

**BOROUGH OF OAKLAND**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Municipal Court/Council Chambers  
10 Lawlor Drive  
Oakland, N.J. 07436

**April 26, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**

**MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Executive Session of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**   **Present: Mayor Linda H. Schwager, Councilmembers Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini. Borough Administrator Richard Kunze, Borough Attorney Matthew Gilson, Deputy Borough Clerk Wendi Seelin**

**Absent: Councilmember McCann.**

On motion of Councilman Slasinski, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the following resolution be introduced, adopted and duly passed on roll call vote:

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of action upon the herein after specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - a. Personnel.
3. The Mayor and Council shall release and disclose to the general public the discussion and actions taken on the subject matter of the above-mentioned closed session once the Mayor and Council has arrived at a final decision on the specified subject matter.

**ROLL CALL:**   **Councilman Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.**

Meeting of the Borough of Oakland Mayor and Borough Council opened on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Oakland Municipal Court/Council Chambers, 10 Lawlor Drive, Oakland, N.J. 07436.

Mayor Linda H. Schwager presiding.

Mayor Linda H. Schwager announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place, and agenda.

**ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Linda H. Schwager, Councilmembers Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.**

**Also Present: Borough Administrator Richard Kunze, Deputy Borough Clerk, Wendi Seelin, Borough Attorney Matthew Gilson, Chief Financial Officer David Young, Borough Engineer John Yakimik.**

**Absent: Councilmember McCann.**

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Saliani, Councilman McCann be excused from the meeting.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Schwager announced there was a rating of the top 30 schools in New Jersey. Manito Elementary was named number 10 in the state with an A+ rating overall and a 99.66 % score in math, social studies, language arts and attendance. To the principals, teachers, administrators, and students: excellent job. I attended the school board meeting to listen to discussion about the security in the schools. The mayor was pleasantly surprised to learn there is a Quiz Bowl Team through the Valley Middle School Gifted Program. The Quiz Bowl Team from VMS participated in a nationwide contest, it was 100 questions which included math, trivia, and different activities. They won number 1 in the country. Congratulation to all the students who received medals, certificates, and trophies. Mayor Schwager stated there was a logo contest among the students throughout the district, the winner is a sixth-grade student from Valley Middle School. Congratulations to Avery Cruz, Oakland 6<sup>th</sup> grader who's design for the logo will be used for grades K-8. The Board of Education presented the budget and the increase to have a SLEO3, One in each elementary school and one in VMS. There is now an agreement, the mayor stated that the school board and council work together regardless of political parties etc. I am very thankful for Dr. Caffero and her work. If you have a child 5 years old on or before October 1, 2023 you can register for kindergarten on the website [www.oaklandschoolsnj.org](http://www.oaklandschoolsnj.org), if you want them to start school in September 2023. The softball clinic at the recreation field is scheduled for Saturday April 29, 2023 2 PM, if there is rain it will be moved to the following Saturday. Bergen County is sponsoring an Autism Symposium on Friday April 28, 2023 it is at 10:00 am at 2 Bergen County Plaza Conference Room, sponsored by



the Bergen County Division of Disability Services. It is open to all who would like to attend. There are two clean ups one at Skyline Drive Saturday April 29, 2023 9:00am Lower parking lot, event should be over by 1 PM, if there is rain they will decide if it will be postponed. The Environmental Commission has a park clean up. 9 am-12 Noon Danny Delia building. Spring Bird Watching walk at 7:30 am at Great Oak Park on Doty Road, Bring Binoculars, and water. There will be a viewing at the library afterwards of the World Series of Birding. The Oakland Green team has a plant sale going on you can order online. The roads are so bad, the reasons are PSE&G are replacing gas lines, Sewer pipelines are being installed for the 3 sewer treatment plants, the sidewalk project on 202. At times there are road closures, pot holes, debris etc. We are not in control of the schedule the contractors schedule and decide when to work, based on weather, materials, police availability to direct traffic. When the work is completed, the roads will be repaved. If you have damage to your vehicles due to road debris from these construction areas, we need you to let us know. There will be a road closure on Hiawatha Boulevard between Franklin Ave and Seminole on Thursday April 7 and Friday April 8, 2023 from 8:00am to 4:00PM due to an upgrade of the Natural gas delivery system in the area by PSE&G. Please plan alternate routes and follow detour signs. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please sign up on the website for the alerts from the borough.

#### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, to open for public comment.

#### **ALL IN FAVOR.**

Steve Richardson 320 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, NJ 07436- Better signage needed on Route 287 to direct truck traffic. It is extremely dangerous. There should be a sign one mile before the exit detailing which lane to be in for trucks. Mayor stated it is a Department of Transportation Road and asked Mr. Kunze to please reach out and follow up. Resident called the DOT and never received a return phone call.

Tom Connolly 1 Winding Ridge Road, Oakland, NJ 07436- Letters should be written and sent to the DOT to remind them of their responsibility to the residents of Oakland to mark the road, be persistent, there are drainage issues being caused by the DOT. I ask all of you to please write letters.

Mike Guadagnino 34 Hopper Street, Oakland, NJ 07436- Commented on Councilman McCann. Mr. Guadagnino stated that the Cannabis Ordinance was passed and is here for 5 years, the committee took that into consideration when drafting the ordinance. It's not acceptable to task committees to do things then turn your back on them. The residents would like to see more push back from the council on these behaviors. Would like to see censorship of Councilman McCann.

Jerri Angermueller 24 lakeview Terrace, Oakland, NJ 07436- Hoping Clean up happens. Looking forward to the budget discussion, budget up 1,000,000.00. Everything is going up in cost. Would like the council to look more closely at budget. Ms. Angermueller would like to see contracts negotiated better.



Mame Schwarzfischer of 187 West Oakland Avenue, Oakland, N.J. 07436- Memorial Day Parade, please email Mame to be involved all are welcome, we want a big event and the families to realize how special their loved ones are. It was stated that she had a very upsetting morning after leaving Borough Hall I went to the library to see if anyone there would like a bagel and/or coffee. I was greeted nicely by Ms. Debbie and Carol; I stuck my head around the corner to see if Mr. Havel wanted anything and Diane yelled at me, how dare you come back here, that I was not allowed back there. Councilman Pignatelli stated that there may have been another issue going on. Mr. Kunze will address it tomorrow at the Staff meeting, it is a personnel issue and will be handled. Ms. Schwarzfischer stated please get involved with memorial and veterans' day events and please get the taxes under control.

Jodi Goffredo 44 Sioux Avenue, Oakland, NJ 07436- I would like to say thank you to Eric Kulmala and John McCann, I did not hear back from you Mayor with regards to Access for All. We had an issue with the Indian Hills Presentation. The mayor stated that she contacted the school. Ms. Goffredo stated there is another presentation on May 4, 2023 by the same person mocking people with disabilities. Please help us, we cannot have this in our town.

Ann Cedar of 33 Winding Ridge, Oakland, N.J. 07436, commented on Resolution 23-136. Thank you for adding the second question and listening. There is a typo in the resolution that needs to be corrected. With respect to the Ordinance 23-CODE-905, I have some questions: short term rentals section B, why if you own a home can you not rent a room out in your house. Why is house not listed under dwelling Unit, Typo in Housekeeping Unit, says superior court or supreme court which is correct. Is there an update on the grants that were requested for funding Patriot's Way Bridge. With respect to the interim bags at the bridge, how often will they be inspected? What is the process. How is the bridge doing?

Kevin Heffernan of 40 Grove Street, Oakland, N.J. 07436, commented on the Bush Plaza Park banner. The banner celebrates and announces a new park to the people of Oakland as a form of civic pride and the start of the downtown renaissance. It was the mayor's idea to have the park, it was the mayor who appointed 10 outstanding people to do the work. There was never a political agenda. The mayor was unaware of the banner statement, and it was approved unanimously. The politics of the banner has been elevated to official business. Oakland voters want progress not politics. Mr. Heffernan encouraged the Governing Body to approve of the banner design as is. Choose for the people and celebrate Oakland pride.

Matthew Goodrich of 72 Hiawatha Boulevard, Oakland, N.J. 07436, cited the employee handbook with regards to bullying and Councilman McCann's behavior and would like to see censorship. He also stated that he is running a Facebook poll for recall and stated the results so far.

Andrea Levy of 780 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, N.J. 07436, commented on upcoming events for the Green Team Outdoor Hike, Green Film Festival Outdoor event on June 3 rain date June 4 there is a Green fair and EV car show 7 PM Veterans field. As part of a combined event with the FLOW Environmental and Green Teams, on May 18, 2023 7 PM at the Wyckoff Library the movie is Trash: Why it costs So Much & How to Reduce it with guest a speaker Michael Portannese from Gaeta recycling. The Communications Commission /Welcome Website committee is looking for



throwback photos from the Oakland Community, please submit to [Oaklandnjsocial@gmail.com](mailto:Oaklandnjsocial@gmail.com). Open Mic Night is on April 27, 2023 and this is a monthly event. There is a Mural Project for the Recreation Shed submissions due by May 26, 2023. The Oakland Arts Festival is from June 9, 2023 to June 11, 2023 at the Oakland Public Library, 2 Municipal Plaza. Looking for artists and performers. Thank you for the road notice it was appreciated. Follow up on water filling station. With regards to short term rentals there should be a yearly permit fee, Occupancy tax, lead inspections, Code inspections and business permits issued to those that are doing short term rentals. Ms. Levy would like to see text alerts added to communications and weekly communications to the residents. Ms. Levy stated with sewers coming we need to be looking beyond current scope. We can beautify and protect buildings; but we need more pedestrian walkways for a more friendly downtown. Ms. Levy stated that the highest and best use is not being utilized, we need to show our vision and invite persons to buy into our vision, look further down the road.

Dan D'elia 7 Fordham Road, Oakland, NJ 07436 shared that the Strawberry festival will take place on 5/2/23 from 6-8:30 PM at the Yawpo fire house. Park at Coppertree Mall.

Councilman Saliani set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, to close public comment.

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 12, 2023 Executive Session

Councilman Saliani set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Talamini, to approve the above listed minutes.

**ROLL CALL:**    **Ayes:**                **Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.**  
                     **Nays:**                **None.**  
                     **Abstain:**            **Kulmala.**  
                     **(4 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS/RAFFLES/REQUESTS:**

**AUTHORIZE RAFFLE LICENSE#BL1453 FOR MANITO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO  
FOR ON-PREMISES BINGO ON MAY 20, 2023, AT 7 COURT HOUSE PLACE, OAKLAND,  
NJ 07436**

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, to approve Bingo License #BL1453.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**AUTHORIZE RAFFLE LICENSE#RL1454 TO JOHN WALKER MEMORIAL OAKLAND  
FIRST AID SQUAD FOR ON-PREMISES 50/50 RAFFLE ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, 285  
RAMAPO VALLEY RD, OAKLAND, NJ 07436**

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Talamini, to approve Raffle License #RL1454.

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

**PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF ARBOR DAY 2023:**

Mayor Schwager read aloud the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS**, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

**WHEREAS**, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

**WHEREAS**, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

**WHEREAS**, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

**WHEREAS**, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

**WHEREAS**, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

**WHEREAS**, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Linda H. Schwager, Mayor of the Borough of Oakland, do hereby proclaim Friday April 28, 2023 as ARBOR DAY

In our community of Oakland, I urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands to support our city's urban forestry program, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generation.



**PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET AS INTRODUCED:**

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Saliani, to open for public comment.

Jerri Angermueller 24 Lakeview Terrace, Oakland, NJ 07436 stated that she would like the council to try to decrease costs by negotiating contracts with the unions and employees. The council can set the rules and should look at what the necessity of the town opposed to every year things go up.

Mr. Richard Kunze Borough administrator stated that they will review what the cost drivers are of the increase in the budget.

CFO David Young responded to the questions. Salary and Wages collective bargaining agreement runs through 2024 this drives over 9% of salary and wages including sick time, accumulated absences, we have some significant retirements coming through the Police Department over the next two years, with long tendered persons, that will have significant large payouts, so we had to increase our budget, so the money is in reserves for when those people retire. We also allocated from a shared services for the construction official into salary and wage. It was in OE now in salary and wage, so it does look like a big increase on the one side. With those two things out we are looking at a 3% mostly driven by the collective bargaining agreement. On the Operating Expenses side, there is a \$196,000 increase in Library, \$186,000 increase in solid waste and that is industry wide due to lack of competition only one company bids, we ask the state for more competitive options. Pension increases are state driven increased by \$225,000 this year. The BPU increased the tariff for electrical, gas etc. by \$60,000.00, Health Insurance is up \$140,000 half is in liability and half in health. We are very thankful to not to be part of the State Health Benefits, other towns are seeing increases 15-25% increases. While we are challenged with our increases a lot of these items are out of this governing bodies control. The balance of what's inside the budget the council squeezes hard on cutting costs. Overall, the Operating Expense budget is up 2 ½%. There is risk there we are talking 5.8 % inflation this past year and our OE budget outside of those 5 items is only being raised by 2 ½% there is risk there by only going up that much when the cost of goods is going higher.

Councilman Pignatelli added that the municipal budget only makes up 25% of the tax.

Jodi Goffredo 44 Sioux Avenue, Oakland, NJ 07436: How much did Ramapo Indian Hills School Budget increase the tax? Mr. Young stated we haven't gotten an official statement from either of the school districts, it will probably be in July of August. Last year there was a lot spending by the school board, this year they seem to be more fiscally responsible, therefore you need to attend the board meetings.

Mayor stated she attended the schoolboard budget meeting, and it was very nicely done.

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Saliani, to close for public comment.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

### **23-145:        ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

- (a) \$ 16,645,930.00 for municipal purposes, and
- (d) \$ 300,541.75 Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Levy
- (e) \$ 1,116,722.00 Minimum Library Tax

#### **SUMMARY OF REVENUES**

1. <u>General Revenues</u>	
Surplus Anticipated	\$ 1,940,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue Anticipated	\$ 4,195,348.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	\$ 10,000.00
2. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Municipal Purposes	\$ 16,465,930.00
3. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Schools Type I	\$
4. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Schools Type II	\$
5. Amount to be Raised by Taxation – Library Levy	\$ 1,116,722.00
Total Revenues:	\$ 23,728,000.00

#### **SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS**

6. <u>General Appropriations</u>	
Within "CAPS"	
(a&b) Operations including Contingent	\$ 15,791,076.00
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures	\$ 2,389,616.00
(a) Operations	\$ 1,565,317.00
(c) Capital Improvements	\$ 1,233,446.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	\$ 2,233,545.00
(e) Deferred Charges – Municipal	\$ 40,000.00
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 475,000.00
Total Appropriations	\$ 23,728,000.00

Councilman Talamini thank Mr. Kunze and Mr. Young for all the work that they put into the budget. It's a hard process and if we want to continue to keep the services.



**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.  
Nays: None.  
Abstain: None.  
(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

**RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA:**

On motion of Councilman Saliani, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the following resolutions be introduced, adopted, and duly passed by a roll call vote:

**23-146: 2023 SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2023 budget year.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
  - a) Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
  - b) Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
  - c) Cash deficit of preceding year
  - d) Reserve for uncollected taxes
  - e) Other reserves and non-disbursement items
  - f) Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.

4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
  - a) All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,
  - b) Items of appropriation are properly set forth
  - c) In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

**23-147: RESOLUTION APPOINTING DANIEL'S LAW REDACTORS**

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed Daniel's Law (P.L. 2020, c 125) into law, which prohibits disclosure of the residential addresses of certain persons covered by the law ("Covered Persons") on websites controlled by the State, County, and Local Government Agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of covered persons includes former, active, and retired judicial officers, prosecutors, and members of law enforcement and their immediate family members residing in the same household; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has established a Daniel's Law portal to streamline the implementation process and those covered persons register through the Daniel's Law portal; and

**WHEREAS**, Redactors are appointed at State, County, and Municipal Government levels and are responsible for carrying out these protections;

**23-148: CHAPTER 159 – NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and



**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Oakland has received National Opioid Settlements in the amount of \$2,299.13 for the purpose of combating opioid abuse here in the Borough by investing in opioid use prevention programs, and wishes to amend its 2023 budget to include this amount as a revenue,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues:  
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written  
Consent of Director of Local Government Services - Public and  
Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
National Opioid Settlements

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$2,299.13 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"  
Public and Private Appropriations Offset by Revenues:  
National Opioid Settlements  
Other Expenses - \$2,299.13

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Clerk forward two copies of this resolution to the Director of Local Government Services.

**23-150: RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE REGISTRAR OF VITAL  
STATISTICS**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Oakland has a vacancy in the position of Registrar of Vital Statistics upon the resignation of the current Registrar on March 17, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Michael Carelli is the Registrar of Vital Statistics and received his certification as of July 19, 2022;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Michael Carelli be appointed as Registrar of Vital Statistics effective April 27, 2023; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Mr. Carelli's compensation as Registrar of Vital Statistics shall be \$5,000 annually.

**23-151: RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF VITAL  
STATISTICS**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Oakland has a vacancy in the position of Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics upon filling the position of Registrar of Vital Statistics; and

**WHEREAS**, Wendi Francis-Seelin is the Alternate Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics and received her certification as of March 31, 2023;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, that Wendi Francis-Seelin be appointed as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics effective April 27, 2023; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Ms. Seelin's compensation as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics shall be \$2,000.00 annually.

**23-154: AWARD CONTRACT TO BOSWELL ENGINEERING FOR ENGINEERING  
SERVICES FOR BUSH PLAZA PARK**

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for Engineering Services for Bush Plaza Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Boswell Engineering has submitted a revised proposal dated April 21, 2023 for services required at a total cost not to exceed cost of \$27,500.00, broken down as follows:

**TASK #1** – Design and Preparation of Contract Documents: \$25,000.00

**TASK #2** – Bid Administration: \$2500.00

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified funds are available in Account #C-04-55-002-013 in the amount of \$27,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Boswell Engineering has complied with the Borough of Oakland's Pay to Play requirements as outlined in Ordinance 12-CODE-669 adopted on July 11, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the award of the contract is for a professional service for which no public bidding is required;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, hereby authorize Boswell Engineering to perform the engineering services for the Bush Plaza Park at a cost not to exceed \$27,500.00; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Borough.



**23-155: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND AND THE OAKLAND K-8 BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, CLASS III FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SCHOOL SECURITY AT OAKLAND K-8 SCHOOL FACILITIES**

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**WHEREAS**, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., permits a local unit of the State to enter into an agreement with any other local unit to provide or receive any service that each local unit participating in the agreement is empowered to render within its own jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has created a new class of special police officer, known as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III ("SLEO III"), solely for the purpose of school security, as set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A: 14-146. 10 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Oakland (the "Borough") and the Oakland K-8 Board of Education (the "Board of Education") desire to enter into an Interlocal Services Agreement (the "Agreement") with regard to providing the services of SLEO III personnel for purposes of school security at the Oakland K-8 School District for the 2023-2024 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the SLEO III shall be an hourly, part-time, "at will" employee(s) of the Borough, subject to the rules and regulations of the Oakland Police Department, and shall be under the direction and supervision of the Chief of Police; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board shall reimburse the Borough for all expenses, including but not limited to the hourly salaries, hiring, cost and equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board and the Borough have memorialized their agreement for SLEO III services in an Interlocal Services Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and made part of this resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Oakland that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Interlocal Services Agreement between the Borough of Oakland and the Oakland Board of Education to enter into an Interlocal Services Agreement (the "Agreement") with regard to providing the services of SLEO III personnel for purpose of school security at the Oakland K-8 School district for the 2023-2024 school year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Oakland Board of Education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Borough officials and employees are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

On motion of Councilman Saliani, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the following resolutions be introduced, adopted, and duly passed by a roll call vote:

**ROLL CALL:**   **Ayes:**   Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.  
                  **Nays:**       None.  
                  **Abstain:**   None.  
                  (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**23-136           RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A NON-BINDING BALLOT QUESTION  
RELATED TOPERMISSIBILITY OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES IN THE  
BOROUGH OF OAKLAND**

**WHEREAS**, in the 2020 General Election the Borough of Oakland participated in a statewide ballot question which asked, "Do you approve amending the Constitution to legalize a controlled form of marijuana called 'cannabis'?" and

**WHEREAS**, said ballot question received sufficient support to pass and created a pathway to legalization of recreational cannabis in the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequently the New Jersey Legislature passed the CREAMM Act which created the statutory mechanism for legalization of recreational cannabis and authorized the Cannabis Regulatory Committee ("CRC") to adopt rules to effectuate said statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the CRC created six (6) recreational classes of cannabis licenses and left authority to individual municipalities as to whether to permit or prohibit any or all the six (6) classes of licenses within their borders; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Oakland have not been given the opportunity to vote regarding their opinion on whether or not to allow cannabis businesses within the Borough of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 19:37-1 permits municipalities to authorize by a resolution for a non-binding ballot question to "[a]scertain the sentiment of the legal voters of the municipality or county upon any question or policy pertaining to the government or internal affairs thereof"; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of the Borough of Oakland requests the County Clerk to place two (2) non-binding ballot questions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:37-1 to ascertain the sentiment of the legal voters of Oakland as to the question of whether they support cannabis businesses operating in the Borough of Oakland for both the cultivation and related processes and retail sale of same

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, do hereby submit to the County Clerk of



the County of Bergen to place a two (2) non-binding ballot questions for the November 2023 General Election pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:37-1 stating as follows:

"Do you support allowing cannabis businesses to operate in the Borough of Oakland for cultivation, manufacturing, wholesaling and distribution of recreational cannabis defined as Class 1, 2, 3, and 4 cannabis licenses by New Jersey state statutes and regulations?"

"Do you support allowing cannabis businesses to operate in the Borough for Oakland for the retail of sale of recreational cannabis defined as a Class 5 cannabis license by New Jersey state statutes and regulations?"

On motion of Councilman Kulmala, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the following resolution be introduced, adopted, and duly passed by a roll call vote:

Discussion: Mayor thinks that it should be held to when Mr. McCann is present. The ordinance is in place for 5 years with 4 years left and I believe this would be more appropriate at the end of the 5-year term of the Ordinances. The mayor believes a more important question would be for our Open Space Tax, suggested that we table Resolution 23-236 till Mr. McCann is present since he is the person who requested it.

Mr. Talamini stated it makes sense to wait till Mr. McCann is here unless under a time restraint. Need to inform if want on balance 81 days prior to election.

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Saliani, that Resolution 23-136 be moved to the May 10, 2023.

**ROLL CALL:**    **Ayes:**                **Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani Slasinski, Talamini.**  
                     **Nays:**                **None.**  
                     **Abstain:**           **None.**  
                     **(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Slasinski, the following resolution be introduced, adopted, and duly passed by a roll call vote:

**23-149:                AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT WITH THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF  
                             OAKLAND FUNDRAISING FOR BUSH PLAZA PARK**

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**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland and the Sports Association of Oakland wish to enter into an agreement to provide fundraising opportunities for the development and improvement of Bush Plaza Park; and

**WHEREAS**, after consideration by both parties, the Borough of Oakland and the Sports Association have come to an agreement, which has been memorialized in writing, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Oakland and the Sports Association of Oakland desire to enter into this Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Fundraising Agreement between the Borough of Oakland and the Sports Association of Oakland on behalf of the Borough.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Sports Association of Oakland.

Discussion. The SAO is a 501C3. If Bush Plaza does their fundraising through to the SAO donations will be deductible and more persons donate. The SAO then turns the money over to the Borough to pay for the project.

**ROLL CALL:**   **Ayes:**           **Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani Slasinski, Talamini.**  
                  **Nays:**           **None.**  
                  **Abstain:**       **None.**  
                  **(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Kulmala the following resolution be introduced, adopted, and duly passed by a roll call vote:

**23-152:           AGREEMENT TO INSTALL WATER SERVICE LINE 9 PIMA COURT**

**WHEREAS**, the water service line of the resident at 9 Pima Court, Oakland NJ Block 5501 lot 19 is seeking to increase the size of their water line; and

**WHEREAS**, the resident, Mr. Seth Diamond, is willing to pay the Borough's cost for our portion of the work, which is calculated to be \$ 4,619.00 and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council authorizes a water service agreement with Mr. Seth Diamond to undertake this project as specified in this resolution.

Councilman Talamini asked are the water line upgrades by residents common. Mr. Kunze stated that the resident wants to increase the size of his water line and that he is paying DPW for their portion of the work.

**ROLL CALL:**   **Ayes:**           **Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.**  
                  **Nays:**           **None.**  
                  **Abstain:**       **None.**  
                  **(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the following resolution be introduced, adopted, and duly passed by a roll call vote:



**23-153: AWARD CONTRACT TO DAN DRESSSEL FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR REPAIR OF DAMAGE TO THE RECREATION EQUIPMENT SHED**

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for Architectural Services in order to repair damage to the Recreation Equipment Shed; and

**WHEREAS**, Dan Dressel, Architect has submitted a proposal dated April 17, 2023 for services required at a total cost not to exceed cost of \$10,000.00, broken down as follows:

**TASK #1** – Schematics/Construction Documents: \$3,500.00

**TASK #2** – Bid Services and Construction Administration: \$6,500.00

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified funds are available in Account # 3-01-20-165-100 in the amount of \$10,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the award of the contract is for a professional service for which no public bidding is required;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, hereby authorize Dan Dressel to perform the Architectural services for the Recreation Equipment Shed Repairs at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Borough.

Mr. Talamini asked is insurance is covering any part of the costs. Mr. Kunze responded all cost except the deductible are covered by insurance.

**ROLL CALL:**   **Ayes:**           Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.  
                  **Nays:**           None.  
                  **Abstain:**       None.  
                  **(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE 23-CODE-904**

**“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, SECTION 16 OF THE OAKLAND CODE  
RELATED TO PERMIT PARKING.”**

The Borough Clerk was directed to take from table Ordinance No. 23-CODE-904 and read by title for its first reading.

The Borough Clerk then read by title Ordinance No. 23-CODE-904 entitled, **“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, SECTION 16 OF THE OAKLAND CODE RELATED TO PERMIT PARKING”**

On motion of Councilman Saliani, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the following resolution be introduced, adopted, and duly passed on roll call vote.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that an Ordinance entitled, **“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, SECTION 16 OF THE OAKLAND CODE RELATED TO PERMIT PARKING**, be introduced;

Councilman Kulmala stated he would like to see the Ordinance amended so that it excludes commercial vehicles, trailers, and RV's. Personal vehicle is one thing but not for Commercial vehicles trailers and RV. Mr. Kunze said we can refrain from voting and review, the mayor stated to include the police in the review

Carried to the next meeting on May 10, 2023.

**ORDINANCE 23-CODE-905**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, SUPPLEMENT AND REVISE THE CODE OF  
THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND, “LAND USE AND ZONING”, CHAPTER 59,  
BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE XX “SHORT-TERM RENTALS”**

The Borough Clerk was directed to take from table Ordinance No. 23-CODE-905 and read by title for its first reading.

The Borough Clerk then read by title Ordinance No. 23-CODE-905 entitled, **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, SUPPLEMENT AND REVISE THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND, “LAND USE AND ZONING”, CHAPTER 59, BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE XX “SHORT-TERM RENTALS”**

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Saliani, the following resolution be introduced, adopted and duly passed on roll call vote.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that an Ordinance entitled, **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, SUPPLEMENT AND REVISE THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND, “LAND USE AND ZONING”, CHAPTER 59, BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE XX “SHORT-TERM RENTALS”**, be introduced;

Discussion:

Do we want to hold and review again there are grammatical issues.

Councilman Kulmala brought this up a few years ago. I think we need to be very careful and revisit and have an in-depth discussion and balance people's personal property rights, we need to be cautious. Councilman Saliani stated that he thinks it should be revisited.

Carried to the next meeting on May 10, 2023.



## **WORK SESSION:**

### **BUSH PLAZA PARK BANNER:**

Bush Plaza Ad-Hoc Committee want to put a banner in Bush Park Plaza. Discussion on the wording of the banner. Councilman Pignatelli applauded the banner committee, thanks to Councilman Saliani he provided answers, some people think this turned into a political discussion, let's face it everything we do involves politics, the banner is going on municipal property before we allow anything on municipal property Council has to approve just like any other items that are placed on municipal property. Councilman Pignatelli stated that he thinks Mayor and Council would be appropriate and asked the mayor what she thinks. Mayor stated that when she first saw it when thought it should say mayor Schwager and council, then I heard there was an uproar, I called and asked around, when there is something, you place in your town do you use Mayor or Mayor and name. All other towns say they always use the mayor's name. Mayor feels the most important persons are the committee, so all the committee members are listed, Councilman Saliani is the liaison he worked hard and deserves to be there as well. She is the mayor and due the respect. Councilman Saliani stated that the committee was highly functional and deserves their names on the banner. Mr. Talamini stated he feels it's much ado about nothing. To him it's rude to leave the other council members off and if he was the mayor he would be embarrassed. Councilman Kulmala asked the Borough attorney to explain the copywrite issue. Borough Attorney matt Gilson explained that the Committee work is property owned by the town. From a legal standpoint the Borough owns the work and can do whatever they want with the banner.

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, the Bush Plaza Park Banner be approved as is.

### **ALL IN FAVOR**

### **Political Contribution Disclosure Ordinance/ State Elections Transparency Act:**

Borough Attorney Mr. Gilson explained there were state contribution limits, and the local municipalities could enact ordinances that would create their own restrictions which led to a patchwork of laws difficult to follow. Any donation over \$200.00 is reportable max went from \$2700 to \$5400.00. Local Ordinance is null and void. Option now is leave as is and null and void and unenforceable or we can clean up the ordinance to eliminate the sections that do not apply to the law. Councilman Saliani stated he believes it should be repealed. If council directs Mr. Gilson, he will review and update the ordinance. Mr. Gilson was directed by council to investigate the pay to play ordinance.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilman Kulmala stated the Oakland Arts Committee would like to put a banner in Bush Plaza like the one used before. The size is 48x24.

## **ALL IN FAVOR**

Borough Attorney Mr. Matthew Gilson reported that the Kusala care tort claim has been withdrawn. A memo was provided to the Mayor and Council and administration.

Councilman Talamini stated that his daughter is on a committee for a law passed making not wearing a seatbelt in the back seat. You can get pulled over if not wearing in backseat, they contacted Assemblyman Auth and Senator Schepisi, and Assemblyman Auth sent a copy of the bill and Councilman Talamini will send out to council to review. Would like to have the council endorse the bill.

Councilman Talamini stated that the public session says 3 minutes most people are at 5 minutes. Mayor stated she can bring in a timer. Councilman Talamini asked should we increase to 5 minutes or be more aggressive as the mayor and uphold the 3 minutes.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Councilman Kulmala stated he is still looking to have the paving schedules from Mr. Yakimik asking every meeting for last few months. Mr. Yakimik stated he is disappointed with PSE&G and the notifications and suggested to Mr. Kunze today that we get a meeting with them to get the schedules. The expectation was that they would be paved by now. Will follow up with the inspectors on the sewer projects with efforts on that, I have also been speaking with Mr. Connolly on the surfacing of franklin avenue and that trench there, we plan to have a meeting with the county road department, our inspector and the contractor to address that as well. Councilman Kulmala asked the status of the trenching going underneath the railroad. Mr. Yakimik heard back from the president of the railroad, unfortunately their engineer is on vacation this week. The president promised the inspector will look at it. Mr. Yakimik stated this will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. There is only one engineer for the entire railroad. Councilman Kulmala asked does it make sense while doing the horizontal drilling to fit the size of the force frame does it make sense to put a "sleeve". Mr. Yakimik stated at this time they are trying to control costs on this project, it is not recommended to ask this contractor to do it at this time. Mr. Kulmala asked what the cost for just the one pipe will cost? Mr. Yakimik does not have a specific number. Mr. Kunze stated he spoke with Giselle Diaz she was not as positive on the engineering prospect of putting 2 pipes side by side give the hydraulic method being used, there's too much movement of material to place side by side. Councilman Kulmala was hoping to cut on labor cost by putting the pipe there. DEP only will issue for what they have already. Councilman Kulmala asked can it be larger or must they be separate sleeves. Mr. Kunze stated it is not a viable option currently. Mr. Yakimik does not think there will be any savings on cost to do it at this time.

Mayor stated that if you have on your street or see a pothole, please call DPW so they can come and fill it. There is a list of roads for repaving.



## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

**Councilman Talamini:** Councilman Talamini thanked the Public Events Committee. The easter events was wonderful and looking forward to the Memorial Day Parade. The school budget was presented, I did not attend, due to work. There was a joint meeting the other day with the mayor, me, and councilman Pignatelli, members of the school board the superintendent, and the police chief.

**Councilman Kulmala:** There are 3 vacancies on the Zoning Board and one more coming. If you have interest, please submit your citizens leadership form, and take an active role in the community. These boards have an impact on the shaping of the community. Green team Styrofoam Collection had 100 cars comes through and they collected two dumpsters with approximately 500 pounds of Styrofoam collected. There will be another in a month or two. Birdwatching is on 4/29 7:30 AM and May 13, 2023 7:30 PM. The Flow Film Festival is Saturday June 3 at Veterans Park, 7 PM Green festival and EV car show 7:30 movie of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. OEM Skyline Clean up just for the OEM participants on April 29,2023 this is a yearly event. OEM had a meeting last week and they are planning an all-hazardous drill at Brown Chemical with the Police, Fire and EMS. The Green Team wants to remind everyone of the Pollinator Native Plant sale. Delivery will be on May 20, 2023.

