

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK
280 GODWIN AVENUE
MIDLAND PARK, NJ 07432
OCTOBER 26, 2023**

7:00 P.M. WORK SESSION MINUTES

On October 26, 2023 at 7:00 P.M., the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park conducted a meeting at Borough Hall located at 280 Godwin Avenue as previously advertised. Agenda items for the meeting were listed on the Borough website.

Mayor Shortway called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Shortway read the Sunshine Law Statement: The meeting was held in accordance with the Sunshine Law, notice has 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 Sansone	Present (via GoTo Meeting)
	Councilman Braunius	Present
	Councilman DeBlasio	Present
	Councilman Kruis	Present
	Councilwoman Peet	Present
	Council President DeLuca	Present

Also Present: Borough Attorney Robert Regan, Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin, and Deputy Clerk Mari J. Margiotta

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin took a roll call of the Public.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Congressman Gottheimer's Hometown Heros Nominees

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin stated **Council President DeLuca** has nominated David Lancaster. The Council members must nominate their choices on the Congressman's website for consideration.

2. Holiday Displays

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin discussed a previous topic of the Borough displaying a menorah during the celebration of Channukah. **Council President DeLuca** was approached by a resident who would like to have a nativity display as well and would be willing to purchase it. Ms. Martin was in contact with the resident and informed her of the prices of the displays, which were quite expensive. **Councilman Kruis** questioned why the Borough was involved with the holiday displays? **Councilman DeBlasio** reminded the Governing Body the Mosque purchased, displayed, and stores their crescent moon and star for the celebration of Ramadan. The **Councilman** stated if the congregations from a temple, church, mosque, etc., would like to purchase and maintain their decorations and/or artifacts, the Borough would display during appropriate times.

3. Personnel Manual

Councilman Braunius stated the meal reimbursement for attending a conference is \$50.00 per day. This has been in effect since 1997. The **Councilman** is requesting the amount to be raised to \$100.00 per day. The Governing Body agreed. Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin will update the Personnel Manual to reflect this agreed upon amount.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Members of the Public were asked to speak individually.

Due to the adoption of Daniel's Law, P.L.2021, c371, the Borough only requires the Public to state their name and if they reside in Midland Park for the Record.

Since no one from the Public wished to speak, the Public Portion was closed.

ATTORNEY REGAN READ THE RESOLUTION

Resolution #175-2023 Closed Session 10-26-2023

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Midland Park has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Governing Body will reconvene;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of Midland Park will go into closed session for the following reason (s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon):

_____ Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

_____ Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

☒ **X** Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body (Specify contract): Police Department.

_____ Any matter involving the purpose, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

_____ Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

_____ Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

☒ **X** Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer (If pending or anticipated litigation, the matter is Water Utility contract negotiations and litigations the nature of the contract and interested party is Flexible Spending Account (FSA), School Resource Officer, Years of Service, Health Benefits & Medicare Reimbursement Ordinance, and Ridgewood Water in circumstances, if public disclosure of the matter would have a potentially negative impact on the Borough's position in the litigation or negotiation, this information may be withheld until such time that the matter is concluded, or the circumstances no longer present a potential impact);

☒ **X** Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting (Subject to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under South Jersey Publishing, 124 N. J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of discussion is Personnel and Mayor & Council By Laws .

_____ Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party

bears responsibility;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Council hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Borough Attorney advises the Borough Council that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Borough, or any other entity, with respect to said discussion. That time is currently estimated as the time of said matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Council, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place, and hereby directs the Borough Clerk to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

Introduced by: Council President DeLuca

Seconded by: Councilman Braunius

Roll Call:

Councilman Sansone

Aye (via GoTo Meeting)

Councilman Braunius

Aye

Councilman DeBlasio

Aye

Councilman Kruis

Aye

Councilwoman Peet

Aye

Council President DeLuca

Aye

At this time, the public was notified that the Mayor and Council will be going into Closed Session. They were invited to attend the 8:00 P.M. Open Public Meeting in person.

There being no further business to discuss on a Motion made by **Council President DeLuca**, Seconded by **Councilman Braunius**, and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the Work Session meeting and Council convened into the Closed Session at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Martin, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk