

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
August 16, 2021

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	Absent
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRAYER – Councilman William Boyce

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Gallagher

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

PRESENTATION

War Medals

Councilman Yhu introduced Cole Lee who is here to present medals on behalf of the Korean Consulate honoring American Korean War veterans.

The first medal was presented to Dottie Gillespie on behalf of Ronald and Robert Gillespie. Mrs. Gillespie thanked them for the honor.

The second medal was presented to Mayor John Kramer on behalf of his brother Carl. Mayor Kramer thanked Mr. Lee and explained that his brother and Mr. Gillespie served at the same time.

Councilman Yhu explained that Mr. Lee dedicated a large amount of PPE during COVID to the town.

Mr. Lee is honored to present these medals on behalf of Korea. We owe America and its veterans a debt of gratitude.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 1188-21 – Amend 2021 Salary Ordinance – Resolution of Adoption

Councilman Boyce 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 Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Boyce read the resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

STAFF APPOINTMENT

Anna Haverilla - Registrar of Vital Statistics

Motion to accept the appointment – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Carnazza read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – Councilman Gallagher inquired about the 51 Dearborn Drive resolution.

Mayor Kramer explained that the property is vacant. It is a mess and completely overgrown. The Code Official has been trying to contact the owner without much luck.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the DPW is going to clean up the property and a lien will be placed against it. Everything has been documented.

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

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Skrable reported that the 2021 Road Paving Program bid advertisement was approved tonight. The bid opening will be on September 2, 2021. He listed the streets that will be included in the bid. The paving needed on the DPW lots will go out to bid separately but will try to time it out along with the road paving project which should work to our benefit. He got the ok from NJDOT on the drainage designs for the DeWolf Road project. Once the drainage is done DeWolf Road and Howard Drive will be paved. The drainage and paving are 2 separate projects.

Mrs. Haverilla inquired about 128 DeWolf Road. The owner is upset because of the state of the drainage easement.

Mayor Kramer explained that a homeowner on Perry Street is having an issue with a building on Orangeburg Road. He spoke with her again today and she seemed pleased after speaking with Mr. Skrable.

Mr. Skrable detailed the issues on Perry Street and what is being done to alleviate it.

Mr. Skrable stated that everything at the Pearson property seems to be going well. The issue with Arrow Tree has been resolved. The developer will be extending the fence for them.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE/FIRE

An exit interview was held with the Borough Auditor last week to review the findings of the 2020 audit. It went well.

There have been discussions in regard to updating the Borough's email to help with security.

Councilman Yhu explained the cost for the email change.

Mrs. Haverilla explained how it will be more secure and that it is better than what we have now. This can wait until budget time but a questionnaire needs to be filled out and submitted now. Our IT person is working on that.

The Fire Department has had an active 2 weeks. There was a structure fire on Phyllis Drive which was quickly knocked down with minimal damage. There were major fires in River Vale and Orangetown that we provided mutual aid to. Engine 64 is running well after repairs.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – POLICE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Read the July 2021 police activity report.

Councilman Gallagher asked about the Police Department's COVID vaccination status. Has everyone gotten it?

Councilman Binaghi will find out.

Mayor Kramer asked about the status of the parking issues on Kristin Place.

Councilman Binaghi explained that Title 39 is not being violated so the Police cannot do anything. They do not feel that it is an unsafe situation.

Mayor Kramer asked if there is anything we should be doing. Can we enact an ordinance?

Councilman Binaghi will speak to the Police Chief again and get an official opinion in writing.

COUNCILMAN YHU – FIRST AID/SCHOOLS/SENIORS

The next high school Board of Education meeting will be on August 23rd. There are 4 candidates for 2 open positions for the regional board. The last meeting was well attended by both parents who are for and against the new CRT curriculum.

There was no Library Board meeting in August.

The Senior's Lunch & Learn program was well attended. There will be another one next month. David Northrop passed away. Hopefully we will be able to present his proclamation posthumously.

Councilman Binaghi commented that Mr. Northrop's obituary was wonderful. He had quite a number of accomplishments in his life.

The First Aid Corps took delivery of their emergency vehicle. They would like help with a shed installation. The DPW will be consulted.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/ENVIRONMENTAL

Brought everyone up to speed on the golf course's income so far this year. The Golf Course Superintendent and Golf Pro will be retiring in 2022. The Golf Cart and Concession agreements will be coming up for renewal at the end of the year. They are looking into a management company to potentially run the golf course. 4 companies have been interviewed. He explained how, financially, this could benefit the Borough along with the services offered. He is looking to see which direction the governing body would like to go. If we go with a management company an RFP would be drawn up and we can advertise next month. He described the 3 basic structures we can go with - lease agreement, management agreement or management fees paid monthly. The companies interviewed range in size dramatically. He feels that a management company would run the course well. The membership arrangement is different and simpler. Is there any interest in creating an RFP?

Councilman Gallagher asked how we make sure the management company keeps earning revenue for the Borough.

Councilman Boyce stated that we will have to work something into the contract. The management fees did not seem all that high. Some companies offered to pay rent on the pro shop and restaurant and they would then keep the income. They will use our equipment and hire employees. The Borough would still own the golf course. The company will be able to get discounts on the technology needed to run the course. They will handle the advertising and be open 7 days a week. We will control the membership fees with their guidance. He passed around a financial comparison report. Once an RFP is drafted it will be sent to the Borough Attorney for review.

Mayor Kramer stated that they explained all of this to the Borough Auditor last week. 3 of the 4

companies are willing to meet with the Golf Commission next month.

All were in favor of moving forward with an RFP.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION/HEALTH

Recreation programs are over for the summer. Both summer basketball and the camp went well.

The Board of Health did not meet in August. COVID case numbers remain the same.

Mayor Kramer asked about the status of pickle ball.

Councilman Carnazza stated that he met with Donna Geitz about a location and will speak to the Recreation Commission and get back to her.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

None

ACTION ON MINUTES

Councilman Carnazza made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting, July 19, 2021
- Regular & Executive Meetings, July 19, 2021

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Kramer explained that at the last meeting Councilman Binaghi circulated pictures of the proposed memorial signs honoring his father for Oakes Park. He read the below statement into the record:

So, we have reached a point in our meeting where the council is to consider whether to approve or deny the design of the memorial honoring Ron Binaghi, Sr. which is to be to be displayed at

the Oakes Park gazebo as submitted by Councilman Binaghi.

As mentioned at previous meetings, and while recognizing that I have no vote on the subject matter, I do have the right and have expressed my opinion as it relates to the proposals regarding both the Anni Nalbandian and Ron Binaghi, Sr. memorials.

Initially, I voiced my objection to two sitting council members submitting names honoring a member of each of their family. I felt that doing so was inappropriate and that it was self-serving. Secondly, I suggested that the council would be open for well-deserved criticism. My thought on that matter was that residents who have been personally involved in the creation, design, their offering of time and talents, donations, and improvements to either of the parks, would be slighted. I reminded the council of the outcry some years ago when a facility was renamed in someone else's honor. Ultimately, in spite of my objections, the council voted in favor of moving forward with the named memorials. So be it.

The next issue that the council was called upon was to consider the design and number of signs to be placed at the Nalbandian Park. Once again, I spoke out and objected to the plan to place three signs at that location. One single sign serves each of our four parks, our police headquarters, fire department, ambulance corps, senior center, and even our borough hall. Three signs is overkill and serves no useful purpose and tends to commercialize the park. Here again, in spite of my objections, the council voted in favor of moving forward with the placement of three signs. So be it.

And so, it should not come as any surprise to anyone here that I have some comments to make about the proposal before you this evening.

My opinion is that the size and design of the sign suggested nearly rivals the primary Oakes Park sign which faces Central Avenue. I consider the sign to be excessive and out of character for display within any park. In no other park is there an interior sign of such magnitude. Our parks have many memorials honoring people who have meant much to our community. Stanaland Park contains memorials to Eagle Scouts whose most worthy projects are noted by simple brass plaques that carry their name. Stone Point Park has many memorials honoring residents for their contributions noted by way of inscriptions upon stones and brass or bronze plaques. Similarly, Oakes Park has many such memorials consisting of park benches, stone etchings, and bronze plaques. All are subtle reminders, some with greater meaning than others, but all which carry forward a meaning to those of us who were fortunate to have known them.

And so, I leave the decision to you and once made, so be it.

Councilman Binaghi explained that the sign is only 5 feet long. He is not sure of the height. The location was described.

Councilman Yhu feels that having a sign is too much. He thought there was just going to be a plaque on the gazebo.

Councilman Binaghi stated that, according to the DPW Superintendent, the sign can be affixed to the gazebo.

Councilman Boyce explained that we need to be careful about the size of the signs. It would be nice if it matched others throughout the community. He will speak to the DPW Superintendent

then come up with renderings that he will bring to the next meeting for review and discussion.

Councilman Yhu sent guidelines for the application process for dedications, plaques and benches throughout the Borough to everyone prior to tonight's meeting and asked for input. It can be put in the form of an ordinance for memorialization.

The Borough Attorney will review and make comments.

Councilman Binaghi spoke about new hires for the Police Department. He spoke with Councilman Nalbandian and there is no movement on the contract. He asked if we should move forward with the hiring process. He is asking for permission to hire one officer by October 1st.

Motion to hire new patrol officer - Councilman Binaghi

Second - Councilman Yhu

Discussion - None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	No
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 1189-21 – Amend 2021 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 Yhu	Yes

Ordinance 1190-21 – Mechanical Fees – Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Boyce read the resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

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

Ordinance 1191-21 – Amend Police Department Ordinance – Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Binaghi read the resolution

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

Ordinance 1192-21 – Amend Fire Department 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 Yhu	Yes

Ordinance 1193-21 – Amend Fire Prevention 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 Yhu	Yes

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Gallagher

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

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

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

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Gallagher

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: September 20, 2021