

BOROUGH OF OAKLAND

Borough Council Meeting MEETING MINUTES

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

May 10, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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. Tax Appeal Settlement;
 - b. 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: Kulmala, 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.

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, McCann, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.

Also Present: Borough Administrator Richard Kunze, Borough Clerk Michael Carelli, Borough Attorney Matthew Gilson, Chief Financial Officer David Young, Borough Engineer John Yakimik.

Absent: None.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Schwager announced the Oakland Carnival, which will run from June 21, 2023 through June 24, 2023 at the Oakland Recreation Complex. The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Sunday May 28, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Lineup begins at 12:00 p.m. The Borough Shredding Day is scheduled for Saturday May 27, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Borough Hall. There will be a Job Fair on Thursday May 25, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Oakland Public Library. The Mayor announced the Skyline Drive Cleanup for May 13, 2023. The Marine Corps League will hold an outdoor flower sale on May 13, 2023. The Mayor announced that Tuesday May 16, 2023 is the last day to register to vote for the Primary Election, and the Borough Clerk's office will remain open until 9 p.m. to accept registrations.

RECOGNITION OF OAKLAND BRAVES WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Mayor Schwager and Council President Saliani presented certificates to the Oakland Braves Wrestling Champions.

3RD GRADE GIRLS TRAVEL BASKETBALL RECOGNITION:

Mayor Schwager and Council President Saliani presented certificates to the 3rd grade girls Travel Basketball Champions.

LOUIS BAY 2ND FUTURE MUNICIPAL LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER:

Mayor Schwager presented a certificate to Jonathan Calabrese recognizing his essay as part of the Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship. Mr. Calabrese read aloud his essay submission.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Michele Younes of 2 Rock Ledge, Oakland, N.J. 07436, commented on the Ramapo River Reserve Board's communications to the Borough. Ms. Younes expressed further concerns with the weight restrictions on the Patriot's Way Bridge.

Jeff Klien of 9 Kingsley Circle, Oakland, N.J. 07436, commented on the Patriot's Way Bridge and courage the Borough to do more.

Mame Schwarzfischer of 187 West Oakland Avenue, Oakland, N.J. 07436, spoke on an issue with the Oakland Public Library. Mayor Schwager asked that all comments be held due to it being a personnel issue with the Borough.

Cindy Wonak of 63 Winding Ridge, Oakland, N.J. 07436, asked the status of the Borough's grant applications on the Patriot's Way Bridge, and why the Borough was denied funding.

Steve Panosian of 69 Glen Grey Road, Oakland, N.J. 07436, thanked the Borough for the hand delivered letter regarding the weight restrictions of the Patriot's Way Bridge.

Kevin Heffernan of 40 Grove Street, Oakland, N.J. 07436, thanked the Governing Body for their support on the Bush Plaza Park banner.

Brian Emeroff of 3 Bears Den, Oakland, N.J. 07436, asked the Governing Body to move forward with the superstructure replacement of the Patriot's Way Bridge.

Gene Naroditsky of 49 Hunters Run, Oakland, N.J. 07436, asked what happens if the Borough does not replace the bridge.

Chopper Russo of 393 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, N.J. 07436, announced the Oakland Memorial Day Parade for Sunday May 28, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. along Ramapo Valley Road. Mr. Russo further announced Fever Pitch for Saturday June 3, 2023 at the Oakland Recreation Complex. Mr. Russo also announced the Oakland Carnival for June 21, 2023 through June 24, 2023 at the Oakland Recreation Complex. Wristbands will be made available at kiosks during the Carnival. There is no pre-sale.

Angela Gonzo of 72 Winding Ridge, Oakland, N.J. 07436, asked if the Borough has reached out to its legislators for assistance with the Patriot's Way Bridge. Ms. Gonzo also asked for an update on the conditions of the roads.

Jennifer Hansen of 12 Fieldstone Court, Oakland, N.J. 07436, expressed safety concerns with the Patriot's Way Bridge. Ms. Hansen encouraged the Governing Body to take immediate action.

Vic Pedalino of 52 McNomee Street, Oakland, N.J. 07436, thanked Councilman Kulmala for his updates on the short-term rentals and boarding house ordinances. Mr. Pedalino asked what the enforcement would be regarding the proposed ordinances.

Filomena Laforgia of 54 Saratoga Drive, Oakland, N.J. 07436, commented on the mission of the Oakland Access for All Committee. Ms. Laforgia asked other Borough Committees to collaborate with the Access for All Committee. Ms. Laforgia commented that her son had applied to the Department of Public Works for a Seasonal Laborer position, but was never contacted.

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 12, 2023

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Slasinski, to approve the above listed minutes.

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

April 26, 2023 Executive Session

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

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

April 26, 2023

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

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS/RAFFLES/REQUESTS:

**AUTHORIZE RAFFLE LICENSE #RL1455 FOR RAMAPO-BERGEN ANIMAL REFUGE, INC.
FOR ON-PREMISE RAFFLE FOR MERCHANDISE ON JUNE 21, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 24,
2023 AT 24 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, N.J. 07436**

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Talamini, to approve Raffle License #RL1455.

ALL IN FAVOR

APPOINTMENT TO ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

On motion of Councilman Kulmala, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, Cesar Arredondo be appointed as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year unexpired term, with a term expiration date of December 31, 2024.

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

RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA:

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

**23-156: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX BILLING FOR
THIRD QUARTER OF 2023**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 54:4-66.2 allows for a governing body of a municipality operating on the calendar fiscal year to use an estimated 3rd quarter tax bill if it is determined that the tax collector will be unable to complete the mailing or delivery of tax bills by June 14 provided that the estimated and reconciled tax bills shall be mailed by June 30 and September 30 respectively, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Borough Tax Collector will not be in receipt of a certified tax rate in enough time to be able to complete the mailing and delivery of real property tax bills by June 14, 2023 as is required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector and the Chief Financial Officer have requested that the Council provide them with the latitude to submit estimated 3rd quarter real property tax bills in the event that they do not timely receive a certified tax rate, which would allow the Tax Collector to complete the mailing and delivery of real property tax bills by June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3 and they have both signed a certification showing the tax levy for the previous year, and the range of permitted estimated tax levies; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 72, P.L. 1994, the Tax Collector requests the Council approve the estimated tax levy of \$71,228,218.16 at a tax rate of 2.355; and

WHEREAS, the above levy and rate have been calculated on a worksheet that is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference; and

WHEREAS, the above levy amount falls between the mandated estimated range required by N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3(a)(1) and approval will enable the Borough to meet its financial obligations; maintain the tax collection rate; provide uniformity for tax payments; and save the unnecessary cost of interest expenses on borrowing.

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 Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and timely issue estimated tax bills for the Borough of Oakland for the third quarter installment of 2023 taxes.
2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2023 is hereby set at \$71,228,218.16. The estimated tax rate for 2023 is hereby set at 2.355.
3. In accordance with applicable law, the third quarter installment of 2023 taxes (whether estimated or not) shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10 or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer for their records.
5. The Tax Collector and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.
6. This resolution shall take effect as herein provided.

23-157: APPOINT FIRE OFFICIAL

WHEREAS, Denny Knubel has been Interim Fire Official for the Borough of Oakland since November 23, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council wish to make the appointment of Denny Knubel permanent;

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 Denny Knubel, is hereby appointed as Fire Official effective May 11, 2023 at a rate of \$41.04 per hour.

23-158: HIRE CLERK 1 FOR BOARD OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, there is a need to hire a full-time Clerk 1 for the Board of Health of the Borough of Oakland;

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, hereby authorize the hire of Laura Saunders as Clerk 1 for the Board of Health at a salary of \$47,000.00, effective May 22, 2023.

23-159: AUTHORIZE GRANT SUBMITTAL TO FY 2023 BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION, FARMLAND, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND MUNICIPAL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR OAKLAND RECREATION FIELD REFURBISHMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("County Trust Fund"), provides matching grants to municipal governments and to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of outdoor municipal recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland desires to further the public interest by obtaining a matching grant of \$139,500.00 from the County Trust Fund to fund the Bush Plaza Revitalization Project; and

WHEREAS, the governing body/board has reviewed the County Trust Fund Program Statement, and the Trust Fund Municipal Program Park Improvement application and instructions, and desires to make an application for such a matching grant and provide application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application process, the governing body/board received held the required Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed park improvements in the application on May 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen shall determine whether the application is complete and in

conformance with the scope and intent of the County Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the County Trust Fund in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Bergen for the above named project and ensure its completion on or about the project contract expiration date.

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. That it is hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the deadline of May 13, 2023, as established by the County of Bergen; and
2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above, the Borough of Oakland has, or will secure, the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and,
3. That the Borough of Oakland is committed to providing a dollar for dollar cash match for the project; and
4. That only those park improvements identified and approved in the project application, its Trust Fund contract, or other documentation will be considered eligible for reimbursement; and
5. That the Borough of Oakland agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

23-160: HIRE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SEASONAL LABORERS

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 the hiring of the following Seasonal Laborers for the Department of Public Works:

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE:</u>	<u>SALARY RATE:</u>
Peter Arvanitis	May 15, 2023	\$15.00 per hour
Alexander VanDyke	May 15, 2023	\$15.00 per hour
Zachary Williams	May 15, 2023	\$15.00 per hour

23-161: AUTHORIZE ACCRUED TIME PAYOUT FOR TABISH TAHIR

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-15 establishes rules that govern how local government units manage and finance compensation for accumulated absence time for their respective employees, and

WHEREAS, accumulated absence includes any sick days, vacation days, personal days, compensatory time or any other absence time authorized as part of an employer agreement, which is not used by the employee during the allowed period and which is permitted to accumulate over time to the benefit of the employee, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the funds and authority exists to pay the part of the accumulated absence, as per the attached schedule, to Tabish Tahir for sick, vacation, personal and compensatory time accumulated in the amount of \$1,348.09; and

WHEREAS, the attached certification and documentation are presented to comply with the rules and regulations established by the Local Finance Board.

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 the total sum \$1,348.09 composed of 49.20 of vacation time, 52.5 hours of sick time, and 0.00 hours of personal time, and 0.00 hours compensatory time be paid out to Tabish Tahir. Said payment to be paid out of the Accumulated Absence Trust Fund established in 2010 for this purpose.

23-162: AWARD AUCTION BIDS

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36, the Borough of Oakland may sell any personal property; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland previously authorized the sale of surplus vehicle(s) and equipment via online public auction; and

WHEREAS, said auction took place and the Governing Body now wishes to approve the winning bids.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, that the winning bids and amounts thereof are hereby approved for the following:

<u>VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>WINNING BIDDER</u>	<u>WINNING BID PRICE</u>
Brine Tank 400 Gallon	Joseph Torres	\$285.00
Seagrave Ladder Truck	Russell Osman	\$5,300.00
Brine Tank 800 Gallon	David Klingerman	\$420.00
2012 Ferris	Glenn Silbert	\$960.00
Bobcat Combo Bucket	Ruby Magill	\$2,400.00
8' Uni-Mount Western Plow	Carmen Yannuzzi	\$400.00
2015 61" Ferris	Glenn Silbert	\$885.00
7.5' Western Plow	Donald Graham	\$525.00
Road Saw	Ronald Palmerick	\$410.00

**23-163: AWARD CONTRACT TO NATURAL GREEN LAWN CARE FOR TRUMAN
FIELD TURF REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, there is a need to replace the turf at Truman Field; and

WHEREAS, JCW, Inc. dba/Natural Green Lawn Care, 795 East Main Street, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807, has the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Co-op Pricing Bid #ESCNJ20/21-49 for Lawn Care Products and Services; and

WHEREAS, JCW, Inc. dba/Natural Green Lawn Care has submitted Proposal #ESCNJ20/21-49 dated April 26, 2023 for the services required in the amount of \$111,165.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in Account # C-04-56-885-510 in the amount of \$111,165.00;

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 award the contract for the Truman Field Turf Replacement Project to JCW, Inc. dba/Natural Green Lawn Care in the amount of \$111,165.00;

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

**23-164: AUTHORIZE REFUND OF TAXES FOR RICK LI & SHUJUAN CHEN DUE TO
OVERPAYMENT**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received a request (attached) for a refund of taxes in the amount of \$2,048.59; 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 #CF-01-55-998-002 Tax Refund;

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 authorize a payment to be made in the amount of \$2,048.59 to:

Rick Li & Shujuan Chen	Block 3903
49 Finnegan Avenue, Spt. J-13	Lot 42.48
Saddle Brook, N.J. 07663	

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

RESOLUTIONS:

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

**23-136: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A NON-BINDING BALLOT QUESTION
 RELATED TO PERMISSIBILITY 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 of 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?”

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

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

23-165: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE REHABILITATION OF PATRIOT’S WAY BRIDGE PROJECT

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor and Borough Council of Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as LTPF-2023-Rehabilitation of Patriots Way Bri-00145 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Borough of Oakland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Borough of Oakland, and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

My signature and the Clerk’s seal serve to acknowledge the above resolution and constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement as authorized by the resolution above.

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

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 23-CODE-904

"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7; SECTION 16 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND 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 CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND RELATED TO PERMIT PARKING"**

On motion of Councilman Kulmala, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, 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 CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND RELATED TO PERMIT PARKING**, be introduced;

That said Ordinance be considered for final adoption at a Borough Council Meeting on Wednesday May 24, 2023 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 Bergen 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:** **Kulmala, McCann, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.**
 Nays: **None.**
 Abstain: **None.**
 (6 ayes – 0 nays –motion carried)

WORK SESSION:

GOVERNING BODY MEMBER SALARIES:

Councilman McCann proposed that the Governing Body members release their salaries due to save budgetary funds. Councilman Kulmala said that he is ok with giving up his salary. Councilman Pignatelli added that he does not consider it a salary – but rather a small stipend that recognizes a title of a part-time position. Councilman Talamini has no comment. Councilman Slasinski has no comment. Mayor Schwager added that she uses her salary to give back to the Borough, whether it

for tickets for events, the carnival, or other events. The Mayor polled the Borough Council. The Borough Council agreed not to pursue releasing the salaries.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 5163 VIOLATION OF THE REAR SEAT BELT LAW:

Mayor Schwager proposed an endorsing resolution for Assembly Bill No. 5163, which allows Police officers to give a ticket if the rear passenger is not wearing a seat belt. Councilman Talamini added that this is a project that his daughter is working on with Indian Hills High School. The Borough Council agreed to have an endorsing resolution on the May 24, 2023 Borough Council Meeting.

AMEND PARKING ORDINANCE FOR PARKING OF TRUCKS, VEHICLES, AND TRAILERS:

Borough Administrator Richard Kunze stated that this is result of a conversation with the Police Department. The current code needs to be tightened to reflect specific and/or all Borough roadways. The current code does not list any specific roads and cannot be enforced. Councilman Kulmala thanked Mr. Kunze for his work on this ordinance. Mr. Kunze clarified that the ordinance would state anything over 3 tons, and/or trailers, RV's, etc. The Borough Council consented to introducing the ordinance at the May 24, 2023 Borough Council Meeting.

CAPITAL ORDINANCE:

Chief Financial Officer David Young presented the Borough's capital plan for 2023. Mr. Kunze highlighted specific projects and needs. Councilman Kulmala asked if the card access system is for the Recreation Complex. Mr. Kunze clarified that the project will finish the DPW Building and the Recreation Complex. Councilman Kulmala asked if the Borough got a grant for the replacement of the Senior Bus. Mr. Kunze responded that the Borough tried to pursue NJDEP funding, but it was limited and only for electric busses. Councilman Pignatelli asked if the bus will be ADA accessible. The Borough Council consented to introducing the capital ordinance at the May 24, 2023 Borough Council Meeting.

WELL #9 ELECTRICAL RENOVATIONS:

Mr. Kunze brought forth a proposal for engineering services to replace the electrical infrastructure at Well #9. The project is needed due to the expected PFAS Compound Treatment System project. The Borough Council consented to adopt the proposal at the May 24, 2023 Borough Council Meeting.

SHORT TERM RENTALS / BOARDING HOUSE ORDINANCES:

Mayor Schwager brought forth the proposed ordinances for consideration due to receiving several complaints from residents within the past few months. Councilman Kulmala asked that the Borough consider Mr. Pedalino's questions and concerns before introducing the ordinances as is.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business reported.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Schwager addressed speeding issues on Hiawatha Boulevard. Mayor Schwager added that she receives complaints about the conditions of the roads. Mayor Schwager expressed concerns about the conditions of Lakeside Boulevard. Mayor Schwager addressed concerns with the weight restrictions of the Patriot's Way Bridge. Mayor Schwager clarified that the Police Department encouraged two emergency exits. Mayor Schwager added that the Borough is submitting one more grant application, and if the funding does not come through, that the Borough will pursue the replacement via bonding. Councilman Saliani asked if the short-term repairs are still being considered. Mr. Yakimik responded that there is a plan in place, and that quotes are being sought out from bridge contractors to repair specific localized sections of the deck. Councilman McCann asked why the Borough has to conduct another inspection, and questioned if there are uncovered problems that we do not know about. Mr. Yakimik responded that hands-on inspections need to be performed to get a better understanding of what is happening below the deck. Mr. Yakimik added that the Lenape Lane Bridge is in good condition and can withstand up to 35 tons of weight. Mr. Yakimik addressed the Lakeside Boulevard conditions, and advised that the road will be paved over the summer. Councilman Kulmala asked for a timeline of the Patriot's Way Bridge project moving forward. Councilman McCann asked if the Borough could go out to bid now while we wait for the NJDOT grant decision. Mr. Yakimik advised that the Borough would not want to go out to bid twice because contractors will be spending a lot of time and money on preparing bid specifications for this project. Mr. Kunze suggested to wait to hear back from the NJDOT prior to going out to bid, but suggested working out the financing end now to save potential time.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Talamini: Councilman Talamini announced the Memorial Day Parade for Sunday May 28, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. along Ramapo Valley Road. The Public Events Committee is seeking volunteers. The Oakland Carnival is June 21, 2023 through June 24, 2023 at the Oakland Recreation Complex. Councilman Talamini thanked the Access for All Committee for their participation.

Councilman Kulmala: Councilman Kulmala reminded residents that there are vacancies on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Sustainable Oakland Green Team's FLOW Green Film Festival is scheduled for Saturday June 3, 2023 in Veterans Park. Councilman Kulmala announced that the Sustainable Oakland Green Team hosted a successful outdoor hike last weekend.

Councilman Pignatelli: Councilman Pignatelli thanked all of the teachers as part of Teacher Appreciation Week. Councilman Pignatelli cited statistics from the Oakland First Aid Squad.

Councilman McCann: Councilman McCann thanked the Police Officers during National Police Week. The Public Safety Committee is going to work with the Administration Committee to review

the safety aspects of the cannabis businesses in the Borough. Mayor Schwager added that the Police did participate in the Cannabis Ad-Hoc Committee.

Councilman Slasinski: Councilman Slasinski reported that the Communications Commission is seeking volunteers. Councilman Slasinski cited programs from the Oakland Public Library.

Councilman Salianni: Councilman Salianni reminded residents to report street light outages and potholes to the Department of Public Works. The Shade Tree Commission is seeking additional members. Councilman Salianni announced soccer, football, and cheerleading signups. Councilman Salianni added that he is the new liaison to the Flood Commission.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Councilman Kulmala 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, commented on Councilman McCann.

Matthew Goodrich of 72 Hiawatha Boulevard, Oakland, N.J. 07436, cited statistics from the 2020 General Election.

Thomas "Chopper" Russo of 393 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, N.J. 07436, congratulated Manito Elementary School for being ranked one of the best schools in the area. Mr. Russo announced that the Mother's Club will be handling the legalized games of chance at the Carnival.

Mame Schwarzfischer of 187 West Oakland Avenue, Oakland, N.J. 07436, asked what the process is moving forward for Kusala Care LLC's cannabis cultivation license.

Jennifer Hansen of 12 Fieldstone Court, Oakland, N.J. 07436, expressed concerns with the traffic in the Ramapo River Reserve, and asked if the Borough could install a speeding monitor on Ramapo River Trace.

William Sisti of 12 Eagle Crest Place, Oakland, N.J. 07436, commented that he is pleased with all of the new infrastructure being installed and suggested that residents are not driving slow enough down the roads in question. Mr. Sisti asked what the cost would be to the average taxpayer for the full superstructure replacement of the Patriot's Way Bridge.

Kevin Heffernan of 40 Grove Street, Oakland, N.J. 07436, commented on the discussion of the Governing Body member salaries.

Michele Younes of 2 Rock Ledge, Oakland, N.J. 07436, asked if the residents of the Crystal Lake area received hand delivered letters on the weight restrictions. Ms. Younes asked for direct communications by the Borough on the Patriot's Way Bridge.

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Mr. Gilson explained the process moving forward regarding Kusala Care LLC's Cannabis Cultivation License.

Councilman McCann addressed resident Michael Guadagnino.

Councilman Talamini wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

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, McCann, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.
 Nays: None.
 Abstain: None.
 (6 ayes – 0 nays –motion carried)

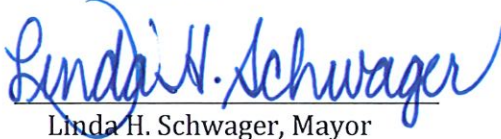
ADJOURNMENT:

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

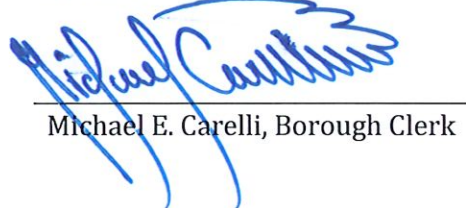
ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 9:45 p.m.

APPROVED BY:


Linda H. Schwager, Mayor

ATTEST:


Michael E. Carelli, Borough Clerk