

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
November 20, 2023**

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	Absent
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Cort Gwon	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRAYER – Councilman Yhu

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

Katherine Onufrey, 104 Howard Drive, asked how she can go about getting a traffic study conducted or having a speed bump installed on Howard Drive. The cars coming off of Blanche Avenue are really dangerous and there are a lot of small children on the block. There was a digital sign placed on one of her neighbor’s properties that seemed to help but is gone now.

Mayor Kramer suggested that the Police Commissioner discuss this issue with the Police Chief.

Councilman Carnazza will talk with the Police Chief and get back to Ms. Onufrey.

The Police Chief explained that the problem with a speed bump or rumble strips is the noise

when the cars hit them.

Dominick Matteo, 126 Pearl Court, explained that the corner is very rounded where the traffic coming off of Blanche Avenue is. Feels that we need to figure out a way to slow the traffic down there and it might help with the issue on Howard Drive.

Michael Kanjo, 97 Howard Drive, explained that his house was the one with the temporary digital speed sign. He thought it was good in the beginning but something more needs to be done.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Gallagher

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Kramer explained that Ordinance 1243-23 was tabled at our last meeting and that he now needs a motion to remove it from the table.

Motion – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

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

Ordinance 1243-23 – Amend Parking Ordinance – Resolution of Adoption

Councilman Gallagher explained that there is parking, speeding and safety issues on Howard Drive which all need to be addressed. This is a school zone. He is very discouraged that they have not been able to come to a good agreement with the high school. The Police Department is not being properly notified of all the events that are taking place on the high school's fields. He is reluctant to inconvenience the residents in that neighborhood but at the same time he feels that safety is the number one concern. The speeding issue has been heard loud and clear and as we go into our budget discussions for next year ways on how to remedy this issue will be discussed.

Councilman Binaghi agrees with Councilman Gallagher, safety trumps inconvenience and we cannot put people at risk knowing that there's a problem. The residents can contact the Police Department when having a holiday or large party to make special parking accommodations.

Councilman Yhu also does not want to inconvenience the residents but it was brought to their attention last year that there is a serious safety concern. The emergency services will have a very difficult time getting down that road to respond to a call. This ordinance can always be revisited

later on if it is not working.

Councilman Gwon explained that because the school will not close the gate or put the temporary no parking signs up they are forcing us to make this decision.

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Carnazza

Discussion - None

Katherine Onufrey, 104 Howard Drive, explained that she will be directly affected by this parking ordinance. She does not have a problem with it. Hardly anyone parks on the street during the day unless they are going to something at the high school. She does empathize with her neighbors though especially when it comes to holiday celebrations and large parties. Last week there was some talk about limiting the parking to certain hours or times of year. Can this be considered instead of the ordinance's current version.

Councilman Yhu explained that they discussed many different scenarios but decided this was the best way forward.

Blair Harvey, 113 Howard Drive, explained that Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons are when a majority of the big events take place at the high school fields. The rest of the week is pretty manageable. He feels that limiting the parking hours for Friday and Saturday from 6pm-10pm on the west side of Howard Drive is a fair compromise. This current ordinance is an inconvenience to the residents.

Councilman Gallagher explained that he has seen the Howard Drive area pretty congested on weekdays as well. The Police Department is not looking to give the residents in that neighborhood a tough time if they need a special parking accommodation they can work it out.

Jean Matteo, 126 Pearl Court, wants to confirm that if she has guests over or a landscaper they are not going to be given a hard time with these new parking restrictions unless, perhaps, it is on the night of a big school event.

Katherine Onufrey, 104 Howard Drive, asked if a resident parking pass or placard could be an option. When will this ordinance go in to effect?

Mr. Giblin explained that legally it takes effect immediately but it will not be enforceable until the are signs installed.

Blair Harvey, 113 Howard Drive, does not feel that the ordinance needs to be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so that during the day the residents can have a normal state of affairs. There is not much going on at the school during the summer so that should be taken into consideration as well.

Councilman Gallagher asked the Police Chief what the traffic is like on Howard Drive during the summer.

Chief Tracy explained that sports teams do use the field in the summer.

Dominick Matteo, 126 Pearl Court, inquired about the gate being unlocked. He would also like to see Pearl Court excluded from this ordinance.

Councilman Carnazza explained that he and Chief Tracy met with the school to discuss the locking of the gate and the safety concerns but the school does not want to lock the gate which is now forcing the Mayor and Council’s hand to enact this ordinance for safety purposes.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – Councilman Binaghi would like to see the time adjusted to make it more convenient for the neighborhood residents during daytime hours.

Discussion ensued on hours and enforcement.

Councilman Gallagher encouraged the residents of the Howard Drive area to attend a school board meeting and voice their concerns there as well.

