

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK
280 GODWIN AVENUE
MIDLAND PARK NJ 07432
DECEMBER 16, 2021**

8:00 PM OPEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

On December 16, 2021 at 8:04 P.M., the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park conducted an in-person meeting located at Borough Hall, 280 Godwin Avenue. Agenda items for the meeting were listed on the Borough website. There was also an option for the public to access the meeting electronically by dialing this Toll-Free number 1-866-899-4679, Access Code: 766-030-917.

The **Mayor** called upon **Councilwoman DeLuca** to give this evening's Invocation, and then the **Mayor** led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Shortway called the meeting to order, noting the date as December 16, 2021, and that there will be a 3-minute limit to each individual addressing the Governing Body during the Open Public portions of the meeting.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT: This meeting is being held in accordance with the Sunshine Law, notice having been published according to law with a copy on file in the Borough Clerk's Office and a copy posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Roll Call:	Mayor Shortway	Present
	Councilman Damiano	Present
	Councilman Kruis	Present
	Councilman Sansone	Present
	Councilwoman DeLuca	Present
	Councilwoman Peet	Present
	Council President Iannone	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Robert Regan and Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No Minutes for approval at this time.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

The **Mayor** opened the meeting to the public for general questions, concerns, and comments.

Administrator/Clerk Martin asked members of the public present and on the phone to speak at this time.

No one from the Public came forward.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Shortway

Mayor Shortway attended the Mayors Association of North Jersey. The members elected a secretary for the Bergen County Mayor Association.

Councilman Kruis

**Planning Board/Building Dept/Fire
Prevention/OEM/Property Maintenance**

The **Councilman** reported the **Planning Board** will meet in the following week. **Building Department** has been extremely busy during the last few months of this year. John Torry from **Property Maintenance** stated there are 5 tree issues outstanding and 1 Property Maintenance unresolved.

Councilman Kruis conveyed a report from the **Fire Prevention** Official and the **Office of Emergency Management** Coordinator: Michael Rau that all PPE inventory is at a satisfactory level. From the Division of Fire - LHU Fees, the Borough will receive a rebate in the amount of \$21,156.00. Mr. Rau has also submitted March, April, May, June, and July 2021 documents to FEMA for Midland Park's reimbursement.

Councilman Sansone

**Public Works/Chamber of Commerce/Economic
Development Committee**

Councilman Sansone stated the **Department of Public Works** has completed the leaf pickup project for 2021. Two generators have been put in place at the Fire House and Recreation Center and should be operational by Christmas. **Chamber of Commerce** reports progress. The **Councilman** has written a letter to the **Economic Development Committee** informing them of Councilman-Elect DeBlasio will be their liaison for the year 2022. The letter also requested the Committee to attend a Council meeting so that expectations may be discussed.

Council President Peet

Board of Health/ Board of Education/Municipal Alliance

Councilwoman Peet reported progress for the **Municipal Alliance**.

The **Board of Health** has provided the Borough's data concerning COVID-19 where there were 32 new cases in December 2021 in the Borough of Midland Park.

At a recent meeting for the **Board of Education**, Dr. Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools, announced for the District Violence and Vandalism Report, out of a score of 78, Midland Park schools total 75 which is a stable number. The schools' Building and Grounds are eagerly waiting for the approval from the State in regard to fields and their funding. This will determine if a referendum will be needed in the year 2022.

Councilwoman DeLuca

Public Safety – Fire/Ambulance/Library

Councilwoman DeLuca reported the Captain's Report for the **Ambulance Corps** was given at the last meeting and there is progress. The **Councilwoman** reported the **Fire Department's** Breakfast with Santa was on Saturday, December 11, 2021. **Councilwoman DeLuca** gave the Fire Department's monthly report. On December 11, 2021, the Fire Department had their Breakfast with Santa and was well attended. The proceeds from the breakfast were donated to the Love Fund. **Councilwoman DeLuca** reported the **Library** Board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. The relocating of the non-fiction books is almost finished. Once this is

completed, there will be more space for seating. The children's programs for December have been smaller but this is typical for December. Many activities and programs are planned for the Library users: Zoom presentation for disaster planning, intuitive medium, trips by the Girl Scouts, Special Olympics program, and etc. The Library

Councilman Damiano

Finance/Recreation/Information Technology

Councilman Damiano stated for **Finance and Information Technology** there was progress. The **Recreation** department will update the **Councilman** for the next meeting with new projects and information.

Councilman Iannone

Public Safety – Police/Personnel/Ridgewood Water

Council President Iannone stated for **Ridgewood Water** there is progress.

The **Council President** reported the **Police Department** and **Personnel** also has progress. Recently, it has been reported in TikTok, a notice has been circulating about a nationwide warning for December 17, 2021 school shooting that may occur. There has been no credible evidence concerning this threat. Police presence will be heightened at the Midland Park Schools for precaution.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Borough Administrator/Clerk Martin updated the Council in regard to the Borough's grant application to the State for the road resurfing project. Section 1, Franklin Avenue from Erie Avenue to Maltbie Avenue, has been approved and Section 2 has not been approved. The Borough will reapply for grant monies for Section 2 in 2022.

ORDINANCES ON FINAL:

1. ORDINANCE # 22-21

"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TO CHAPTER XC OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK ENTITLED, "FEES AND CHARGES".

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Midland Park, in the County of Bergen, State New Jersey that Chapter XC of the Code of the Borough of Midland Park entitled Fees and Charges be amended to read as follows:

Section 1.

§90-2, "FEES FOR CHAPTER II, ADMINISTRATION", Section 2-33.1 is hereby amended to add the following:

Police:

Traffic control reimbursements from contractors\$115.00 per hour

Section 2.

§90-3, "FEES FOR CHAPTER III," POLICE REGULATIONS", Section 3

is hereby amended to read as follows:

Digital Photo CD (copies) \$10.00

Color photo prints per page \$ 1.00

Flat rate fee per day (up to 12 hours) for private duty use of a patrol car \$180.00

Private duty use of a patrol car use after 12 hours is an additional per hour

rate of\$ 25.00

Section 3. Severability.

If any section, sentence, or any other part of this Ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or **Ordinance #22-21** invalid, such judgment shall not effect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance but shall be confined in its effect to the section, sentence or other part of this Ordinance directly involved in the controversy which such judgment shall be rendered.

Section 4. Inconsistent Ordinances Repealed.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, but only to the extent of such inconsistencies.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

Introduced by: Council President Iannone Seconded by: Councilwoman Peet

At this time **Mayor Shortway** opens the meeting to the public for any questions comment or concerns regarding Ordinance #22-21.

There being no response, the **Mayor** closed the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance #22-21.

Roll Call:	Councilman Damiano	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilman Sansone	Aye
	Councilwoman DeLuca	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President Iannone	Aye

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed below are considered by the Borough Council to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by the Borough Council, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately:

Resolution #197-21 2021 Budget Transfers #2

WHEREAS, transfers are permitted between budget appropriations during the last two months of the fiscal year; except for out-of-cap expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, that transfers between 2021 Budget Appropriations be made as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
Library	Lib – Contribution	1-01--205-261	\$ 2,900.00	
Library	Lib – Health Active	1-01--205-401		\$ 1,668.00
Library	Lib – Salary	1-01--205-101		\$ 234.00
Library	Lib – Soc Sec	1-01--205-101		\$ 998.00
Recycling	Recycle - Salary	1-01--021-101	\$ 750.00	
Utilities	Water	1-01--031-208	\$ 2,800.00	
Recycling	Recycle-Paper Mkt	1-01--021-282		\$ 3,550.00
Awards Adjustment	Award Adj-Salary	1-01--030-105	\$100,000.00	
Administration	Admin - Salary	1-01--001-101		\$ 40,000.00

Tax Assessor	Tax Assessor-Appeals	1-01--003-221	\$ 10,000.00
Tax Assessor	Tax Assessor-Appeals	1-01--003-225	\$ 5,000.00
Legal	Legal - Litigation	1-01--005-223	\$ 25,000.00
Legal	Legal - Appeals	1-01--005-221	\$ 10,000.00
Master Plan	COAH Compliance	1-01--010-218	\$ 10,000.00

Resolution #198-21 2022 Tyco Animal Control Contract

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide adequate control of animals in accordance with the Borough of Midland Park Health Codes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Midland Park, that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into a contract with Tyco Animal Control Service for such service, in the amount of \$9,900.00 for the calendar year 2022 to be paid in twelve monthly installments, effective January 1, 2022 and expiring December 31, 2022.

Resolution #199-21 Cancel Expenses to Reserves

WHEREAS, certain budget account lines have balances that will be reclassified to a reserve account for future usage, instead of being written off towards fund balance;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances from various accounts for a total amount of \$72,874.44 to be set aside for future usage

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park, that the CFO reclass the following unexpended balances to their appropriate reserve account:

<u>BUDGET ACCOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>GL RESERVE ACCOUNT</u>
1-01- -035-217 (Tax Appeals)	\$20,000.00	1-01- -570-011 Reserve for Tax Appeal
0-01- -020-201 (Snow Storms)	\$52,874.44	1-01- -570-027 Reserve Future storms
Introduced by: Councilman Damiano		Seconded by: Councilwoman Peet

Roll Call:	Councilman Damiano	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilman Sansone	Aye
	Councilwoman DeLuca	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President Iannone	Aye

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #196-21 – Bills List

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet

Seconded by: Councilwoman DeLuca

WHEREAS, claims have been submitted to the Borough of Midland Park in the following amounts:

Current Fund ('20)	\$ 1,546.32
Current Fund	\$ 21,540.56
Capital Fund	\$ 53,644.05
Trust Fund	\$ 6,914.71
TOTAL:	\$ 83,645.64

WHEREAS, such claims have been listed according to Department and account number with corresponding vouchers to be reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the CFO has determined that the funds have been properly appropriated for such purposes and are available, in the Borough of Midland Park and that the claims specified on the schedule attached hereto, following examination and approval by the Finance Committee, be paid and checks issued accordingly; and,

WHEREAS, claims have already been paid in the following accounts:

Current	December 15 th Payroll	\$ 227,007.21
Current	December School Taxes	\$1,684,197.68
Current	December Health Payments	\$ 81,941.30

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council President and Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the claims totaling **\$2,076,791.83** approved and ratified respectively.

Roll Call:	Councilman Damiano	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilman Sansone	Aye
	Councilwoman DeLuca	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President Iannone	Aye

OLD BUSINESS:

Borough Attorney Robert Regan thanked **Councilman Sansone** for his years served on the **Council** and the assistance the **Councilman** has provided to Mr. Regan over the years.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Motion was made by Council President Iannone and seconded by Councilman Sansone to approve the changes made to the Purchase Manual.

Roll Call:	Councilman Damiano	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilman Sansone	Aye
	Councilwoman DeLuca	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President Iannone	Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nicholas Papapietro, 152 Kayne Avenue - stated the **Department of Public Works** did an amazing job on the leaf collections. The Borough's appearance is neat and done in a timely fashion. Mr. Papapietro wished **Councilman Sansone** good luck and thanked him for his six years spent serving the people at Midland Park.

Ray Chapman, 225 Vreeland Avenue – commended **Councilman Sansone** and his wife for all that they have done for the town. Compared to the surrounding towns, the leaf collection in Midland Park is far superior. Thank you to the staff at **Department of Public Works**.

James Capalbo, 89 Millington Drive – expressed his compliments to the **Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin** and her staff for the cooperation, kindness, and efficacy they possess. Mr. Capalbo also wanted to thank Councilman Robert Sansone for his six years of service and wished him well.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, on a Motion by **Council President Iannone**, Seconded by **Councilman Sansone** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the Open Public meeting and **Council** convened into the 2nd Closed Session at 8:28 P.M., where no official actions will be taken.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wendy Martin, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk