BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK 280 GODWIN AVENUE MIDLAND PARK, NJ 07432 APRIL 23, 2020

8:00 PM Open Public Meeting Minutes

On April 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m., the Mayor and Council of Midland Park conducted an Electronic Public Meeting in lieu of its in-person regular Public Meeting previously advertised. Members of the public accessed the meeting by dialing this Toll Free Dial in number (United States): $\underline{1}$ 866 899 4679

Access Code: 260-059-613

Questions, Comments or Concerns were emailed in advance to the Borough Clerk at wmartin@midlandparknj.org no later than April 23, 2020 4:00 pm.

Agenda items for the meeting were listed on the Borough website. The foregoing Electronic Public Meeting was recommended due to the current situation involving the COVID-19 Virus and directives of State and County governments.

The **Mayor** called upon **Council President 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 April 23, 2020, and that there will be a 3-minute limit to each individual addressing the Governing Body during the Open Public portions of the meeting.

<u>SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT</u>: 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 Kamp Present
Councilman Iannone Present
Councilman Kruis Present
Councilman Sansone Present
Councilwoman Peet Present
Council President DeLuca Present

<u>ALSO PRESENT</u>: Borough Attorney Regan, Borough Administrator Seemon and Borough Clerk Martin

Administrator Seemon took a roll call of the public:

Nick Papapietro – 152 Payne Avenue Rich Formicola – 200 Kew Court Anthony Sikora – 41 Chestnut Street

Caller 4

Kathleen and Eric Boehm – 257 Vreeland Avenue Heather Henderson – 155 Irving Street

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No minutes available at this time.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Administrator Seemon asked individual members of the Public if they would like to speak at this time.

Rich Formicola – 200 Kew Court - thanked everyone for the good job they are doing amidst the pandemic and encouraged all to keep up the good work

Kathleen and Eric Boehm – 257 Vreeland Avenue – noted they are happy to be able to attend this way

Heather Henderson – 155 Irving Street - spoke about concerns she has regarding traffic and congregants gathering at the mosque during the upcoming Ramadan holiday. Administrator Seemon responded that someone from Administration would reach out to the Imam to inquire about plans for celebrating the holiday.

At this time questions, concerns or comments emailed in advance to the Borough Clerk were addressed.

Claudia Manfredi – 131 Millington Drive – asked how the Borough will be handling the rabies clinic and the licensing of pets. Borough Clerk Martin noted that topic will be discussed tonight, and the Board of Health liaison will be making her statement shortly.

2020 BUDGET PROCESS:

RESOLUTION:

Resolution #074-20 – Budget by Title on Final

WHEREAS, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-9 have been followed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a majority of the full authorized membership of Borough Council of the Borough of Midland Park, affirmatively concurs that the 2020 Municipal Budget on Final may be read by title only.

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet Seconded by: Councilman Kamp

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

PUBLIC HEARING -

The **Mayor** opened the meeting to the public for discussion on the 2020 Amended Budget.

Nick Papapietro – 152 Payne Avenue – asked for the highlights of the budget, what is the current assessment for the average house compared to last year, have any considerations been planned for residents laid off due to the crisis, have reserves for uncollected taxes been set aside, is assistance coming from the State? Administrator Seemon detailed the many items that have impacted the budget, especially the current situation with the pandemic; assistance will be given to municipalities with larger populations but because the counties will be receiving monies, the hope is that it should be distributed appropriately and he spoke of taking out a note for major infrastructure projects. Councilman Kamp responded to Mr. Papapietro noting that interest has plummeted and giving more details regarding how the budget was amended, pointing out that it is fiscally prudent to put forward the note with interest rates so low. Mr. Papapietro expressed his congratulations for a good job with the budget given this difficult time and still keeping up with the great services in town and asked how much the note is being taken for and how many years will it take to pay it off. Administrator Seemon explained it is being taken out for \$1,463,000 and that because notes work differently, mostly interest is paid at the beginning then the note is rolled into a bond to be paid off over a number of years. He clarified that notes are based on the life of the project(s) which are averaged out and the repayment is set up to that timetable. For example, some projects' life is fifteen years and others are five years with the average being ten years so at this time the plan is to spread it out over ten years.

Rich Formicola – 200 Kew Court – congratulated the Governing Body for being up on budget

There being no further questions or comments, the **Mayor** closed the meeting to the public on the 2020 Amended Budget and called for a Roll Call Vote of Council

Roll Call: Councilman Kamp Ave

Councilman Iannone Aye
Councilman Kruis Aye
Councilman Sansone Aye
Councilwoman Peet Aye
Council President DeLuca Aye

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED 2020 BUDGET:

A Motion to adopt the 2020 Amended Budget

Introduced by: Councilman Kamp Seconded by: Councilwoman Peet

Roll Call: Councilman Kamp Aye

Councilman Iannone Aye
Councilman Kruis Aye
Councilman Sansone Aye
Councilwoman Peet Aye
Council President DeLuca Aye

LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Shortway

Mayor Shortway reported on April 16th, he, Councilman Sansone and Council President DeLuca

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attended a virtual meeting with their counterparts from the Board of Education. The **Mayor** noted it went great and the main topic of discussion was the maintenance and care of the fields.

Councilman Sansone Public Works/ Board of Education/ Chamber of Commerce Councilman Sansone reported all ongoing projects by the Department of Public Works are on schedule: the Superintendent is waiting for dates for milling and paving Erie Avenue which should be sometime in May; Ridgewood Signal will be relocating and removing boxes at the intersection of Erie and Franklin Avenues which distort the line-of-sight for drivers and the Superintendent is handling the Federal Emergency Management Agency paperwork and submitting it to the Borough's Office of Emergency Management on a weekly basis.

The Councilman noted that Council President DeLuca sent the Chamber of Commerce President information on special signs thanking frontline workers for all they are doing during the crisis. Councilman Sansone was happy to report over 100 had been ordered to date.

Councilman Sansone reported the **Board of Education** Superintendent held a virtual breakfast meeting and continues to do a great job keeping everyone informed through the weekly letter.

Councilwoman Peet Finance/Board of Health

Councilwoman Peet reported progress for **Finance** and thanked everyone involved with the budget for all the hard work they put in to amend it.

The Councilwoman reported the Board of Health has been extremely busy dealing with the coronavirus: she expressed appreciation for the continued work the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator is doing in conjunction with the Board of Health; unfortunately, the annual rabies clinic has been postponed due to the crisis, in part because the CDC issued a statement tonight that animals are now contracting COVID-19 from humans in close proximity. The Councilwoman noted the Board will discuss a next possible date. Councilwoman Peet pointed out presumptive positive cases are posted daily on the Borough's website. Councilwoman Peet stated the Board of Health would like her to publicly thank all the staff and first responders for their incredible, amazing, courageous and selfless work that they are doing, we cannot thank them enough for all that they are doing.

Council President DeLuca Public Safety – Fire/Ambulance/ Personnel/Library

Council President DeLuca reported the Ambulance Corps did not meet and she will have a report for the May Council meeting.

The **Council President** reported the **Fire Department** has not been meeting nor having drills; they are still responding to calls using the current safety protocols in place.

Council President DeLuca reported the Library Director is back and conducting virtual meetings twice a week with the staff. The Director thanked the Children's Librarian for overseeing the Library in her absence; she also thanked the residents for embracing the digital collection on the library's website, noting there has been an increase in card renewals and people wanting cards. The Council President reported the virtual programs will continue and the Children's Librarian is setting up children's programs with positive responses from parents. Council President DeLuca noted the Director has started talking about the procedure to reopen with the possibility of limiting the number of patrons and rotating the staff to limit how many are in the Library at one time.

Councilman Kamp Recreation/Municipal Alliance/Ridgewood Water

Councilman Kamp reported Recreation has been challenged during the pandemic with programs being

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cancelled or postponed, including the town-wide garage sale. The Recreation Board is hoping for a semblance of a season for travel baseball and softball.

The **Councilman** reported the **Municipal Alliance** is not sure whether the prom will be taking place, it is up in the air as of this meeting, all else is quiet.

Councilman Kamp reported progress with Ridgewood Water.

Councilman Iannone Public Safety – Police/ Information Technology

Councilman Iannone reported the **Police Department** answered 516 calls in the last month with a rise in calls for domestic violence and disorderly conduct. The **Councilman** noted the department has risen to the occasion and continues to act in the professional manner expected of the department; the Chief expressed his utmost gratitude to the community and the Council for working through these tough times and the department is still ready to meet the needs of the community.

The **Councilman** reported **Information Technology** has been busy resolving technical issues for the staff that is working remotely; plans are being discussed for continued or future working remotely as the bandwidth is lacking and there are frequent remote-user connection drops; a quote has been requested from Verizon and should be coming in over the next week.

