

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK
280 GODWIN AVENUE
MIDLAND PARK, NJ 07432
October 8, 2020**

8:00 PM Open Public Meeting Minutes

On October 8, 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): [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679) Access Code: 807-129-429

Questions, Comments or Concerns were emailed in advance to the Borough Clerk at wmartin@midlandparknj.org no later than October 8, 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 October 8, 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.

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 Kamp	Present
	Councilman Iannone	Absent
	Councilman Kruis	Present
	Councilman Sansone	Present
	Councilwoman Peet	Present
	Council President DeLuca	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Regan, Borough Administrator Seemon and Borough Clerk Martin

PUBLIC ROLL CALL:

Administrator Seemon took a roll call of the public in attendance

Anthony Sikora – 41 Chestnut Street
Chief Mike Powderley – Midland Park Police Chief
Sergeant Noah Van Vliet – Midland Park Police Department

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No minutes available at this time

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Police Chief Powderley addressed the Governing Body to recognize Sergeant Van Vliet for being selected by the New Jersey Traffic Safety Program as a Level 2 Traffic Safety Specialist. The Chief spoke of the uncommonness of this achievement as there are only 13 active Level 2 Traffic Safety Specialists in the whole State since 2018. He enumerated the very stringent criteria that Sergeant Van Vliet had to meet: experience, education requirements, methods of instruction, training and proficiency in highway safety enforcement, which includes methods, measures and procedures as well as 30 points of electives. Chief Powderley commended Sergeant Van Vliet for his continual commitment to the Police Department and the Borough of Midland Park. The Governing Body thanked him for all the work he has done to improve the safety conditions at the Erie Avenue/Franklin Avenue intersection and the Vreeland Avenue/Franklin Avenue intersection.

Sergeant Van Vliet thanked the Chief, noting this recognition by the Borough is very meaningful to him and his family. He thanked **Mayor Shortway** and **Councilman Sansone** along with Police Chief Powderley for all their help, especially with the dissertation he wrote regarding the causation of accidents at these two intersections. The Sergeant was happy to report that with all the improvements made to both those intersections, there has been only one accident this whole year versus past years when there were multiple serious accidents at each intersection. He noted that his original plan had been only to reduce the amount of accidents but realized that the human element and the topography are still very big factors in the causes of the accidents. Sergeant Van Vliet stated he has been asked by a gentleman from Rutgers University to help teach a class about making improvements to intersections which is a proud moment for a municipality the size of Midland Park. He again thanked the Governing Body for pushing through the improvements and choosing to do the right thing regarding those two intersections.

At this time questions, concerns or comments emailed in advance to the Borough Clerk were addressed. There were no emails to the Clerk to address.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Shortway

Mayor Shortway reported on September 29th, he, Administrator Seemon and the Chief Financial Officer listened in to the Governor's call regarding employee medical insurance: with the prices going up, the State is looking into other options for employees. Administrator Seemon explained a new option for employees to choose from will be available which is a combination of some of the top tier plans with some of the middle and lower tier plans and would eliminate other choices.

Councilman Kamp

Recreation/Municipal Alliance/Ridgewood Water

Councilman Kamp reported progress with **Ridgewood Water**.

The **Councilman** reported the **Municipal Alliance's** meeting was cancelled.

Councilman Kamp reported the movie the **Recreation Department** set up in lieu of Community Day was a success: there were goodie bags for various businesses to donate to, however, only ten participated. He noted that for Halloween, residents can register with the Recreation Department and pick up a pumpkin sign to be placed on the door, signifying it is a safe house for trick or treat.

Councilman Iannone **Public Safety – Police/ Information Technology**

Due to **Councilman Iannone's** absence, no report was given.

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

Councilman Kruis reported the **Planning Board** has not met since the last Council meeting. The **Councilman** reported the **Building Department** is extremely busy, but they are starting to catch up. **Councilman Kruis** reported the **Fire Prevention/Office of Emergency Management/Property Maintenance** Official has been busy, especially with submissions to FEMA and CARES. The **Councilman** reported the Borough has received reimbursement from the CARES act totaling \$47,526 which was paid within the last couple of days. The Official has also been busy doing inspections.

Councilman Sansone **Public Works/ Board of Education/ Chamber of Commerce**

Councilman Sansone reported the **Board of Education** will be meeting on October 27th. The **Councilman** spoke to the **Chamber of Commerce** President: she is trying to brainstorm with Chamber members, using Ridgewood as a model, to come up with ways to bring more business to Midland Park.

Councilman Sansone reported the **Department of Public Works** continues to be busy: they are disinfecting Borough buildings daily as well as fogging the Police Department vehicles before every shift; they repaired 33 catch basins and because of a shared service with Waldwick in which Midland Park milled and trenched some roads, Waldwick gave Midland Park their old fork lift. This was a piece of equipment which the Department of Public Works badly needed. The roof inspection was completed today and is awaiting the final signing off and the winter and fall equipment is all ready to go.

Councilwoman Peet **Finance/Board of Health**

Councilwoman Peet reported the **Board of Health** stated the Borough's number of COVID-19 cases has reached 113. She noted the rodent survey is continuing: the Foster Court survey resulted in observation of rodent burrows on one property and a verbal notification was issued to the homeowner with follow-up inspections to be conducted. The **Councilwoman** explained the rodent situation is being addressed and the residents are responding positively. The **Councilwoman** reported for **Finance**: 98% of the taxes have been paid.

