple of cars that park in that area. There are signs that say no parking with certain restrictions listed. She's complaining that someone is parked there all the time. This is a private road so the Home Owners Association (HOA) can make their own rules unless they request the Borough enforce Title 39 then the Police can go there and issue tickets. We cannot find any documentation reflecting that the HOA has requested us to enforce Title 39 so the problem is the association's and Ms. DiTrollo needs to take it up with them.

Mr. Giblin explained that there is absolutely nothing the Borough can do until the HOA directs us to enforce Title 39. If the HOA does request the Borough enforce the parking we are not required to take over the street so we have no other obligations to maintain the road. He advised that the Borough readopt our parking ordinance that has the regulations in it if asked to enforce by the HOA.

Councilman Binaghi will contact Ms. DiTrollo and explain what was discussed tonight.

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Carnazza read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Mayor Kramer explained that Councilman Carnazza was successful in selling our old ambulance for \$16,000.00.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Borough Memorials

Councilman Binaghi passed around guidelines he created for those that request a Borough Memorial.

Mayor Kramer commented on some of the memorial suggestions that have been put forth. He is somewhat uncomfortable with how we moved forward with this. Some names were put in place for consideration that happen to be the parents of two sitting council members. After much thought he feels that we could be opening ourselves up to a lot of criticism. Standards are being designed and it could be said that they are being designed around the council members parents. He is not, however, saying that those individuals are not deserving of the memorials. He feels that this is something that should be addressed by someone other than those who are putting family member's names forward.

Councilman Binaghi explained that a previous Mayor put together a Memorial Committee that never met. This came up again under this administration so the committee was resurrected. Instead of having a committee meeting he put these regulations forth in the hopes of trying to prevent everyone from wanting a memorial, not for anyone in his family. The person who is putting his father's name forth is his mother and she gave him a resume. He has been very transparent through this whole process and so has Councilman Nalbandian.

Councilman Nalbandian stated that he never put his mother's name forward for a memorial. Two previous administrations had told his family they were going to do this and never did. He left the meeting 2 months ago when this was first discussed and told his family that it was suggested that a park be named after his mother. He doesn't understand how we went from one meeting where this was definitely happening to now it being an issue.

Mayor Kramer is not criticizing the qualifications of the 2 people the memorials are being proposed for. His problem is that sitting councilmen are putting forth their own family members names.

Councilman Gallagher thinks the proposed criteria is good. He thinks it should be this governing body that establishes a set of rules. The optics of the 2 councilmen naming their parents as recipients might not be that great and some might think it is self-serving but at the same time these 2 people are deserving of memorials.

Mayor Kramer explained the way he thinks this should work is that someone other than the councilmen should address letters to the Borough requesting the memorials. He also feels that someone not related to the 2 individuals should be designing the criteria. He could create a committee to handle this matter and then accept letters requesting the memorials from those other than the councilmen.

Councilmen Yhu, Carnazza and Boyce will be on the Memorial Committee.

Mayor Kramer asked that once the current memorial requests are received, the committee expedite the process.

PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Motion to close meeting to the public – Councilman Gallagher

Second – Councilman Carnazza

Discussion – None

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

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Gallagher

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

EXECUTIVE MEETING

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.

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| ROLL CALL: | Mayor John Kramer | Present |
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| | Borough Attorney Brian Giblin |

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Sidewalks - Lindy Place & Amelia Drive

Mr. Skrable explained that there is no sidewalk in this area because of a right of way issue. It is too narrow and a sidewalk would not fit. However, if this is something the Mayor and Council wish to do we could create a plan a get a license agreement from the owner and install a sidewalk. The agreement would give the Borough the right to build and maintain the sidewalk. He explained that this has been done before in town. The whole project would cost approximately \$10,000.00. The survey and license agreement would cost more than the actual sidewalk.

It was decided to defer this request until we have a major project it can be combined with.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the Country Squire Road crosswalk does not go straight across, it veers off towards Old Tappan Road. A resident who lives in the area feels that this a danger to the children.

Mr. Skrable explained that he is having the same problem with the County and making the crosswalks on Central Avenue ADA compliant. He explained the regulations for crosswalks.

Mrs. Haverilla brought up the rock wall on Old Tappan Road that was installed a few years ago. There are rocks coming off it and are now all over the sidewalk.

