BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK 280 GODWIN AVENUE MIDLAND PARK NJ 07432 OCTOBER 12, 2023

8:00 P.M. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

On October 12, 2023 at 8:00 P.M., the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park conducted a meeting at Borough Hall in the Council Chambers located at 280 Godwin Avenue as previously advertised. Agenda items for the meeting were also listed on the Borough website.

Mayor Shortway called the meeting to order, noting the date as October 12, 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.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT: This meeting was 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 Snortway	Present
Councilman Sansone	Present
Councilman Braunius	Present
Councilman DeBlasio	Present
Councilman Kruis	Absent
Councilwoman Peet	Present
Council President DeLuca	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Robert Regan, Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin (via GoTo Meeting), and Deputy Clerk Mari J. Margiotta

ABSENT: Councilman Kruis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the Work Session, Open Public Meeting, and After Closed Session from the date of September 14, 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.

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Roll Call:

Councilman Sansone Aye
Councilman Braunius Aye
Councilman DeBlasio Aye
Councilman Kruis Absent
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. 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.

Paul Felice, Midland Park resident, addressed the Governing Body two matters that are of concern. A stream of water runs through Ridgewood Water and his property, and it seems to be getting worse and worse. The pipeline system he put in works beautifully. Ridgewood Water needs to mitigate some of this

Borough of Midland Park Open Public Meeting Minutes

water as it is taxing on my system. **Councilwoman Peet** recommended Mr. Felice to contact Richard Calbi, the Director of Ridgewood Water. A second concern was a town employee was looking around for dead trees and there is one on the Ridgewood Water property. Property Maintenance Official Michael Thimme was recently inspecting the tree and will send the property owner, Ridgewood Water, a notice asking for removal.

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

LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Shortway

Mayor Shortway thanked all staff and volunteers for a successful Community Day that occurred on October 1, 2023. At a recent Mayors' meeting in Hackensack, a discussion ensued regarding the flooding and backing up of drainage due to the levels in nearby brooks and waterways.

Councilman Sansone Finance/Public Safety – Ambulance/Fire Prevention Councilman Sansone stated there has been progress for Borough's Finance Department. The Councilman is waiting for the new Officers listing for the Ambulance Corps. In the Fire Prevention report from Michael Rau, there are 579 inspections to date this year.

Councilman Kruis Property Maintenance/ Public Works/Planning Board Councilman Kruis was absent. No report was given.

Councilwoman Peet Public Safety – Police/Board of Health/Bd of Education/Ridgewood Water Councilwoman Peet announced in the monthly Police Department report showed 125 public service details including: welfare checks, traffic details, disorderly persons, criminal investigations, 51 traffic enforcements, traffic hazard investigation, suspicious persons, 56 property checks, other municipal assists, missing persons investigation, an arrest for assault, and burglary inquiries. On October 3, 2023, the Councilwoman attended the Board of Education's work session. The subjects included: a presentation of back-to-school updates, reappointing Nick Capuano as the safety person, the improvements completed at the schools, and a total of 170 special needs children in the Borough's schools. A survey was sent out to parents for replacing the fields with turf. This subject will not be voted on as a referendum but rather the District has budgeted for the improvement. Ridgewood Water reported on the lead line removal project and the levels of substances in the public's drinking water. Litigations continue for the PFAS contaminations case. The Councilwoman stated the Board of Health anticipates the transfer of the Borough's vehicle for their usage.

Council President DeLuca

Public Safety - Fire/Personnel/Library

Council President DeLuca announced the Personnel Department reported progress. The Fire Department reported for the month of September 2023, 19 calls within the Borough and includes one mutual aid to Wyckoff. On October 11, 2023, at the Fire House, a well-attended Open House for Fire Prevention was held. During the month of October, the Fire Department visited Midland Park's schools to educate the students on fire safety. The Fire Department's next scheduled meeting will be October 18, 2023. The Library Board's meeting is planned for October 20, 2023 where their budget will be presented. Library Director Catherine Dileo wanted to share that their popular event with Bill Ervolino is completely filled and has a waiting list. The Council President and Councilwoman Peet attended the ribbon cutting of the new Century 21 location in Midland Park.

Councilman Braunius Office of Emergency Management/Recreation/Chamber of Commerce Councilman Braunius stated Office of Emergency Management Official Michael Rau received

\$38,000.00 from FEMA for Hurricane Ida. The **Recreation** meeting did not have enough members attend to have a quorum hence the meeting was cancelled. The **Councilman** wanted to thank the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works, Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin and Recreation Director Kathy LaMonte for their effort and hard work to making Community Day a success. There was no report from the **Chamber of Commerce**.

Councilman DeBlasio Information Technology/Building Department/Municipal Alliance Councilman DeBlasio reported the Building Department has completed 146 inspections and 53 permits have been issued. The total amount of fees collected was \$10,492.00. The Mini Mart's Certificate of Occupancy has been reissued and will be reopening. Since then, the owners have dropped their tort claim against the Borough. Councilman Braunius updated the Governing Body on the denial of Taco Bell. Phillip Scaglione of Information Technology is continuing to work on defending the Borough against Malware. The Councilman and Mr. Scaglione are planning to attend several classes at the New Jersey League of Municipalities next month. The Municipal Alliance had to cancel their monthly meeting. They are planning November's Drug Awareness education for the students and schools.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin reported the Borough received an additional \$40,576.00 for the Bank Street Road Improvement Project from the Bergen County Community Development. A 'Save the Date' invitation has been sent out for this year's Employee Volunteers Dinner that will be held on December 8, 2023 at the Social Hall. The third quarter JIF Safety Meeting was completed along with a cyber security session led by Information Technology Director Philip Scaglione informing staff of new risks and viruses.

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 #172-2023 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Dates and Times

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the schedule of meetings for 2024 shall be as follows:

7:00 P.M. Sine Die Meeting at Social Hall, 45 Witte Drive
7:30 P.M. Reorganization Meeting at Social Hall, 45 Witte Drive
6:00 P.M. Budget Meeting/Work/Closed/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
6:00 P.M. Budget Meeting/Work/Closed/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting

Borough of Midland Park Open Public Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024	Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
October 10, 2024	Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
October 24, 2024	Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
November 14, 2024	Work Session/Closed Session/Open Public Meeting
December 12, 2024	6:00 P.M. Budget Session/Work/Closed/Open Public Meeting
December 19, 2024	6:00 P.M. Budget Session/Work/Closed/Open Public Meeting

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Budget Meetings will convene either at 6:00 P.M. or 7: 00 P.M. as designated: Work Session 7:00 P. M., Closed Session 7:30 P.M. (Prevailing time) and 8:00 P.M. for the Open Public Meeting. All Open Public Meetings may be action meetings. All Open Public Meetings will be held in the Midland Park Borough Hall, Council Chambers, 280 Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, New Jersey, or the Mayor and Council of Midland Park may conduct Electronic Public Meeting in lieu of its inperson Public Meetings as necessary, unless otherwise advertised according to law.

Introduced by: Councilman DeBlasio Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Roll Call: Councilman Sansone Aye

Councilman Braunius Aye
Councilman DeBlasio Aye
Councilman Kruis Absent
Councilwoman Peet Aye
Council President DeLuca Aye

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #171-2023 Bills List

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

Current Fund	\$ 165,533.99
Dog Fund	\$ 15.00
Open Space Fund	\$ 24.20
Capital Fund	\$ 12,899.44
Trust Fund	\$ 3,410.06
TOTAL:	\$ 181,882.69

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 29 th Payroll	\$	205,974.69
Current	October Health Payments	\$	106,178.38
Current	October School Taxes	\$1	,782,403.20
Current	Pepper's Pone Express – mnl ck	\$	1,645.00
Current	Bond-principal/interest payment	\$	419,281.25

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council President and Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the claims totaling \$2,697,365.21 approved and ratified respectively.

Introduced by: Councilman Sansone Seconded by: Council President DeLuca

Roll Call: Councilman Sansone Aye

Councilman Braunius Aye
Councilman DeBlasio Aye
Councilman Kruis Absent
Councilwoman Peet Aye

Council President DeLuca

Aye

2. Resolution #173-2023 Joining Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund

WHEREAS, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund hereafter referred to as "FUND", as permitted by N.J.S.A. 11:15-3, 17:1-8.1, and 40A:10-36 et seq., and;

WHEREAS, the FUND was approved to become operational by the Departments of Insurance and Community Affairs and has been operational since that date, and;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a FUND;

WHEREAS, the governing body of BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK, hereinafter referred to as "LOCAL UNIT" has determined that membership in the FUND is in the best interest of the LOCAL UNIT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT hereby agrees as follows:

- 1. Become a member of the FUND for the period outlined in the LOCAL UNIT's Indemnity and Trust Agreements.
- 2. Will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s):
 - a. Health Insurance and/or Prescription Insurance and/or Dental Insurance and/or Medicare Advantage/Employer Group Waiver Program as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the FUND's Bylaws, and Plan of Risk Management.
 - Adopts and approves the FUND's Bylaws.
 - c. Execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the FUND as required by the FUND's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the FUND's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon:

- 1. Approval of the LOCAL UNIT by the FUND.
- 2. Receipt from the LOCAL UNIT of a Resolution accepting assessment.
- 3. Approval by the New Jersey Department of Insurance and Department of Community Affairs.

Introduced by: Councilman Braunius

Seconded by: Council President DeLuca

Roll Call:

Councilman Sansone Aye
Councilman Braunius Aye
Councilman DeBlasio Aye
Councilman Kruis Absent
Councilwoman Peet Aye
Council President DeLuca Aye

3. Resolution #174-2023 Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund Indemnity and Trust Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT made this 12th day of October 2023, in the County of BERGEN State of New Jersey, By and Between the **Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund** referred to as "FUND" and the governing body of the BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK a duly constituted LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT, hereinafter referred to as "LOCAL UNIT".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of various local units of government, as defined in N.J.A.C. 11:15-3.2, have collectively formed a Joint Insurance Fund as such an entity is authorized and described in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et. seq. and the administrative regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; and

WHEREAS, the LOCAL UNIT has agreed to become a member of the FUND in accordance with and to the

extent provided for in the Bylaws of the FUND and in consideration of such obligations and benefits to be shared by the membership of the FUND;

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

- 1. The LOCAL UNIT accepts the FUND's Bylaws as approved and adopted and agrees to be bound by and to comply with each and every provision of said Bylaws and the pertinent statutes and administrative regulations pertaining to same.
- 2. The LOCAL UNIT agrees to participate in the FUND with respect to health insurance, as defined in N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, and as authorized in the LOCAL UNIT's resolution to join.
- 3. The LOCAL UNIT agrees to become a member of the FUND and to participate in the health insurance coverages offered for an initial period, (subject to early release or termination pursuant to the Bylaws), such membership to commence on **January 1, 2024** and ending on **December 31, 2026** at 12:01 AM provided, however, that the LOCAL UNIT may withdraw at any time upon 90 day written notice to the FUND.
- 4. The LOCAL UNIT certifies that it has never defaulted on payment of any claims if self-insured and has not been cancelled for non-payment of insurance premiums for a period of at least two (2) years prior to the date of this Agreement.
- 5. In consideration of membership in the FUND, the LOCAL UNIT agrees that it shall jointly and severally assume and discharge the liability of each and every member of the FUND, for the periods during which the member is receiving coverage, all of whom as a condition of membership in the FUND shall execute an Indemnity and Trust Agreement similar to this Agreement and by execution hereto, the full faith and credit of the LOCAL UNIT is pledged to the punctual payments of any sums which shall become due to the FUND in accordance with the Bylaws thereof, this Agreement or any applicable Statute. However, nothing herein shall be construed as an obligation of the LOCAL UNIT for claims and expenses that are not covered by the FUND, or for that portion of any claim or liability within the LOCAL UNIT retained limit or in an amount which exceeds the FUND's limit of coverage.
- 6. If the FUND in the enforcement of any part of this Agreement shall incur necessary expenses or become obligated to pay attorney's fees and/or court costs, the LOCAL UNIT agrees to reimburse the FUND for all such reasonable expenses, fees, and costs on demand.
- 7. The LOCAL UNIT and the FUND agree that the FUND shall hold all moneys in excess of the LOCAL UNIT's retained loss fund paid by the LOCAL UNIT to the FUND as fiduciaries for the benefit of FUND claimants all in accordance with N.J.A.C. 11:15-3 et. seq.
- 8. The FUND shall establish and maintain Claims Trust Accounts for the payment of health insurance claims in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et. seq., N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1 and such other statutes and regulations as may be applicable. More specifically, the aforementioned Trust Accounts shall be utilized solely for the payment of claims, allocated claim expense and stop loss insurance or reinsurance premiums for each risk or liability as follows:
 - a. Employer contributions to group health insurance
 - b. Employee contributions to contributory group health insurance
 - c. Employer contributions to contingency account
 - d. Employee contributions to contingency account
 - e. Other trust accounts as required by the Commissioner of Insurance
- 9. Notwithstanding 8 above, to the contrary, the FUND shall not be required to establish separate trust accounts for employee contributions provided the FUND provides a plan in its Bylaws for the recording and accounting of employee contributions of each member.
- 10. Each LOCAL UNIT of government who shall become a member of the FUND shall be obligated to execute an Indemnity and Trust Agreement similar to this Agreement.

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet

Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Roll Call: Councilman Sansone Aye

Councilman Braunius Aye
Councilman DeBlasio Aye
Councilman Kruis Absent
Councilwoman Peet Aye
Council President DeLuca Aye

ORDINANCES ON INTRODUCTION:

1. ORDINANCE #22-2023

AN ORDINANCE CLARIFYING RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES HIRED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ELIMINATING RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS AND MEDICARE PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES HIRED FROM AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of MIDLAND PARK has heretofore had a practice of providing retiree health benefits and Medicare premium reimbursement to employees who retire from employment with the Borough with 25 or more years of service, or who have met the terms of a Collective Bargaining Agreement or personal services contract; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of MIDLAND PARK has determined that due to the significant cost of providing retiree health benefits and Medicare premium reimbursement to retired employees, there exists a need to clarify and specify this practice as to current employees by adoption of a written statement with respect to the same, and to eliminate this practice as to employees hired from and after January 1, 2024, so that both the Borough and its employees know precisely who is eligible for such benefit and what standards and procedures are applicable to the same; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is intended to provide such clarification and specification.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of MIDLAND PARK that the following terms be used as the guide for the purpose of clarifying and specifying the standards and procedures applicable to health care benefits and Medicare premium reimbursement for those Borough employees who retire from the Borough.

Section I Eligibility

To receive retiree health benefits and Medicare premium reimbursement paid for by the Borough, an employee must meet the following criteria (unless otherwise provided by a Collective Bargaining Agreements, personal service contracts, or by law):

- 1. The employee commenced his or her employment prior to January 1, 2024. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2024 shall not be entitled to retiree health benefits or Medicare premium reimbursement paid for by the Borough.
- 2. The employee worked on a full-time basis (35 hour minimum) for the Borough of MIDLAND PARK in a position that qualified such employee for the Borough's health insurance program.
- 3. The employee worked for the Borough in a position or positions that met the above criteria for a period of at least 25 years.
- 4. The employee retired from a full-time employment position with the Borough of MIDLAND PARK on the terms recited herein or through a Disability Retirement, as defined by the Public Employee's Retirement System ("PERS") or under the terms of any Collective Bargaining Agreement or personal services agreement.
- 5. The employee shall make such contribution toward payment of his/her health benefit premiums as required under Chapter 78 of the laws of the State of New Jersey, or any successor legislation.

Section II Health Plan Provided

- 1. The Retired Employee will be enrolled in the same plan with the appropriate status (employee only, employee and spouse, employee and family, etc.) as the plan in which he/she was enrolled during the one-year period immediately preceding the date of retirement, unless a change is agreed to by the Borough.
- 2. The Borough shall have the right, in the future, to change health insurance plans as it deems necessary. If this occurs, the Retired employee receiving such retiree benefits shall be covered by the health insurance plan selected by the Borough and a retired employee will be enrolled in that program of the new health insurance plan most similar to the program (in the health insurance plan in effect prior to the change) in which said retired employee was enrolled.

Section III Medicare Enrollment

- 1. If an eligible employee is eligible for enrollment in Medicare, he/she must enroll in and purchase Medicare Part B. The employee shall submit the bill for reimbursement by the Borough. By law, upon retirement, Medicare is the primary carrier and the Borough's health insurance carrier is secondary.
- 2. If an employee who is eligible to purchase Medicare Part B coverage fails to do so, the Borough's insurance carrier shall be released from paying any and all medical bills incurred while Part B was not in effect.

Section IV Conflicts

To the extent the terms and provisions of this ordinance differ or conflict with any practice or custom of the Borough of MIDLAND PARK with respect to retiree health benefits for employees hired prior to January 1, 2024, the terms and provisions of this ordinance shall supplant and supercede any such practice or custom.

Introduced by: Council President DeLuca Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Roll Call:

Councilman Sansone Aye
Councilman Braunius Aye
Councilman DeBlasio Aye
Councilman Kruis Absent
Councilwoman Peet Aye
Council President DeLuca Aye

Final Adoption and Open Public Hearing on Ordinance #22-2023 will be held on October 26, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council President DeLuca received a letter from a leader of the Cub Scouts requesting and informal session with less than three (3) Councilmembers at 6:30 P.M. before the next scheduled meeting and then to attend a Mayor and Council Meeting in order to obtain an award badge.

Councilman Braunius spoke of the Zoning Board meeting and the Taco Bell application. The Board Members that voted against the application stated their reasons were to stay in compliance with the Ordinance that was passed by the Mayor and Council, not too long ago to not approve any more drivethrus in Midland Park. The Council, Ms. Martin and Borough Attorney Robert Regan discussed the matter in more detail.

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.

Borough of Midland Park Open Public Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023 Page 9 of 9

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin, RMC

Borough Administrator/Clerk