

8:00 P.M. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet Seconded by: Councilman Kruis

Roll Call:	Councilman Braunius	Aye
	Councilman DeBlasio	Aye
	Councilman Damiano	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President DeLuca	Aye

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023 BUDGET

Introduced by:	Councilman Damiano	Seconded by:	Council President DeLuca
Roll Call:	Councilman Braunius		Aye
	Councilman DeBlasio		Aye
	Councilman Damiano		Aye
	Councilman Kruis		Aye
	Councilwoman Peet		Aye
	Council President DeLuca		Aye

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Shortway opened the meeting to the public for general questions, concerns, and comments. There being no one from the Public wishing to speak, the Public Portion was closed.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Shortway

Mayor Shortway reported the County Regional Meeting will take place on Saturday, March 11, 2023.

Councilman Damiano

Finance/Public Safety – Ambulance/Fire Prevention

Councilman Damiano stated there was progress reported for the Finance Department. The Public Safety – Ambulance report read as follows: there were 56 calls with 180 miles, and 3 calls received from the Kentshire Apartments. The Councilman continued to read the Fire Prevention monthly report which consisted of home inspections, rental inspections, violations, certificates issued, and penalties.

Councilman Kruis

Property Maintenance/ Public Works/Planning Board

Councilman Kruis read the email from John Torry the Property Maintenance Official. The email stated there were issues resolved on Greenwood, Aqueduct, and Godwin Avenues. Additional open problems consisted of a vehicle on Godwin Avenue, two issues on Chamberlain Place, and a court date of March 15, 2023 has been scheduled for East Center Street. The Councilman received a report from Superintendent Matthew Tauber of the Department of Public Works. Thirteen (13) tons of asphalt have been used to complete the Midland Park pothole project. The County's Greenwood Avenue Culvert Project is continuing with its construction. The PSE&G gas main improvement project will commence on March 20, 2023. The Department has inspected all stormwater catch basins. There is a list consisting of 300 areas that need either cleaning or repairs. The Planning Board will hold their meeting in two weeks and a report will follow.

Councilwoman Peet

Public Safety – Police/Board of Health/Bd of Education/Ridgewood Water

Councilwoman Peet stated the monthly statistics from the Police Department: officers responded to several public service calls which included community service and policing, welfare checks, and assisting residents. The Board of Health will hold the annual Rabies Clinic on May 8, 2023, at the Borough Hall parking lot. The NorthWest Regional Health Bergen Commission will sign a contract with the Borough of Franklin Lakes for services in the near future. The State of New Jersey will be giving 12.3% in state aid to the schools of Midland Park. The Councilwoman will update the public when new information arises from Ridgewood Water concerning the financial obligations of its lead lines.

Council President DeLuca

Public Safety – Fire/Personnel/Library

Council President DeLuca stated the **Fire Department's** meeting was on March 8, 2023. For the month of February, there were 25 calls, four of which were assistance to outside municipalities. The **Library Board's** meeting will be conducted on March 21, 2023. Additional information may be found on the Library's website. In a report, the Library Director Catherine Dileo indicated that patrons have stated parking in the lot has become more difficult. This may be perhaps due to the change of one-sided parking on Godwin Avenue, teachers from Highland School using the lot, and employees from surrounding businesses park at the Library was well. The popularity of the programs has increased, and parking has become a premium.

Councilman Braunius

Office of Emergency Management/ Recreation/Chambers of Commerce

Councilman Braunius reported there is progress for the **Office of Emergency Management**. The Veterans Banners offered through the Recreation Department are being offered until May 8, 2023 in the amount of \$150.00 which is a comparable price to surrounding municipalities. The **Councilman** met with Chief of Police Michael Powderley and Information Technology Philip Scaglione to survey the **Recreation Department's** fields and buildings for placement of security cameras. It was discussed that the project would cost from \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00. The **Councilman** stated that Open Space money can be used for these purchases. Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin did state that the current Open Space funds have been earmarked for already approved or anticipated projects.

Councilman DeBlasio

Information Technology/Building Department/Municipal Alliance

Councilman DeBlasio discussed with **Information Technology** Philip Scaglione, the migration of technology to the Habben Building. The software conversion at the **Recreation Barn** is underway. The Police Department's body camera problems have been detected and Mr. Scaglione is trying to resolve the issues with the vendor. The **Councilman** met with **Building** Official Mark Berninger. Technical Assistant Amy Davidson and Mr. Berninger have completed their signage inspection and have suggested some amendments to existing Ordinances. The **Municipal Alliance** has reported there is progress.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin reminded the Governing Body of the beginning of Ramadan on March 22, 2023. The Mosque and the Police Department have prepared for the traffic that will be present during the celebration. Ms. Martin and **Ridgewood Water** are considering a virtual town hall meeting where residents can send in their questions to the Clerk, prior to the meeting. This is so the questions can be answered during the meeting. Ridgewood Water will also be introducing their annual budget on March 30, 2023 and final on April 27, 2023. Ms. Martin briefly read a letter she received about Dunkin Donuts.

ORDINANCES ON FINAL:

1. ORDINANCE #09-2023

"AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$168,997.21: \$157,970.00 FROM THE 2023 NJ DOT MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM GRANT, FOR ROADWAY RESURFACING OF FRANKLIN AVENUE SECTION II, AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$11,027.21 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND"

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Midland Park, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1.

The Borough of Midland Park has received 2023 NJ DOT Municipal Aid Program Grants for Road Resurfacing of Franklin Avenue Section 2.

Section 2.

The sum of \$157,970.00 is appropriated to the payment of the cost of such improvements authorized

and described in Section 1 hereof. Said sum so appropriated shall be met from the Capital Improvement fund in the amount of \$11,027.21.

Section 3.

Said improvements are lawful capital improvements of the Borough having a period of usefulness of at least five (5) years. Said improvements shall be made as a general improvement, and no part of the cost has been nor shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 4.

The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this capital ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

Section 5.

This ordinance hereby incorporates the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20.

Section 6.

This ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner provided by law.

At this time **Mayor Shortway** opened the meeting to the public for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Ordinance #09-2023.

There being no response, the **Mayor** closed the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance #09-2023.

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet

Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Roll Call:

Councilman Braunius

Aye

Councilman DeBlasio

Aye

Councilman Damiano

Aye

Councilman Kruis

Aye

Councilwoman Peet

Aye

Council President DeLuca

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 #062-2023 Bergen County Open Space Agreement for Dairy Street Recreation Complex

WHEREAS, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park wish to enter into a Bergen County Trust Fund Project Contract ("Contract") with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using a \$78,612.00 matching grant award from the 2022 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") for the construction of dugout sunshades, concrete pads, and irrigation located at the Dairy Street Recreation Area, 50 Dairy Street in Block 10.3.01, Lot 27 and Block 10.02, Lot 27 on the tax maps of the Borough of Midland Park; and

WHEREAS, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize Mayor Harry Shortway Jr. to be a signatory to the aforesaid grant agreement contract; and

WHEREAS, that the Mayor and Council hereby acknowledge that, in general, the use of this Trust Fund grant towards this approved recreation area project must be completed by or about December 14, 2024; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant will be disbursed to the municipality as a reimbursement upon submittal of certified Trust Fund payment and project completion documents and municipal vouchers, invoices, proofs of payment, and other such documents as may be required by the County in accordance with the Trust Fund's requirements; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant disbursement to the municipality will be equivalent to fifty (50) percent of the eligible costs incurred (not

to exceed total grant award) applied towards only the approved park improvements identified in the aforesaid Contract in accordance with the Trust Fund's requirements. Professional Services Costs may be reimbursed from grant award's unexpended balance, should there be a balance.

This resolution was adopted by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park at a meeting held on March 9, 2023.

Introduced by: Councilman DeBlasio

Seconded by: Council President DeLuca

Roll Call:	Councilman Braunius	Aye
	Councilman DeBlasio	Aye
	Councilman Damiano	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President DeLuca	Aye

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #061-2023 Bills List

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

Current Fund ('22)	\$ 3,803.34
Current Fund	\$ 108,541.87
Capital Fund	\$ 43,663.81
Trust Fund	\$ 4,074.75
TOTAL:	\$ 160,083.77

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 February 28 th Payroll	\$ 206,006.83
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council President and Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the claims totaling \$366,090.60 approved and ratified respectively.

Introduced by: Councilman Damiano

Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Roll Call:	Councilman Braunius	Aye
	Councilman DeBlasio	Aye
	Councilman Damiano	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President DeLuca	Aye

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman DeBlasio wanted to express his thoughts on the property at 222 Franklin Avenue. The **Councilman** was not present at the prior **Mayor and Council** meeting when the property was discussed and wanted to state in public that if there is property that is adjacent to the Municipal property, he is in favor of and thinks it is a good idea to purchase the property. The subject matter of limiting school parking in the Municipal Lot was debated.

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business for discussion at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

James Capalbo wanted to thank the **Mayor** for his appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Mr. Capalbo asked questions on the dates and availability of the Budget to the public.

There being no one else from the Public present, the Public Session was closed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, on a Motion by **Councilman Braunius**, Seconded by **Councilman Kruis** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the Open Public meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Martin, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk