

BOROUGH OF OAKLAND
Borough Council Meeting
MEETING MINUTES

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

December 7, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion of Councilman Kulmala, seconded by Councilman Saliani, 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 Council of the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen, 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. Negotiations – Radix Capital/Hovan Tract
 - b. Affordable Housing
 - c. Pending or Anticipated Litigation
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: McCann, McCann, 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.

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

Also Present: Borough Administrator Richard Kunze, Borough Clerk Michael Carelli, Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie.

Absent: Kulmala.

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Saliani, Councilman Kulmala be excused.

ALL IN FAVOR.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Schwager thanked all of the volunteers for a successful Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting Ceremony on Sunday December 4, 2022. Mayor Schwager thanked Public Events Committee members Mame Schwartsfischer and Danny D'Elia for organizing the first annual Parade of Lights. The Toys for Tots Train was announced for Saturday December 10, 2022 at Bush Plaza. Mayor Schwager attended the Ponds Food Pantry grand reopening on December 4, 2022. The Oakland Volunteer Fire Department is hosting their annual Santa tour on Saturday December 17, 2022. The Access for All Santa Tour was announced for Sunday December 18, 2022 at the Danny D'Elia Building, 24 Lawlor Drive. Mayor Schwager encouraged the public to attend the Planning Board Meeting on Thursday December 8, 2022 for the final public hearing for the Hovnanian Development off McCoy Road. The meeting will be at the Oakland Senior Center.

RECOGNITION OF 2022 OAKLAND BRAVES PEE WEE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AND CHEERLEADERS:

Mayor Schwager and Council President Pignatelli presented certificates to the Oakland Braves Pee Wee Football players and cheerleaders in recognition of their 2022 Super Bowl Championship.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Edward Hudzina of 576 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, N.J. 07436 questioned the new curbing installed by his property. Mr. Hudzina expressed displeasure of the paving of driveway aprons in and around his property. Mr. Hudzina commented that there are a pile of rocks in his mother's driveway at 574 Ramapo Valley Road and asked that the contractor come clean it up. Mr. Hudzina thanked the Department of Public Works and Police Department for their work during the water main break by Cenzino's.

Danny D'Elia of 7 Thornton Road, Oakland, N.J. 07436 thanked residents for attending the Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting Ceremony, and for the volunteers' hard work with coordinating the event.

Deborah Mutterer of 101 Walnut Street, Oakland, N.J. 07436 asked if a pipe is being installed in front of her driveway. It was suggested that paving without installing a drainage pipe is a waste of resources and money as the pothole problem will present itself again. Mayor Schwager advised that the Borough Engineer will be contacted.

Mame Schwarzfischer of 187 West Oakland Avenue, Oakland, N.J. 07436 expressed her gratitude to all of the volunteers and Borough staff who assist the Public Events Committee throughout the year.

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

RESOLUTION:

22-290: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR CLASS 1 CANNABIS CULTIVATION LICENSE IN THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND

Mayor Schwager asked for a motion to remove Resolution #22-290 from the table. Mayor Schwager advised that Kusala Care LLC has a deadline to meet with the State Cannabis Regulatory Commission. There were no motions put forth to remove from the table.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 22, 2022

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Saliani, to approve the above listed minutes as modified by Mayor Schwager.

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS/RAFFLES/REQUESTS:

AUTHORIZE RAFFLE LICENSE #RL1443 FOR INDIAN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL PTSO TO HOLD ON-PREMISE RAFFLE FOR MERCHANDISE FROM MARCH 3, 2023 TO MARCH 5, 2023 AT 97 YAWPO AVENUE, OAKLAND, N.J. 07436:

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Slasinski, to approve Raffle License #RL1443 as listed.

ALL IN FAVOR.

AUTHORIZE RAFFLE LICENSE #RL1444 FOR INDIAN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL PTSO TO HOLD OFF-PREMISE 50/50 CASH RAFFLE ON MARCH 5, 2023 AT 97 YAWPO AVENUE, OAKLAND, N.J. 07436:

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Talamini, to approve Raffle License #RL1444 as listed.

ALL IN FAVOR.

RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA:

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

22-306: AUTHORIZE CHAPTER 159 FOR NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 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 \$11,098.83 for the purpose of combating opioid abuse here in the Borough by investing in opioid use prevention programs, and wishes to amend its 2022 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 \$11,098.83 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 - \$11,098.83

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

22-307: AUTHORIZE HIRE OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS LABORER

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland wishes to hire a Laborer for the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator and Superintendent of Public Works recommend that Matthew Cecchini be appointed to the Laborer position; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council believes such action to be in the best interest of the Department and Community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland does hereby hire Matthew Cecchini as a Laborer in the Department of Public Works effective December 19, 2023 at an annual salary of \$42,453.00.

22-308: AUTHORIZE GRANT SUBMITTAL TO BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CDBG FY2023 FOR PLEASURELAND AREA DRINAGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, a Bergen County Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$270,000.00 has been proposed by the Borough of Oakland for the Pleasureland Area Drainage Project in the municipality of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization of the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the citizens of the Borough of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality, and is intended solely to expedite expenditures of the aforesaid Community Development funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid

project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Director of the Bergen County Community Development Division so that implementation of the project may be expedited.

22-309: RESOLUTION RATIFYING SIDEBAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOROUGH OF OAKLAND AND UNITED PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION (OAKLAND BLUE COLLAR EMPLOYEES) REGARDING 2023 ELECTION DAY OBSERVED HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, the United Public Service Employees Union, (hereinafter "the Union") is the local union representative for all Blue Collar employees of the Borough of Oakland excluding confidential, managerial, supervisory, seasonal or police employees within the meaning of the Public Employment Relations Act; and

WHEREAS, the parties' have agreed that for the 2023 Calendar Year, Election Day will be observed on July 3, 2023 to afford Union members extended time off over the Independence Day weekend; and

WHEREAS, the holiday schedule will return to normal and Election Day will be observed on the designated date of November 5, 2024 for the Calendar Year 2024 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the parties' have negotiated a sidebar agreement setting forth the terms for the observed holiday, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland is desirous of ratifying and executing the sidebar agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby ratifies the sidebar agreement between the Borough of Oakland and United Public Service Employees Union, which hereby authorizes Election Day be observed on July 3, 2023 for the 2023 Calendar Year, and further authorizes the Mayor to execute the sidebar agreement on behalf of the Borough of Oakland.

22-310: RESOLUTION RATIFYING SIDEBAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOROUGH OF OAKLAND AND UNITED PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION (OAKLAND WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES) REGARDING 2023 ELECTION DAY OBSERVED HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, the United Public Service Employees Union, (hereinafter "the Union") is the local union representative for all White Collar employees of the Borough of Oakland excluding confidential, managerial, supervisory, seasonal or police employees within the meaning of the Public Employment Relations Act; and

WHEREAS, the parties' have agreed that for the 2023 Calendar Year, Election Day will be observed on July 3, 2023 to afford Union members extended time off over the Independence Day weekend; and

WHEREAS, the holiday schedule will return to normal and Election Day will be observed on the designated date of November 5, 2024 for the Calendar Year 2024 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the parties' have negotiated a sidebar agreement setting forth the terms for the observed holiday, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland is desirous of ratifying and executing the sidebar agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby ratifies the sidebar agreement between the Borough of Oakland and United Public Service Employees Union (Oakland White Collar Employees), which hereby authorizes Election Day be observed on July 3, 2023 for the 2023 Calendar Year, and further authorizes the Mayor to execute the sidebar agreement on behalf of the Borough of Oakland.

