

8:00 P.M. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Shortway called the meeting to order, noting the date as September 28, 2023, and that there will be a 3-minute limit to each individual addressing the Governing Body during the Open Public portions of the meeting.

Roll Call:	Mayor Shortway	Present
	Councilman Sansone	Present (via FaceTime)
	Councilman Braunius	Present
	Councilman DeBlasio	Present
	Councilman Kruis	Present
	Councilwoman Peet	Present
	Council President DeLuca	Present

ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Peet read the Proclamation supporting Breast Cancer Awareness for the month of October 2023.

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the Work Session, Open Public Meeting, and After Closed Session from the date of August 10, 2023 as all Governing Body members have previously received copies of the Minutes and copies are available to the Public at the Borough Clerk's Office.

Roll Call:	Councilman Sansone	Aye (via FaceTime)
	Councilman Braunius	Aye
	Councilman DeBlasio	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President DeLuca	Aye

Due to the adoption of Daniel's Law, P.L.2021, c.371 the Borough only requires the Public to state their name and if they reside in the Borough of Midland Park for the Record.

Benjamin Ruffin, Midland Park resident and Eagle Scout, presented his chosen project, the upgrade to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which is located behind the high school. Mr. Ruffin stated he would like to install 160 square feet of pavers, (2) two new benches, 10' wall retainer that will display (8) eight plaques honoring the veterans from Midland Park, install a new sign, and repainting the flagpole. **Council President DeLuca** and **Councilwoman Peet** asked for a diagram of the project. Mr. Ruffin will provide the diagram to the Mayor and Council at the next meeting.

Robert Mulder, Midland Park resident, expressed his interest in the Historic Site Committee. Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin will email Mr. Mulder with any updates. The Mayor and Council thanked him for volunteering.

There being no one else wishing to speak from the Public, the Public Portion was closed.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Shortway

Mayor Shortway stated on September 21, 2023, he attended the Bergen County Mayors' dinner at the RiverVale County Club along with the Borough Administrator Clerk Wendy Martin and Deputy Clerk Mari J. Margiotta. The Mayor attended the ribbon cutting for the new computer company opened in the Shopping Center on September 23, 2023.

Councilman DeBlasio

Information Technology/Building Department/Municipal Alliance

Councilman DeBlasio reported the **Building Department** has received telephone calls regarding the Lake Street property. The Borough has stated there is no municipal control as to what property owners can do with historical homes. The builder is the same as the home on Park Avenue that experienced a fire. Permits have been issued for 714 Godwin Avenue and construction will begin shortly. The owner of 80 Godwin Avenue hired a new construction company. They will apply for all new permits and hopefully have construction started in the near future. Zoning Official Mark Berninger continues to monitor homes with illegal two-family houses and building projects without permits. Mr. Berninger received a letter from the Mini Mart and there is progress with the ongoing issues. Phillip Scaglione of **Information Technology** is waiting for the date approval from Ridgewood Water pumpstation so that the installation of the signal may be completed. Mr. Scaglione and Superintendent of Public Works Matthew Tauber met with electricians to finalize the installation of outlets for the server closet and the Council Chambers television. There is a Zoom meeting scheduled on October 11, 2023 for the **Municipal Alliance**.

Councilman Sansone

Finance/Public Safety – Ambulance/Fire Prevention

Councilman Sansone stated the Bills List has been processed for Borough's **Finance Department**. The **Councilman** is waiting for the new Officers listing for the **Ambulance Corps**. The details will follow. The **Fire Prevention** report states there is progress.

Councilman Kruis

Property Maintenance/ Public Works/Planning Board

Councilman Kruis requested **Property Maintenance** Official Michael Thimme's contact information. Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin will provide this information to the **Councilman**. Superintendent of the Department of **Public Works**, Matthew Tauber, report read as follows: 150 stormwater basins have been cleaned with the shared services with the Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus, asphalt repairs are being completed before the snow season, equipment for the leaf and snow period have been serviced, openings for 3 seasonal laborers have been advertised, several trees and stumps have been removed, (3) three of them were diseased ash trees that had diseases in Wortendyke Park, and the staff has been working with the Recreation Department for the upcoming Community Day. The **Planning Board** held their meeting on September 18, 2023.

Councilwoman Peet Public Safety – Police/Board of Health/Bd of Education/Ridgewood Water
Councilwoman Peet announced **Ridgewood Water** road work is being addressed, the specialists are conducting the service line inspection and replacements, the PFAS treatment facilities are underway, and there is a meeting with the four municipalities with Ridgewood Water to discuss the improvements and status of the project. The **Board of Education** held a meeting on September 19, 2023 where Dr. Marie Cirasella's retirement was announced, she will retire as of June 30, 2024. The **Councilwoman** thanked Dr. Cirasella for her 13 years of service to the school system. On September 21, 2023, the Bergen Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) discussed the various components of workers compensation, claims, and the budget. The monthly **Police Department** report showed 102 public service details including: welfare checks, traffic details, disorderly persons, criminal investigations, 55 traffic enforcements, traffic hazard investigation, 11 suspicious persons, 53 property checks, other municipal assists, missing persons investigation and burglary inquiries. The **Board of Health** meeting consisted of: commentative diseases, participation on Community Day, and how to educate the public. On September 27, 2023, the **Councilwoman** attended the NorthWest Bergen Health Commission meeting. The discussion topics were of: revenue of \$11,223.00 consisting of marriage licenses, inspections, and as well as other forms of revenue, and the end of year audit reported no deficiencies. The Commission has been in existence since 1957 and is still growing with Mahwah and Montvale joining.

Council President DeLuca Public Safety – Fire/Personnel/Library
Council President DeLuca announced the **Personnel Department** reported progress. On Community Day, the **Fire Department** will be serving free hotdogs. On October 6, 2023 at 6:30 P.M., the Fire Department will hold their annual beefsteak fundraiser and their Open House will be held at the Social Hall on October 11, 2023 starting at 7:00 P.M. Their next meeting will take place on October 18, 2023. **Library** Director Catherine Dileo's report stated that for the month of August 2023 statistics show a 4% increase in circulation and foot traffic in the building has increased 41% from the previous year. On Community Day, the Library will have a craft table for children and people may sign up for their library card. There is still time to purchase discounted beer garden wristbands at the Library. The private study room has increased in popularity as it is scheduled for every evening in October. Bill Ervolino will attend the Library on October 16, 2023 at no cost to patrons, since the event was a donation from the Friends of the Library. The staff have a new book scanner that they are excited to learn. The summer reading program was a huge success with many children participating and numerous prizes were handed out. All the usual story times, clubs, and classes will continue for the remainder of the year. Please visit their website for more information.

Councilman Braunius Office of Emergency Management/ Recreation/Chambers of Commerce
Councilman Braunius stated Community Day preparations are under way. In attendance, there will be 53 tables of different vendors and businesses. The children will have many events to participate in such as a petting zoo and inflatables. A costume swap is open until October 20, 2023 at the **Recreation Barn**. The **Councilman** would like to have cotton candy and popcorn at the Tree Lighting Ceremony and also have the **Mayor** and **Council** offer free hotdogs to the attendees. The **Governing Body** agreed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin reported the Mayor and Council received a thank you letter from Ann and Brandon O'Malley for supporting Pediatric Cancer Awareness on Midland Park's website. The 2023 Open Space has been approved for \$89,780.00 and will be used for the Woodside Avenue parking lot for two handicap and twenty-eight regular spots. An enormous thank you to Richard Formicola and Francis O'Shea for the renovation, new equipment and hard work at the Vet's Field Snack Bar. Highland School's "Back to School Night" was scheduled for tonight but they changed the event so that they may accommodate the Borough's Mayor and Council Meeting. Congressman Gottheimer's office will have

mobile office hours if anyone from the public needs any assistance, at Borough Hall on October 26, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. The Upper and Lower Sunset Fields Shared Service Agreement is back at the Board of Education's attorneys for a few minor changes. **Council President DeLuca, Councilwoman Peet** and Ms. Martin attended the Age Friendly seminar that gave many ideas for future projects that Midland Park can aspire to; however, budget constraints are always an issue.

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 #167-2023 Return of Soil Movement Escrows

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the CFO to return the balance on unused escrows received from the building department;

WHEREAS, these escrows were to offset the borough's attorney fees for inspections done on properties for soil movement compliances;

WHEREAS, all projects have been completed and permits closed out on the following:

Applicant	Address	Block	Lot	Account	Amount
Solka, Kristina	61 Fifth Street	62	3	T-300-511	\$225.00
Cieri, Anthony	3 Hillside Avenue	28	3.01	T-300-330	\$432.00
Vierheilg, Jacqueline	57 Vreeland Avenue	17	36	T-300-313	\$150.00
Vierheilg, Jacqueline	57 Vreeland Avenue	17	36	T-300-314	\$652.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park, that the Chief Financial Officer issue checks for the refund in the above stated amounts.

Resolution #168-2023 Cancel Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Project – Dairy Street Recreation Complex

WHEREAS, an application with the Bergen County Open Space Trust fund was approved and granted for the total cost of the Dairy Street Recreation Complex in the amount of \$78,612; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance #10-2023 authorizing the expenditure of the Bergen County Open Space Trust funds, along with the Municipal Open Space matching funds for a total project cost of \$157,224.00.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel the unused balance in the amount of \$83,537.00 (funded), so that the unexpended balances may be returned to respective funding sources: Municipal and Bergen County Open Space funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park, that the following unexpended and dedicated balances of General Capital Appropriations/Projects be canceled:

GENERAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS:

ORD. #	DATE	PROJECT	AMOUNT	SOURCE
10-2023	4/13/23	Dairy St Rec Complex	\$ 41,768.50	M.O.S.
			\$ 41,768.50	B.C.O.S.

Resolution #169-2023 Appoint Crossing Guards

WHEREAS, the need for School Crossing Guards exists in the Borough of Midland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police feels these candidates are suitable to the duties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the following appointments be made as Crossing Guards in the Borough of Midland Park, for the school calendar year of 2023 - 2024 in compliance with Ordinance #04-21:

Regular Guards	Substitute Guards
Peter Banach	Cheryl Biswurm
Donald Hachey	Glen Biswurm
Dominic Iorio	Kevin Biswurm
Paul Mensing	John Torry
Sharon Moran	Butch Weathers
Ron Santaniello	Jane Phillips
Martha Schimpff	
Joseph Vigilante	

Introduced by: Councilman DeBlasio

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

Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Aye (via FaceTime)
Aye
Aye
Aye
Aye
Aye

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #166–2023 Bills List

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

Current Fund ('22)	\$ 262.50
Unemployment Fund ('22)	\$ 443.07
Current Fund	\$ 46,551.42
Dog Fund	\$ 40.20
Capital Fund	\$ 21,004.09
Trust Fund	\$ 3,059.00
TOTAL:	\$ 71,360.28

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	September 15 th Payroll	\$ 225,685.94
Current	NW Bergen Health – mnl ck	\$ 5,115.25
Current	Konica Minolta – mnl ck	\$ 995.74
Current	P-Card payment	\$ 30.00
Trust	P-Card payment	\$ 14.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council President and Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the claims totaling **\$303,201.21** approved and ratified respectively.

Introduced by: Councilman Sansone

Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Roll Call:	Councilman Sansone	Aye (via FaceTime)
	Councilman Braunius	Aye
	Councilman DeBlasio	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President DeLuca	Aye

OLD BUSINESS:

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin updated the Governing Body on the topic of 60 Lake Street and on the unseated Historic Sites Committee. As soon as the Borough has enough members on the committee, they can move forward with assisting with historic issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin received a request from Tara Kuipers to host the 3rd Annual Color Run in Midland Park on May 19, 2024.

Motioned by **Councilman Braunius** and seconded by **Council President DeLuca**.

Roll Call:	Councilman Sansone	Aye (via FaceTime)
	Councilman Braunius	Aye
	Councilman DeBlasio	Aye
	Councilman Kruis	Aye
	Councilwoman Peet	Aye
	Council President DeLuca	Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Due to the adoption of Daniel's Law, P.L.2021, c.371, the Borough only requires the Public to state their name and if they reside in the Borough of Midland Park for the Record.

There being no one from the Public wishing to speak, the Public Session was closed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, on a Motion by **Councilman Braunius**, Seconded by **Council President DeLuca** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the Open Public meeting at 8:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Martin, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk