

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR & COUNCIL SPECIAL & EXECUTIVE MEETING
December 4, 2023

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.

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|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| ROLL CALL: | Mayor John Kramer | Present |
| | Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr. | Present |
| | Councilman William Boyce | Present |
| | Councilman Guy Carnazza | Absent |
| | Councilman Thomas Gallagher | Present |
| | Councilman Cort Gwon | Present |
| | Councilman Jin Yhu | Present |

Also Present: Borough Administrator Anna Haverilla
Borough Attorney Brian Giblin

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Gallagher read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – Councilman Gallagher inquired about the 2 grants.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the first one is for the replacement of doors at the Senior Center. The second is for 3 trips that are being planned.

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| Roll Call | Councilman Binaghi | Yes |
| | Councilman Boyce | Yes |
| | Councilman Gallagher | Yes |
| | Councilman Gwon | Yes |
| | Councilman Yhu | Yes |

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 1246-23 – Amend Noise Ordinance – Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Gallagher read the resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – Councilman Binaghi asked what is being changed.

Mr. Giblin explained that the ordinance is now going to be applicable to electric powered leaf blowers and other landscape equipment. This was recommended by the Police Chief.

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| Roll Call | Councilman Binaghi | Yes |
| | Councilman Boyce | Yes |
| | Councilman Gallagher | Yes |
| | Councilman Gwon | Yes |
| | Councilman Yhu | Yes |

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Ordinance Amendments

Councilman Boyce asked the Borough Attorney several questions that a home owner might have in regard to the amended tree ordinance. Asked the Borough Engineer to explain how the buffers are defined.

Mr. Skrable explained how they are going to go by the number of trees instead of using a calculation which is more user friendly for the homeowners.

Councilman Boyce explained that they have not come up with the fees yet but that will be done in a separate ordinance. Nuisance trees and the enforcing agency were also discussed.

Mr. Giblin explained the process for the introduction and adoption of this ordinance. It must be sent to the Planning Board after introduction for a consistency determination with the Master Plan. They have 35 days to get back to the Mayor and Council. Then it can be adopted.

Councilman Binaghi is concerned that this ordinance is burdening the homeowners especially with the fees.

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Motion to close meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting – Councilman Binaghi

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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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| ROLL CALL: | Mayor John Kramer | Present |
| | Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr. | Present |
| | Councilman William Boyce | Present |
| | Councilman Guy Carnazza | Absent |
| | Councilman Thomas Gallagher | Present |
| | Councilman Cort Gwon | Present |
| | Councilman Jin Yhu | Present |

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Also Present: | Borough Administrator Anna Haverilla |
| | Borough Attorney Brian Giblin |

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Skrable reported that the Haring Drive footpath is finally done.

Mayor Kramer inquired about the DeWolf Road project.

Mr. Skrable explained that the drainage work will be done in the early spring before the farm stand and golf course open.

DRONE STUDY UPDATE

Councilman Gallagher explained that this drone study of the Hackensack River was discussed at a Pascack Valley Mayor's meeting earlier this year. It was suggested that we share the cost with River Vale.

Mayor Kramer explained that Washington Township has serious flooding issues that compromised their sewer system. They conducted a drone study and brought the study to the Pascack Valley Mayor's meeting to explain and a grant was then submitted. Several towns signed on including Old Tappan. A cost proposal was received but for some reason Old Tappan was not included. We could share the cost with River Vale. Described what the drone study identifies.

Mr. Skrable explained that the study is a planning tool. Old Tappan has an issue with Dorotockey's Run flooding. It is mainly private property and not simple to address. We would have to obtain easements. The DPW has a drone so we could look into conducting our own study. It is a good tool and there is some value in doing it with River Vale. You would then need to figure out what to do with the findings. Discussed what the DEP will and will not allow. The DEP conducts aerials once per year.

Councilman Boyce explained that Bergen SWAN might be interested in helping with the study. Previous studies have been conducted of the Hackensack River perhaps we can access them.

A discussion ensued on what the cost to the Borough would be. It would be roughly \$10,000 split with River Vale.

Mayor Kramer suggested that this should be discussed at the upcoming budget meetings.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Mrs. Haverilla explained that Tyco Animal Control Services submitted a proposal which she circulated to the Mayor and Council for review.

Councilman Binaghi explained that he is the Borough's current Animal Control Officer and gets paid \$4,800 per year. Tyco is a reputable company. Discussed the services that the company can provide that he can't including dealing with the geese on a daily basis at the golf course and supplying handlers at the annual rabies clinic.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that most of the contract is financed by the dog and cat license fees that are collected each year. This is coming up prior to our budget discussions because we are having a hard time setting up the rabies clinic. Tyco will supply the veterinarian and the handlers. If we sign the contract in January we can have the clinic in

February. Tyco will also deal with dog bites and court testimony which takes the burden off of our Police Department.

All were in favor of approving the agreement with Tyco at the January 2nd Reorganization Meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – GRANTS/HISTORICAL

Discussed the Oakes Park House project and using Green Acres funds along with their parameters. Need to know what we can and can't do so we can plan accordingly.

Councilman Boyce had a meeting where storage, ADA compliant bathrooms, basement and covered porch were discussed. Explained the dimensions of the structure. The utilities are already in place and the foundation needs to be repaired. We can possibly do a prefabricated building and the DPW can then fit it out over time.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that we will not receive Green Acres funding if they do not approve what we want to do. We already have \$200,000 earmarked from this year's budget.

COUNCILMAN GWON - RECREATION/LIBRARY/SCHOOLS

Attended the NVOT board meeting where many awards were given out, the teacher's conference was discussed and the college counselors gave a presentation.

The annual tree lighting ceremony went very well. The pickle ball courts are actively being used and the reservation system seems to be working well.

The Library is going through the budget process.

COUNCILMAN YHU – DPW/SENIORS/FIRST AID

The Seniors holiday party is on December 14th at noon.

The First Aid Corps' ambulance is back in service.

The DPW is preparing their equipment for the winter. They did a great job decorating Borough Hall.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/FIRE

The Veterans Committee is getting organized and looking for a small operating and capital budget.

Councilman Binaghi explained that he is involved with a group at the Tappan Fire House that helps provide veterans with meals on Thanksgiving morning. They can provide these meals to the Old Tappan veterans as well. We could possibly set this service up at our fire house too.

Councilman Boyce will bring this up to the Veterans Committee.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE/CONSTRUCTION/ENVIRONMENTAL

Read the January - November Construction Department report including the fees collected. They are a very busy department.

Discussed the dates of important events coming up that the Mayor and Council should try and attend including Santa Day, the menorah lighting and the Borough Christmas party.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Recreation Director and DPW did a great job with the tree lighting ceremony. Thanked Councilman Gallagher for his kind words that night.

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Gallagher

Second – Councilman Yhu

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: January 2, 2024