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

Councilman Carnazza read the resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

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

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Gallagher read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes

Councilman Gallagher	Yes
Councilman Gwon	Yes
Councilman Yhu	Yes

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – GRANTS/HISTORICAL

Discussed the possible fixing or replacing of the Oakes Park House. The committee looked into getting prices for taking the structure down and putting up a new one. The Borough Administrator explored the possibility of applying for Green Acres grant money however their parameters of what they will allow us to build with their money are different from what we want to build. We need to figure out if we want to follow the Green Acres parameters and get the grant money or do we want to do what we want to do.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that no matter what we do with the Oakes Park House we need to follow Green Acres parameters because we used their money to buy Oakes Park. She is trying to find out what exactly is covered by the grant. Money was already appropriated in this year’s budget but it will need to be discussed again during the 2024 budget discussions.

He feels that if we are going to leave the house as is and fix it what are we going to use it for? He does not see any other use for it besides storage for the Recreation Department. The DPW Superintendent has informed him that he can fit a storage container at the DPW for the Recreation Department which will also give them access to electricity. He feels that we should be taking the building down and putting up something new if it fits in the Green Acres parameters. Our grant professionals are looking into what grants are available to us and what can exactly be done with that money.

COUNCILMAN GWON - RECREATION/LIBRARY/SCHOOLS

The soccer season ended yesterday. It was a tough season due to rainouts. Discussed the pickle ball program and what can be done to improve it now that it has gotten up and running. Winter sports are coming up.

The Library reported that someone tripped on the parking lot sidewalk. No one was hurt but the sidewalk will be repaired as quickly as possible.

COUNCILMAN YHU – DPW/SENIORS/FIRST AID

Congratulated Councilman Binaghi, Councilwoman-Elect Massaro and Mayor-Elect Gallagher on their election results. He wished Mayor Kramer much luck and happiness upon his retirement after 60 plus years of service to the Borough.

The Seniors had a 50’s themed dance party last week. Their last event of the year will be the holiday party next month. They are looking forward to all of the activities planned for next year.

The DPW has been busy picking up leaves.

Congratulated the new slate of officers for the First Aid Corps.

This past Saturday was a salute to first responders at West Point for which he was able to secure some tickets. He would like to make this an annual event.

Mayor Kramer explained that he attended an emergency services seminar while at the League Conference that dovetailed into what the First Aid Corps presented to us at the last meeting. Explained the grants that are available to us to conduct a study in regard to paid EMTs working along with our volunteers.

Councilman Yhu will look into getting more information on the grant.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – POLICE/ADMINISTRATION/HEALTH

Read a letter received from the Superintendent of the local schools commending the increased police presence at the schools. Read another letter received from the CVS Organized Retail Crime Team commending Detective Sergeant DiMaria.

Read the October 2023 Police Activity Report.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE/CONSTRUCTION/ENVIRONMENTAL

We will be discussing the tree ordinance under Old Business.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

This morning the 3rd graders visited the Borough Hall where he made a brief presentation about our local government and then did a question and answer session with them. These visits are one of the great highlights of his time as Mayor.

While he was at the League Conference he spoke with one of the principals of The Enclave where they discussed the projects progress. He indicated that they should be ready to have the apartment and commercial portions ready to go by March 1st.

He and the Borough Administrator were invited to inspect the United Way project on Grace Avenue. They expect to be done by January 1st but by the time they receive all of the approvals from the state and everything is cleared it will be ready for occupancy in March.

ACTION ON MINUTES

Councilman Gallagher made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting, October 16, 2023
- Regular & Executive Meetings, November 6, 2023

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes*
	Councilman Gwon	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

*Councilman Gallagher abstained on the October 16, 2023 minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Ordinance Amendments

There was a meeting earlier this evening with all the Borough officials and professionals effected by this ordinance. There was a lot of discussion on buffer areas, nuisance trees and who will inspect them, the definition of a tree and fee schedules. They are trying to meet in the middle with residents having control over their property and to try and prevent the clear cutting of trees that we have seen in the past. The plan is to get this ordinance to the council for review by early December, it will then be introduced and sent to the Planning Board for review and comment and can then be adopted in February.

Councilman Binaghi inquired about what trees can and cannot be taken down.

Mr. Giblin answered that you cannot take down trees in the buffer areas without permission.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Mayor & Council Meetings

The Borough Clerk explained that the 2024 meeting schedule mirrors what we have done in the past. A decision needs to be made on the Sine Die and Reorganization Meetings time and date.

It was decided that Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:00pm will be the Sine Die and Reorganization Meetings.

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

Christine Massaro, 19 Haring Drive, commended the DPW on their leaf pickups and keeping the streets clear. Inquired about the status of the Haring Drive footpath project.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the paving company keeps getting delayed. The contractor that won the bid is done with their work. This paving is extra because the water company had to come in to work on the water main so we are responsible for the paving. They say it will happen next week.

Councilman Carnazza congratulated Ms. Massaro on her recent election to the Council.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Yhu

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: January 2, 2024