Councilman Kruis Planning Board/Building Dept/ Fire Prevention/OEM/Property Maintenance

Councilman Kruis reported the Planning Board cancelled the last meeting due to the coronavirus. The Councilman reported the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator is sending out reports daily. Councilman Kruis noted he is doing a very good job breaking down his duties and priorities: he has been involved in many meetings regarding Personal Protection Equipment for first responders; several businesses and residents in town have donated PPE's and at the request of Council President DeLuca and himself, he has stopped going on fire and ambulance calls. The Councilman reported more protection equipment is expected to come in over the next week.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Borough Administrator Seemon reported the Erie Avenue project is in the final stage of completion: the concrete work should be done in the next week; resurfacing should be completed over the next 2-3 weeks but if anything changes, he will let everyone know. The Administrator noted the administrative staff is working very hard to keep things going. He is working with IT to upgrade the internet and has gotten a quote that will effectively eliminate various vendors. The Administrator has spoken with the bond counsel to line up all the projects that are planned, noting the smaller projects can be done with money from the capital. Mr. Seemon reported the Borough's buildings will be having the air ducts cleaned as a first step in upgrading the buildings to be energy efficient.

ORDINANCE ON FINAL:

1. **ORDINANCE** #05-20

"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER II OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION" (Length of Service Award Program)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park, in the

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County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1.

Chapter II of the Code of the Borough of Midland Park, "Administration", §2-13, "Emergency Services Volunteer Length of Service Award Program" (LOSAP),

Sec.2-13c (4) repealed

Section 2. Severability.

If any section, sentence or any other part of this Ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or 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 3. Inconsistent Ordinances Repealed.

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

Section 4. Effective Date.

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

Introduced by: Councilman Sansone Seconded by: Council President DeLuca

At this time, **Mayor Shortway** opened the meeting to the public for any questions, comments or concerns regarding Ordinance #05-20.

Nick Papapietro – 152 Payne Avenue-asked for an explanation as to what is being amended. Borough Clerk Martin explained the Ordinance was updated in 2018 and something was not taken out, so this is taking out the part that is no longer applicable. Borough Attorney Regan explained it was an annual payment amount that is no longer applicable. Council President DeLuca explained the Borough has always paid the higher of the two amounts.

There being no further response, the **Mayor** closed the meeting to the public and called for a Roll Call Vote of Council.

Roll Call:	Councilman Kamp	Aye
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Councilman Iannone Aye
Councilman Kruis Aye
Councilman Sansone 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 #075-20 Employee Salary

WHEREAS, Ordinance #02-20 establishes salary ranges for employees; and

WHEREAS, said Ordinance requires that individual salaries be set by Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park that

the following salaries are hereby authorized for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

FION	2020 RATE
Mayor	\$ 4,633.96
Council Member	3,319.91
Borough Clerk	78,500.00
Administrative Assistant	41,200.00
Administrative Assistant	46,504.50
Administrative Support	35,000.00
Part-time Tech Assistant	\$16.00/hr
Borough Administrator	116,699.00
Chief Financial Officer/Library Bookkeeper	94,303.17
Tax Collector	7,500.00
Deputy Tax Collector/Tax Clerk	76,264.04
Tax Assessor	42,436.00
Information Technology	\$75.00/hr
Plumbing Inspector	14,376.19
Elevator Inspector	2,333.98
Ho-Ho-Kus: Plumbing Inspector	11,497.54
Ho-Ho-Kus: Plumbing Sub-code Officer	1,739.42
Fire Sub-code Inspector	3,332.82
Ho-Ho-Kus: Fire Sub-code Officer	2,130.82
Fire Inspector - Sub	\$21.50/hr
Electric Inspector	20,706.34
Ho-Ho-Kus: Electric Sub Code	14,389.15
Construction Code Enforcement	84,033.88
Construction Code Enforcement – Ho-Ho-Kus	34,792.78
Construction Code Control Assistant	36,156.02
Part-time UCC Assistant	\$17.00/hr
Ho-Ho-Kus: Building Inspector	15,470.37
Board of Adjustment Secretary	18,078.01
Planning Board Secretary	18,078.01
DPW Superintendent	117,031.06
DPW Foreman	90,000.00
DPW Utility Laborer	69,211.06
DPW Utility Laborer	37,210.54
DPW Utility Laborer	53,724.63
DPW Utility Laborer	26,078.80
DPW Utility Laborer	43,279.00
Recycling Coordinator	4,458.33
Recycling Center Attendant	\$16.00/hr
Custodian/Bldg Maintenance Worker	57,718.73
Building Maintenance Assistant	26,078.80
Grounds Maintenance Worker	20,045.25
Municipal Court Judge	22,360.31
Municipal Court Administrator	83,062.61

Municipal Court Cashier	\$65.00/Session
Fire Prevention Official	17,833.30
Property Maintenance Official	29,536.41
Police Chief	201,346.53
Police Secretary	49,707.80
Police Desk Clerical	\$18.00/hr to 19.05/hr
Crossing Guards	\$15.50/hr to 24.13/hr
Police Special Officers/Matrons	\$15.39/hr to 20.71/hr
Office Emergency Management	29,536.41
Recreation Coordinator	55,729.08
DePhillips Attendants	\$12.73/hr to 15.00/hr
Summer Staff Salaries 2020	
Summer Camp Coordinator	\$20.00/hr to 28.50/hr
Asst. Summer Camp Coordinator	\$13.00/hr to 22.00/hr
Counselor: Year #1	\$ 7.00/hr
Counselor: Year #2	\$ 8.00/hr
Counselor: Year #3	\$ 9.00/hr
Counselor: Year #4	\$ 10.00/hr
Counselor: Year #5	\$ 11.00/hr
Counselor: Year #6	\$ 12.00/hr
Counselor: Year #7	\$ 13.00/hr
Senior Counselor	\$ 14.50/hr

Resolution #076-20 Storm Recovery Reserves for Coronavirus Response

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:4-62.1 permits a local unit to establish by resolution a storm recovery reserve; and

WHEREAS, paragraph a(2) in said provision provides that following the declaration of an emergency by the President or Governor, local units may by resolution authorize the use of funds for reserve for any purpose necessary to protect the safety, security, health and welfare of its citizens from the damage caused by the declared emergency, with reimbursement of these expenditures being required to be deposited back into the reserve; and

WHEREAS, Local Finance Notice LFN 2020-6 permits the use of storm recovery reserves for the coronavirus response; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Local Finance Notice permits the conversion of any preexisting snow removal reserve to storm recovery, and the Governing Body is required to adopt a resolution pertaining to establishing the reserve and provide a copy thereof to the Division of Local Finance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council that it does hereby establish the storm recovery reserve account, with funds therein being utilized for the coronavirus response; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of the within resolution shall be forwarded to the Division of Local Finance.

The Consent Agenda was:

Introduced by: Councilman Iannone Seconded by: Councilwoman Peet

Roll Call: Councilman Kamp Aye

Councilman Iannone Aye

Councilman Kruis	Aye
Councilman Sansone	Aye
Councilwoman Peet	Aye
Council President DeLuca	Aye

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #073-20 – Bills List

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

TOTAL:	\$ 968,253.65
Capital Fund	\$ <u>62,972.50</u>
Trust Fund	\$ 1,689.15
Current Fund	\$ 903,592.00

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	April 15 th Payroll	\$ 189,350.96
Current	April School Taxes	\$1,779,766.67
Current	April Health Payments	\$ 83,038.39

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the claims totaling \$3,020,409.67 be approved and ratified respectively.

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet Seconded by: Councilman Kamp

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

ORDINANCES ON INTRODUCTION:

1. ORDINANCE #06-20

"AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE VARIOUS MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS, ACQUISITIONS AND PROJECTS IN THE BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$477,600 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, 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 following is to be funded from the Capital Improvement Fund and is hereby authorized for:

1. Administration

Down Payment for Note

Reserve for Boro Hall renovations

2. Department of Public Works

2020 Road Resurfacing Program Reserve for Drainage projects

3. Fire

Purchase Turnout gear Purchase Fire hoses SCBA bottle replacements

4. Police

Flashing school zone safety lights

Section 2. The sum of \$477,600 hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of such acquisitions and improvements authorized and described in Section 1 hereof. Said sum so appropriated shall be met from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Borough.

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.

Introduced by: Councilman Kruis Seconded by: Councilman Kamp

Roll Call: Councilman Kamp Aye

Councilman Iannone Aye
Councilman Kruis Aye
Councilman Sansone Aye
Councilwoman Peet Aye
Council President DeLuca Aye

2. ORDINANCE #07-20

"A CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE RESERVE FUND, FOR MUNICIPAL VEHICLES IN THE BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$15,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FUTURE PURCHASE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES"

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 acquisition of funding from the Capital Improvement Fund is hereby authorized for:

- **A.** Midland Park Department of Public Works' Reserve for a new garbage truck, in the amount of \$15,000.00
- **Section 2.** The sum of \$15,000.00 is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of such acquisition and improvement authorized and described in Section 1 hereof. Said sum so appropriated shall be met

from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Borough.

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 which 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.

Introduced by: Council President DeLuca Seconded by: Councilman Kamp

Roll Call: Councilman Kamp Aye

Councilman Iannone Aye
Councilman Kruis Aye
Councilman Sansone Aye
Councilwoman Peet Aye
Council President DeLuca Aye

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

There was no Old or New Business to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Once again, the **Mayor** opened the meeting to the public and the Council for any comments, questions, or concerns.

Rich Formicola – 200 Kew Court- asked if the Ridgewood Water case is still pending? Attorney Regan stated he believes it is still pending in the appellate division.

There being no further response and no further business to address, at 8:43 P.M., on a Motion by Councilman Kamp, Seconded by Council President DeLuca and carried, Mayor Shortway adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin, R.M.C. Borough Clerk