**Councilman Pignatelli:** Councilman Pignatelli thank you to the green team, I was at the collection, people store Styrofoam for months to keep it out of the garbage solid waste stream. 2 Dumpsters filled. Review of Police activity. As the weather becomes nicer the Chief reminds all resident to please lock your car doors and personal items out of sight when at the fields. Councilman Pignatelli almost got scammed for his Medicare number. So please remember do not give your Medicare or social security number out to anyone. Bingo on May 4 12 Noon with the Chamber of Commerce. Team Up to Clean UP, Danny D'elia Building Saturday 9 am bring gloves. Refreshments will be available. The Environmental commission and the green team walked Stewarts Woods, it's a sizable piece of property, there is a drainage ditch, this is for our engineer, the drainage ditch backs up, the EC and GT would like map of Stewart Woods. There seems to be a blockage. Mr. Yakimik will look at it. The Environmental Commission would like to protect our native plants by putting up deer fencing in Stewart Woods. Need the map to pick the area. Councilman Pignatelli added that some people have resigned from the Zoning and Planning due to Financial Disclosure. Information to be must provide for sources of income not income amounts. We need persons in the building and construction industry that understand meets and bounds and zoning laws.

**Councilman Slasinski:** Councilman Slasinski announced that the Communications Commission is seeking volunteers for the various committees. Councilman Slasinski reviewed all the upcoming Library events. Next week is girls scout story time, as a reminder the library has meeting rooms available to all residents and non-profit groups, please contact the library director.

**Councilman Saliani:** The recreation softball clinic is this Saturday at 2 PM, anyone interested in working the open camp we need male counselors at least 16 years of age, if interested please contact Mike Guadagnino or myself. On the May 10, 2023 council meeting we will be honoring our wrestling and basketball champions. June 3 is softball baseball parade. If you have a streetlight out,

please call 201-337-8103 to report it. Thank you to Richard Kunze and David Young for all their hard work on the budget.

Councilman Pignatelli added that some people have resigned from the Zoning and Planning due to Financial Disclosure. Information to be must provide for sources of income not income amounts. We need persons in the building and construction industry that understand meets and bounds and zoning laws. Mayor stated we need more people, there will be 4 vacancies. They meet one time per month. Councilman Pignatelli stated we also need two members for the Board of Health. Not mandatory but medical persons are preferred.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Councilman Saliani set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, to open for public comment.

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

Michael Guadagnino of 34 Hopper Street, Oakland, N.J. 07436, bring a friend so you can have them yield their time to you if you need more than 3 minutes.

William Sisti 12 Eagle Crest Place, Oakland, NJ 07436, I am speaking with regards to the Oakland Television Committee- we need volunteers, viewership s up we need people to run the cameras, microphones and record different town events. Citizen William Sisti reported there are currently three listings on Airbnb, a room, a second-floor listing, and full house. Councilman Pignatelli stated that volunteers keep the taxes down, if there are no volunteers then we must pay persons to do the work.

Matthew Goodrich of 72 Hiawatha Boulevard, Oakland, N.J. 07436, How much can be donated to a PAC for a recall. Borough attorney stated there are limited amounts but does not have that number.

Mame Schwarzfischer of 187 West Oakland Avenue, Oakland, N.J. 07436, Legion Hall Marine Breakfast this Saturday 8AM- 12 Noon. When will the planning board be meeting for the cannabis building. They must get their state license then go before the planning board.

Ann Cedar of 33 Winding Ridge, Oakland, N.J. 07436, I always ask about Patriot's Way Bridge in the first Public Session, then I wait for the whole meeting for updates and get nothing. At second session I must ask again, I should not have to ask for updates again. We are entitled to an update at every meeting.

Kevin Heffernan 40 Grove Street, Oakland, NJ 07436, I would like to thank the council for the discussion on approval of Banner. Mr. Gilson apologized to Mr. Heffernan that it was not an attack on him just the explanation of his legal analysis.



Councilman Kulmala set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, to close public comment.

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT PATRIOT'S WAY BRIDGE**

Borough Engineer Mr. John Yakimik stated that the orange barrels are there to keep traffic from traversing over the beams on the outside of the roadway that are eroding. The next inspection for the beams is scheduled for July 2023, state inspectors will come at that time. Mr. Yakimik also stated that Mr. Boswell has been in contact with the highest levels of the DOT and working on a plan with the DOT Commissioner for a payment plan. Councilman Pignatelli stated all the costs have gone up, there are no grants if we start the work. We must move it forward, the mayor stated they are working on it and the commissioner is very much aware and know we are shovel ready, we need a little more time we finally have the top person working on a payment schedule. Councilman Pignatelli stated that NJ has extra COVID money where does it go. I hope it's not about politics.

**BILLS TO BE PAID:**

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the following bills be submitted for payment:

**(See following pages)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the foregoing bills be paid and charged to their respective accounts when the funds are available.

**ROLL CALL:**    **Ayes:**                **Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini**  
                     **Nays:**                **None**  
                     **Abstain:**            **None**  
                     **(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion of Councilman Kulmala, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the meeting be adjourned.

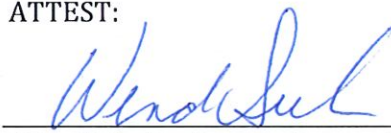
**ALL IN FAVOR.**

Adjourned: 9:28 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

  
Linda H. Schwager, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Wendi Seelin, Deputy Borough Clerk