22-311: AUTHORIZE REFUND OF RECREATION FEES

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received a request (attached) for a refund of recreation fees in the total amount of \$115.00; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 requires Governing Body approval for said refund; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has verified that the amount is due and that funds are available in account CF-01-55-998-006;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby authorize payment in the total amount of \$115.00 to:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SPORT TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Dudas Family	20 Chesnut Avenue, North Haledon, N.J. 07508	Roller Hockey	\$115.00

22-312: AUTHORIZE CELL TOWER CO-LOCATION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, a Lease Agreement was entered into with Sprint Spectrum, LP, the predecessor in interest to SBA 2012 TC Assets, LLC ("SBA") on September 29, 2002 for the installation of wireless telecommunications facility at the Thornton Road Water Tank Site; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 3 of the lease agreement provides for the collocation on the wireless telecommunications facility; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Lease Agreement, fifty (50%) percent of any rent received by SBA for such collocation is to be paid to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, SBA has negotiated an agreement with Dish Wireless LLC; and

WHEREAS, such agreement provides for the payment of \$1,999.90 per month to SBA with a 2 percent annual increase; and

WHEREAS, SBA has requested that the Borough approve the agreement with Dish Wireless LLC for collocation on the Thornton Road Water Tank wireless telecommunications facility.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland as follows:

1. The Supplement to the Master Lease Agreement entered into between SBA 2012 TC Assets, LLC and Dish Wireless LLC is hereby approved, subject to receipt of the sum of \$999.95 per month for such collocation pursuant to the lease agreement with SBA.
2. The additional rent to be received as a result of the Supplement to the Master Lease Agreement is to be paid by SBA with its monthly lease payments, subject to adjustment of 2 percent per year when effective.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this approval is subject to the review and approval by the Borough Attorney of the executed Supplement to the Master Lease Agreement between SBA and Dish Wireless LLC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be provided to SBA.

**22-313: RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY
RIDER FOR BOROUGH OF OAKLAND SENIOR CENTER YEAR END EVENT
DEDICATED DONATIONS AS REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29**

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonable accurate estimates in advance, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29 provides for receipt of funds from gifts, bequests, and donations by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from the Borough of Oakland's Senior Center Year End Event Donations are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirements;

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

1. The Mayor and Council hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to place funds received for the Borough of Oakland's Senior Center Year End Event in a specified fund to be considered a dedication by rider to the budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 for Senior Center Year End Event.

2. The Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Oakland is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

22-314: AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF ESCROW FEES

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received a request (attached) for a release of escrow funds in the amount of \$850.00; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 requires Governing Body approval for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has verified that the amount is due and that funds are available in Escrow Account #T-26-00-022-010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, do hereby authorize a payment to be made in the amount of \$850.00 to:

Peter Brandt	Block 3701
55 Ryerson Avenue	Lot 54
Oakland, N.J. 07436	

22-315: AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAXES DUE TO OVERPAYMENT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received a request (attached) for a refund of taxes in the amount of \$707.96; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 requires Governing Body approval for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has verified that the amount is due and that funds are available in account Tax Refund #CF-01-55-998-002;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, do hereby authorize a payment to be made in the amount of \$707.96 to:

Adam Brown	Block 4911
734 Howard Road	Lot 3
Ridgewood, N.J. 07450	

22-316: CANCEL GENERAL CAPITAL BALANCES

WHEREAS, certain Capital Improvement Authorization balances remain dedicated to projects which have been completed; and

WHEREAS, the balances are no longer necessary for the purpose originally created,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland that the following balances of unexpended General Capital Improvement Authorizations be cancelled as follows:

General Capital

<u>Ordinance Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Unexpended Improvement Authorization Balance to Cancel</u>	<u>ACTION DB</u>
<u>CR</u>			
14-704 CIF	Fire House Imprv Phase 2 Admin	\$ 2,500.00	IAF
14-704 CIF	Fire House Imprv Phase 2	\$ 2,846.00	IAF
19-786 CIF	PD Office & Training Equip	\$ 9,098.20	IAF
20-809 CIF	FD Scott Bottles	\$ 397.80	IAF
20-809 CIF	PD SUV Purchase	\$ 12,081.00	IAF
21-831 CIF	DPW Equip – Pickups	\$ 190.62	IAF
21-856 CIF	Fire Apparatus – Ladder Truck	\$ 1,478.00	IAF
22-885 CIF	PD – Mobile Computers	\$ 340.96	IAF
22-885 CIF	DPW – Bobcat Skid Steer	\$ 400.80	IAF
22-885 CIF	DPW – Polartek AC Machine	\$ 725.00	IAF
Total – General Capital		\$ 30,058.38	
ROLL CALL: Ayes: McCann, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini			
Nays: None			
Abstain: None			
(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)			

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 22-CODE-898

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER IX, RECREATION FACILITIES AND RECREATION AREAS, SUBCHAPTER 9-2.3, ENTITLED “FEE AND PERMIT SCHEDULE FOR USE OF FIELDS” AND ROLLER HOCKEY RINK TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF FACILITIES AND FEE SCHEDULE THEREOF”

The Borough Clerk was directed to take from the table Ordinance No. 22-Code-898 and read by title for its final hearing.

The Borough Clerk then read by title an Ordinance entitled **"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER IX, RECREATION FACILITIES AND RECREATION AREAS, SUBCHAPTER 9-2.3, ENTITLED "FEE AND PERMIT SCHEDULE FOR USE OF FIELDS" AND ROLLER HOCKEY RINK TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF FACILITIES AND FEE SCHEDULE THEREOF"**.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Saliani, this portion of the meeting be opened for public comment.

ALL IN FAVOR.

No public comment.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Saliani, this portion of the meeting be closed to public comment.

ALL IN FAVOR.

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, Ordinance 22-Code-898, entitled **"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER IX, RECREATION FACILITIES AND RECREATION AREAS, SUBCHAPTER 9-2.3, ENTITLED "FEE AND PERMIT SCHEDULE FOR USE OF FIELDS" AND ROLLER HOCKEY RINK TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF FACILITIES AND FEE SCHEDULE THEREOF"**, be adopted.

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

ORDINANCE 22-CODE-899

"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XIII, SECTION 10 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED "FEE SCHEDULE" AND SECTION 13 ENTITLED, "CHARGES AND FEES"

The Borough Clerk was directed to take from the table Ordinance No. 22-Code-899 and read by title for its introduction.

The Borough Clerk then read by title Ordinance No. 22-Code-899 entitled, **"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XIII, SECTION 10 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED "FEE SCHEDULE" AND SECTION 13 ENTITLED, "CHARGES AND FEES"**

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, 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 AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XIII, SECTION 10 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED "FEE SCHEDULE" AND SECTION 13 ENTITLED, "CHARGES AND FEES"**", be introduced;

That said Ordinance be considered for final adoption at a Borough Council Meeting on Wednesday December 21, 2022 at the Borough of Oakland, Municipal Court/Council Chambers, 10 Lawlor Drive, Oakland, N.J. at 7:00 p.m.

That said Ordinance be published in full in The Record on or before together with notice of this introduction and of the time and place for further consideration for final passage, and that the Borough Clerk post a copy of said Ordinance in the Municipal Building and make copies available to the public.

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

WORK SESSION:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ANALYSIS:

Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie provided a memorandum explaining the differences between establishing a Historic Preservation Commission vs. Committee. Mr. Chewcaskie advised that a Commission is a creature of statute and would be an autonomous body with specific review powers of land use applications. The Commission would also have oversight on permit applications for residential construction and improvement projects. A Committee is an advisory body with specific charges. Mr. Chewcaskie added that the Borough Planner is working on identifying historic structures in the Borough. Councilman Pignatelli asked for the intent of establishing such a body. Mayor Schwager added that the Borough must be plan ahead of sewers being installed in the Central Business District. Mr. Chewcaskie also added that the Borough would have the right to enact historic districts within the Borough. It was explained that if there is a non-historic property within a historic district, the Commission would have the authority to review construction permit applications. Councilman Pignatelli stated that he is in favor of a Committee form. Mayor Schwager suggested that the Governing Body review the analysis and this topic be placed as a work session item at the next Borough Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business reported.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Schwager asked on the status of the Stream House Design and a follow-up meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Kunze advised that he is working on scheduling a meeting for the near future.