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

Council President DeLuca reported the **Ambulance Corps** held their meeting on October 5th: they answered 43 calls for service. The **Council President** reported the **Fire Department** will hold their meeting on October 14th and she will have a report at the next meeting. **Council President DeLuca** reported the **Library** Board is scheduled to meet on October 20th; the Library is open to the public with revised hours and everything is going well. She reminded everyone that the Lena Padovano Story Walk at the Wortendyk Park, is being dedicated on October 24th with a rain date of October 25th.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Administrator Seemon reported he spoke to the Wyckoff-Midland Park Rotary Club this morning; the digitization company has come for a second round to make more space in basement; the Department of

Public Works Superintendent has ideas for maximizing space for records management; there was a staff meeting on the 7th where the budget discussions were started and the new phone system was explained; the monthly call with the Governor’s office is upcoming on October 13th.

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 # 156-20 Disbursement of Capital Set Aside for The Midland Park Ambulance Corps

WHEREAS, the Borough has set aside capital funding for the Midland Park Ambulance Corps to purchase a new ambulance, and

WHEREAS, the Midland Park Ambulance Corps is nearing the purchase of a new ambulance and is requesting to have the remaining capital funding totaling \$56,250.00 to be placed in a separate account specifically designed for the purchase of a new ambulance, and

WHEREAS, the Midland Park Ambulance Corps has agreed to only use this account for the purchase of a new ambulance, including any other deposits or interest accrued through this account, and will provide the Borough with monthly statements from this account, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park authorize the Chief Financial Officer to provide the Midland Park Ambulance Corps the capital funding set aside of \$56,250.00 once formally requested through the procurement procedures of the Borough of Midland Park.

Resolution # 157-20 Planning Board Escrow Refund - Blk. 26.01, Lt.27

WHEREAS, at the meeting of September 21, 2020, it was unanimously approved and recommended by the Planning Board, to return the unused escrow to the following party:

The Kentshire	Acct. #T-20-300-399	\$484.39
175 Paterson Aveune		
(Blk. 26.01, Lt.27)		

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the Chief Financial Officer issue a check for the funds in the above stated amount, to Kentshire Operator, LLC., Tenant Rent c/o Richman Property Services, Inc., 777 W Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830.

Resolution # 158-20 Zoning Board Escrow Refund - Blk. 10.08, Lt. 16

WHEREAS, at the meeting of September 8, 2020, it was unanimously approved and recommended by the Zoning Board, to return the unused escrow to the following parties:

Borntrager, Allen & Dianne	Acct. #T-20-300-269	\$39.95
66 Zimmer Avenue		
(Blk. 10.08, Lt. 16)		

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the Chief Financial Officer issue a check for the funds in the above stated amount, to the following parties, Allen & Dianne Borntrager, 66 Zimmer Avenue, Midland Park NJ 07432.

Introduced by: Councilman Kruis

Seconded by: Councilman Sansone

Roll Call: Councilman Kamp

Aye

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

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #155-20 – Bills List

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

Current Fund ('19)	\$ 12,500.00
Current Fund	\$ 97,895.85
Trust Fund	\$ 960.00
Capital Fund	\$ <u>62,401.90</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 173,757.75

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 30 th Payroll	\$ 188,802.28
Current	DC Strategy – mnl ck	\$ 2,500.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the claims totaling **\$365,060.03** approved and ratified respectively.

Introduced by: Councilwoman Peet

Seconded by: Councilman Kamp

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

ORDINANCES ON INTRODUCTION:

1. ORDINANCE #12-20

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER II OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION” ARTICLE V “BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS” §2-19.4 “DUTIES”

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:

Section 1.

Chapter II of the Code of the Borough of Midland Park, Administration, Article V Boards, Committees and Commissions, §2-19, Recreation Advisory Council, Subsection §2-19.4, Duties, be and is

hereby amended to add to subparagraph (c)

§2-19.4 Duties

c. The Recreation Advisory Council shall maintain communication with recreational use of municipal organizations in order to coordinate the use of facilities and establish consistent polices and cooperation among the various groups.

- 1. The Recreation Advisory Council shall require all quasi-municipal organizations to provide monthly bank statements of all accounts in order to maintain insurance coverage and field usage for their organization.**

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 Kamp

Seconded by: Councilman Kruis

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

**Aye
Absent
Aye
Aye
Aye
Aye**

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Administrator Seemon asked for the Council’s opinions about meeting in person and opening the meetings to the public, noting they would be at the Social Hall.

Councilwoman Peet noted the health projections from the State are showing that COVID-19 is expected to spike during the second week of October with another huge spike in last part of December and extending through March/April 2021. She is agreeable to meet in person at the Social Hall but be mindful of how it goes.

Mayor Shortway is in favor of going to the Social Hall, but if cases keep going up, we must continue to do meetings this way.

Council President DeLuca stated she is comfortable with meeting at the Social Hall unless things change. Administrator Seemon noted he is just trying to get an idea of where Council members stand and for now, we will continue the way we are going.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Anthony Sikora congratulated Sergeant Van Vliet on his accreditation.

There being no response and no further business to address, at 8:27 P.M., on a Motion by **Council President DeLuca**, Seconded by **Councilwoman Peet** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin, R.M.C.
Borough Clerk