

BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK

45 Witte Drive

Midland Park NJ 07432

May 27, 2021

8:00 PM Open Public Meeting Minutes

On May 27, 2021 at 8:00 p.m., the Mayor and Council of Midland Park conducted an in person meeting as previously advertised, there was also an option for the public to access the meeting electronically by dialing this Toll-Free Dial in number [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679) Access Code: 766-030-917

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

The **Mayor** called upon **Councilwoman 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 May 27, 2021, 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 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 Damiano	Present
	Councilman Kruis	Present
	Councilman Sansone	Present
	Councilwoman DeLuca	Present
	Councilwoman Peet	Present
	Council President Iannone	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Regan and Acting Borough Administrator/Borough Clerk Martin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No minutes available for approval at this time.

Councilman President Iannone – read the Pride Month Proclamation

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Acting Administrator/Clerk Martin asked members of the public present and on the phone to speak at this time.

Residents in-person:

Brian Baker-126 Vreeland Avenue-spoke of his concerns regarding traffic issues on Vreeland Avenue

and at the Highland Avenue/Vreeland Avenue intersection.

Chris Salge – 410 Park Avenue – as Vice President of Midland Park soccer, AJAX Club Representative and coach of a U11 team that has advanced to the semi-finals of the League Cup Tournament (a single-elimination tournament) on May 12th, he requested a field in town. His question revolves around what happens when the Recreation Director, who usually approves field usage, is away or it is a weekend? He had to wait 8 days for approval and they are playing on the last day possible and if it rains, he loses the home field advantage. He suggested a software program that would allow the heads of the sports associations to be able to see the schedule and request fields because these things don't stop when people are gone. Acting Administrator Martin will look into one of the DPW being a back-up for field approval. Mr. Salge is researching software options. The Council is interested in his idea and encouraged him to forward any relevant software information to them for consideration.

Residents on the line:

Rich Formicola – 200 Kew Court - no comment

LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Shortway

Mayor Shortway reported he attended the Board of Education liaison meeting with **Councilwoman Peet** and Acting Administrator Martin. The main topic of discussion was regarding the turf fields: in the past, it was planned as a split project between the Board of Education and the Borough, with both putting it on a bond. It has since been decided that the project will be handled by the Board of Education so that it will be on one bond. It is expected to take almost six months and four fields will be done: Stadium Field, Highland Field, Schiffer Field and Lower Sunset Field.

Councilwoman DeLuca Public Safety – Fire/Ambulance/Library

Councilwoman DeLuca reported progress for the **Ambulance Corps** and the next meeting is scheduled for June 7th.

Councilwoman DeLuca reported the **Fire Department** held the annual Memorial service on May 26th which was attended by **Councilwoman Peet**, **Councilman Sansone** and **Councilwoman DeLuca**. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9th and there is progress.

Councilwoman DeLuca reported the **Library Board** meeting was held via Zoom on May 18th: the new trustee, Diana King, was sworn in as a member. The Board members have also been meeting in committees to review and update the Policy and Personnel manuals; the Strategic Planning committee is working on the recent survey and thanks all who participated, and the Technology committee reported Wi-Fi was installed for outdoor usage at the Library. The Library Director's report noted several items: the Bergen County Cooperative Library System is changing the service fee by charging the same amount to all libraries in the System having a significant impact on the budget; the Library is holding a "scavenger hunt", beginning July 1st, to coincide with the Summer Reading program, "Tails and Tales" and participants will be given clues to find green animal tail decals hidden in local businesses throughout the town; the Director has contacted local businesses and, to date, has secured \$800 in sponsorships and gift certificates; the Children's Department has started story time on the lawn with about 15-25 participants per session and families are very excited to have some in-person activities; an all ages Giant Connect Four Tournament on the lawn is being planned for the future.

Councilman Damiano Finance/Recreation/Information Technology

Councilman Damiano reported progress for **Finance** and **Information Technology**.

Councilman Damiano reported the Recreation Director has informed him the registrations for

Summer Camp now total 107; the Recreation Center reopened on Monday, the 24th, and it was slow but she anticipates that once the word gets out, people will be back. The **Councilman** noted Beautification Day was held on May 22nd, the Scouts were out helping, and the Recreation Director will post pictures on the website.

**Council President Iannone Public Safety – Police/ Personnel/Ridgewood Water
Council President Iannone** reported progress for **Personnel** and **Ridgewood Water**.

Council President Iannone reported the **Police Department** answered 589 calls for service; they have undergone a tremendous amount of training over the last four weeks, including Radar Instructor training, Ethics training, Resiliency Officer training, New Jersey Search and Seizure training and Drone Certification training. The **Council President** stated one of the officers has gone through extensive training and is a member of the Bergen County SWAT team.

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

Councilman Kruis reported the **Planning Board** met this past week via Zoom and things are progressing with work starting to pick up.

Councilman Kruis reported progress for the **Building Department**.

Councilman Kruis reported the Fire Prevention Official has performed 33 inspections and issued 81 violations this year to date.

Councilman Kruis reported the **Office of Emergency Management** Coordinator stated the Personal Protection Equipment is in good supply.

Councilman Kruis reported progress for **Property Maintenance**.

**Councilman Sansone Public Works/Chamber of Commerce/Economic
Development Committee**

Councilman Sansone highlighted the work the **Department of Public Works** has been doing: they spent the last few days getting Veterans' Plaza ready for the Memorial Day ceremonies; they installed the new Borough of Midland Park sign; the DPW Superintendent has completed a shared service purchase with the Ho-Ho-Kus DPW and the Ridgewood Sewer Department for a line camera to be used to investigate problems in either the sewer lines or storm water lines and it has been suggested to train one of the DPW in the use of the drone for inspecting trees for signs of decay or any other issue that could not be seen from the bucket truck.

Councilman Sansone reported the **Economic Development Committee** met on May 20th: they are planning to work up a survey, for Council's approval, to send to the residents regarding what they would like as far as economic development; it was decided to remove a Council member and the Mayor from sitting on the committee and ask for another resident to join them; they would like to walk the Borough to get an idea of what spaces are available and they are looking for ways to stay in touch with the residents, especially with residents that do not have computers or internet access.

Councilman Sansone reported progress with the **Chamber of Commerce**.

Councilwoman Peet Board of Health/ Board of Education/Municipal Alliance

Councilwoman Peet reported progress for the **Municipal Alliance**.

Councilwoman Peet reported progress for the **Board of Health**, noting the updated COVID statistics will be in weekly newsletter.

Councilwoman Peet reported she attended the **Board of Education** meeting on May 18th: it was very well attended and on June 1st, they will be inducting three teachers to the Education Hall of Fame. For further details regarding the Board of Education meeting, please visit the website. She spoke of the liaison meeting with the main topic being the turf fields: the Board of Education has opted to go

independent of the Borough and will be forming a committee made up of “stake holders” who will be members of the community, Council members, Board of Education members and Board of Recreation members to evaluate and assess the four fields that will be done. This way there will be one bond, not two and there is a possibility that the 2014 bond referendum the Board of Education has taken out may have residual monies left that could be used for turfing the fields. There was a discussion among the Governing Body members regarding how the new referendum will be handled. They talked about the School Resource Officer at district events and how that will be addressed.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Acting Administrator Martin noted there is no report this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FINAL:

1. ORDINANCE #09-21

“AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$116,431.50: \$75,000 FROM A 2020-2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR ENGLISHMAN DRIVE, WITTE DRIVE AND BUTTERNUT AVENUE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$41,431.50 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND”

Introduced by: Councilman Damiano

Seconded by: Councilwoman Peet

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 a 2020-2021 Community Development Block Grant for Englishman Drive, Witte Drive and Butternut Avenue for Road Construction Improvements in the Borough of Midland Park

Section 2.

The sum of \$75,000 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 \$41,431.50.

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 #09-21. There being no response, the **Mayor** closed the meeting to the public and called for a Roll Call Vote of Council.

Roll Call: **Councilman Damiano** **Aye**
 Councilman Kruis **Aye**
 Councilman Sansone **Aye**
 Councilwoman DeLuca **Aye**
 Councilwoman Peet **Aye**
 Council President Iannone **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 #104-21 - Agreement w/BCUA for Solid Waste Disposal

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1, et seq. authorizes any local governmental unit to enter into a contract with any other local governmental unit for providing of any service which any party to such agreement is empowered to render within its own jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Utility Authority has agreed to provide a disposal site for solid waste to the Borough of Midland Park and its designated solid waste removal contractor; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park to authorize the execution of an Interlocal Service Agreement whereby the Bergen County Utility Authority will provide such service to the Borough of Midland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute an Interlocal Agreement whereby the Bergen County Utility Authority will provide such service to the Borough of Midland Park for a 2 year term – June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2023 at a price of \$80.40 per ton inclusive of the \$3.00 per ton recycling tax.

Resolution #105-21 – Municipal Alliance Grant Funding

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989, to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Midland Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Bergen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Midland Park of Bergen, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Midland Park Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$3,836.33
Cash Match	\$ 959.08
In Kind	\$2,877.25

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance audit requirements.

Resolution #106-21 – Two Year Extension of Emergency Vehicle Repair Contract

WHEREAS, the Borough of Midland Park has a need for emergency vehicle repair for the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS emergency vehicle repair services were awarded through resolution #024-19 on January 3, 2019, to Godwin Automotive 178 Godwin Avenue Wyckoff, N.J; and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Borough of Midland Park to extend the contract as authorized by the new Jersey Local Publics Contract Law at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-15 for an additional two (2) years; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer, certifies subject to the Governing Bodies approval of future budgets that the amounts are available from:

Account number: 1-01- -054-201

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park authorizes the Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with Godwin Automotive 178 Godwin Avenue, Wyckoff, N.J. for a period of two (2) years from January 3, 2021 through January 2, 2023, for emergency vehicle repair.

Introduced by: Councilman Sansone

Seconded by: Councilwoman DeLuca

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

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #103-21 – Bills List

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

Current Fund ('20)	\$ 3,956.94
Current Fund	\$ 129,798.04
Capital Fund	\$ 32,875.84
Trust Fund	\$ 1,422.19
TOTAL:	\$ 168,053.01

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 May 14 th Payroll	\$ 185,614.86
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the claims totaling **\$353,667.87** approved and ratified respectively.

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet

Seconded by: Councilwoman DeLuca

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

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business to discuss.
There was no 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. There being no response and no further business to address, at 8:46 P.M., on a Motion by **Councilman Damiano**, Seconded by **Councilwoman Peet** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin, R.M.C.
Borough Clerk