Councilman Talamini left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

COUNCILMAN KULMALA: Absent.

COUNCILMAN MCCANN: Councilman McCann read aloud a message from the Police Chief warning residents to lock their cars and to not leave key fobs in their car due to recent thefts in the area. If the public has any leads on the recent thefts within the Borough, please contact the Oakland Police Department Detective Bureau at (201) 337-6171. Councilman McCann informed the public of an individual by the name of Larry Levine who has been inappropriately contacting him. Councilman McCann advised that although Mr. Levine is entitled to his first amendment rights to contact a public official, but on two occasions, personal property was approached by Mr. Levine and/or an agent of Mr. Levine's. Councilman McCann warned Mr. Levine to not approach his property at any time in the future. Mayor Schwager confirmed that this is not the Levine Family who lives on Martha Place.

COUNCILMAN PIGNATELLI: Councilman Pignatelli reported that the Environmental Commission held their meeting on December 6th. The Sustainable Oakland Green Team is recycling Christmas Lights throughout the Holiday season at the Ace Hardware and Copper Tree Mall. The Commission is working on projects for 2023 such as park cleanups and solar panels. The Commission is working on revitalizing the butterfly and pollinator gardens within Great Oak Park. Lastly, the Commission will be working on promoting composting to the public via social media and educational opportunities. The Senior Center Noon Year's Eve Party was announced on December 31, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Councilman Pignatelli encouraged the public to get the flu shot, especially senior citizens. Over 4,000 deaths have been reported in 2022 due to the flu.

COUNCILMAN SALIANI: Councilman Saliani reported that the Shade Tree Commission met and the Borough Tree Inventory is 50% completed. The Commission is seeking a new Borough Forester. RFQ's have been released for spring tree plantings and tree removal and pruning. Councilman Saliani read aloud statistics for tree permits and replacements. The Toys for Tots Train was announced for December 10, 2022 at Bush Plaza.

COUNCILMAN SLASINSKI: Councilman Slasinski reported that the completion date for the Sanitary Sewer Treatment Plants Decommissioning Project remains August 24, 2023. The contractor has completed all force main piping work except for the directional drilling at the railroad crossing on Ramapo Valley Road. Boswell Engineering investigated that the work be done at night, however at an extra cost to the Borough. The contractor has commenced installing the gravity sewer along Monhegan Avenue and Lakeside Boulevard. This work will take approximately two (2) months to complete. The Iroquois Pump Station Upgrades project will be completed by early 2023. The Oakland Public Library has announced a performance of the Nutcracker on December 11, 2022.

COUNCILMAN TALAMINI: Absent.

Mayor Schwager announced that there is a meeting scheduled with the public for an update on the Sanitary Sewer Treatment Plant Decommissioning Project on Thursday December 15, 2022 at the Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Edward Hudzina of 576 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, N.J. 07436 asked why his neighbor's mailbox was not replaced yet as a result of the sidewalk installation project. Mr. Hudzina suggested that installing sewers in the downtown would bring in an excess of redevelopment that will negatively affect the already poor traffic situation.

Mame Schwarzfischer of 187 West Oakland Avenue, Oakland, N.J. 07436 encouraged the public to attend the Toys for Toys Event. Ms. Schwarzfischer advised that she would like to setup something to recognize the Veterans on Veterans Day for 2023. Mayor Schwager advised that the American Legion Post 369 usually hold an outdoor ceremony. Ms. Schwarzfischer advised that she would get together with the American Legion to expand the program for 2023. Ms. Schwarzfischer encouraged the public to volunteer at the Van Allen House for educational programs.

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

BILLS TO BE PAID:

On motion of Councilman Slasinski, 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:** **McCann, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski.**
 Nays: **None**
 Abstain: **None**
 (4 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

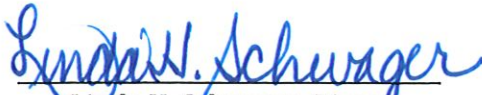
ADJOURNMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.


Adjourned: 8:21 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Linda H. Schwager, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michael E. Carelli, Borough Clerk