Mr. Skrable said the town had D&L install it so he will contact them.

Mr. Binaghi explained that he received a call from the owner of Arrow Tree, which borders the Pearson Project, who is worried about all his trees dying from a trench that is being dug. He explained to the owner that he should have come to the Planning Board meetings when the application was being heard to voice his concerns because the work was approved. He should have been noticed about the hearings but since the business owner is not the property owner he might have never seen the letter.

Mr. Skrable stated that the developer is willing to compromise with the business owner so he thinks this issue has been resolved. He told the owner that if he feels he has a case to document everything because it is a private matter.

Councilman Boyce explained that at the last Environmental Commission meeting there was a lot of dialogue about the Borough's tree ordinance. Some are suggesting that the whole ordinance needs to be revamped. He would like to review the current ordinance with Mr. Skrable and come up with some best practices so he can speak to the Commission about exactly what is in place, how it is communicated and how it effects the developers. It's the practice of clear-cutting lots that is upsetting them.

Mr. Skrable explained how the Borough came to the difficult decision to adopt the current ordinance. It can be revisited. The big question is should the ordinance apply to everyone.

Mr. Gallagher suggested having a work session with the Environmental Commission who can then make a presentation to the Mayor & Council.

Councilman Nalbandian questioned why the commission feels they can control what a property owner does with the trees on their lot. Many of these clear-cut homes will eventually have trees replanted where the property owner wants them.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

COUNCILMAN YHU – FIRST AID/SCHOOLS/SENIORS

The high school board voted to pass their 2021-2022 budget with a 1.6% increase, the average tax bill impact will be flat. The local school board voted to pass their budget with a 2% increase, with an average tax bill impact of \$157 yearly. These figures still need to be confirmed by our CFO. Enrollment at the high school dropped slightly this year but enrollment at the grade schools has been ticking up. The grades schools started back full time today but the high school has postponed their full reopening to an unspecified date.

He met with the Senior Advisory Committee several times over the past few weeks. Most of them seem anxious to get their programs started again. Meet and greets will be held on May 13th, 20th and 27th at the Stone Point Park pavilion in the hopes of attracting more participants. He made a banner that will be hung in front of the Senior Center with those dates.

The Local Assistance Board has seen an increase in meal assistance requests. The pantry is well stocked.

The First Aid Corps has responded to 92% of their calls this year. They received a stretcher for their new rig that was recently put into service. A crew that recently responded to a CPR call and were able to successfully revive the patient are being nominated for an EMS award. They have been advised of the presentation on May 17th.

He and the Borough Administrator will be working with a group that works with the telecommunication companies that wish to install antennas throughout towns so the Borough does not have to deal with them and it doesn't cost us anything.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that River Vale just used this company. This came through her administrator's group who is trying to get the company to come in and talk to them.

He thanked Mayor Kramer for reading that proclamation earlier. It aligns nicely with the online events dealing with mental health issues being held on May 13th and May 27th. He asked that everyone spread the word to their boards, committees and commissions.

Mayor Kramer announced that Ron Pearsall, who was very active with the Senior Advisory Board, recently passed away.

COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN – DPW/CONSTRUCTION

The DPW new hire started today and is undergoing mandatory training.

He just met with the Construction Official to see the office renovations that are ongoing. The space is greatly appreciated and already being utilized. Year to date we have 85 permits issued which is more than the previous year in its entirety.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – POLICE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Met with the Police Chief to discuss upcoming retirements, possible promotions and new hires.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE/FIRE

The Fire Department had a new sign installed on the Fire House and some landscaping work was also done. They are in a good place right now; morale is good. The Fire Chief was thankful to the Mayor & Council for their support during the budget season. They are looking forward to the proclamation on May 17th.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/ENVIRONMENTAL

The Planning Board has a meeting next week and will review a plan that was resubmitted by the architect for 2 Pine Grove Court. It is less intrusive of the rear yard setback.

The Golf Course has 270 members already, they are hoping to get to 300. A letter of intent was submitted to Bergen County Open Space for the irrigation project.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION/HEALTH

He will make his report on the Recreation Commission and Board of Health at the next Mayor & Council meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

None

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

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: May 17, 2021