

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE  
MUNICIPAL COURT /COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 14, 2021

MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion of Councilman Kulmala, seconded by Councilman Biale, 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 hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:  
Personnel; Affordable Housing
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: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

No action taken.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Van Eck, the Executive Session be closed.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Schwager called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck. Absent: None. Also Present: Michael Carelli, Deputy Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; Brian Chewcaskie, Borough Attorney.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Schwager announced that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, duly announced, submitted to the newspaper and advertised more than 48 hours in advance of the meeting and notice posted in the Municipal Building and on the Borough website.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Schwager advised the school election will be held on April 20, 2021. There will be in person voting. Mayor Schwager advised that many residents email her and the Council regarding school issues. She advised that the Mayor and Council have no control over school policies. She spoke to the Superintendent about getting the School Board members email on their website so residents can email the School Board members directly. Mayor Schwager advised residents who are having trouble canceling the Suburban News to call customer service or the gentleman in charge of delivery and she gave the phone numbers. Mayor Schwager spoke of scam phone calls and advised residents to call the Police to report them. The Green Team is doing a town clean up on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 am. The Borough is trying to identify homebound residents that cannot get out to get a vaccination. She advised them to contact the Senior Center. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Community Garden will be held Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Mayor Schwager congratulated the Shade Tree Commission because Oakland received 2020 Tree City USA designation.

**OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

Rachel Gregory, 2 Kiowa Terrace, spoke about a sewer backup in her home and her neighbor's home on April 5<sup>th</sup> and again today. She spoke about the project to reline the pipes and how it hasn't been done yet. She wants an update.

**CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 10, 2021

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Van Eck, the minutes from the Mayor and Council meeting of March 10, 2021 be approved.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 22, 2021 BUDGET MEETING

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, the minutes from the Mayor and Council Budget meeting of March 22, 2021 be approved.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPOINTMENT TO GREEN TEAM:

Mayor Schwager appointed Dana Lustig to a one-year appointment on the Green Team to expire December 31, 2021.

APPOINTMENT TO OAKLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, Khrystyne Wengerter be appointed to the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPOINTMENT TO OAKLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, Steven Blanchard be appointed to the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPOINTMENT TO OAKLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, David Berger be appointed to the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPROVE RAFFLE LICENSE RL1399:

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, approval be granted for Raffle License RL1399 for the Mothers' Club of Oakland to hold a 50/50 raffle on June 4, 2021 at Portobello, 155 Ramapo Valley Road.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPROVE RAFFLE LICENSE RL1400:

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, approval be granted for Raffle License RL1399 for the Mothers' Club of Oakland to hold a raffle for merchandise on June 4, 2021 at Portobello, 155 Ramapo Valley Road.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-151 AWARD BID-INTERIOR RESTORATION OF VAN ALLEN HOUSE

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

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021, the Borough of Oakland received four (4) bids for the Interior Restoration of the Van Allen House project; and

WHEREAS, Lewis-Graham, Inc., 15 Brentwood Rd, Clark, NJ had the lowest responsive and responsible bid with a total bid price of \$ 177,500.00 and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator and the Borough Attorney have reviewed the bids and have recommended acceptance of the bid from Lewis-Graham, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified funds are available in Account # C-04-56-787-512 .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid of Lewis Graham, Inc. in the total amount of \$177,500.00 be accepted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Administrator is directed to prepare an appropriate contract for the same; and

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-152 AUTHORIZE GRANT AGREEMENT-B.C. 2020 OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND PARK IMPROVEMENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland wish to enter into a Bergen County Trust Fund Project Contract ("Contract") with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using a \$ 79,534 matching grant award from the 2021 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") for the municipal park project entitled Roosevelt Riverfront Park: Convert to Passive Park with ADA-Accessibility, located on Roosevelt Boulevard, on the tax maps of the Borough of Oakland;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize Mayor Linda H. Schwager be a signatory to the aforesaid Contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby acknowledge that, in general, the use of this Trust Fund grant towards this approved park project must be completed by or about February 16, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant will be disbursed to the municipality as a reimbursement upon submittal of certified Trust Fund payment and project completion documents and municipal vouchers, invoices, proofs of payment, and other such documents as may be required by the County in accordance with the Trust Fund's requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant disbursement to the municipality will be equivalent to fifty (50) percent of the eligible construction costs incurred (not to exceed total grant award) applied towards only the approved park improvements identified in the aforesaid Contract in accordance with the Trust Fund's requirements. Professional Services Costs may be reimbursed from grant award's unexpended balance, should there be a balance.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

#### RESOLUTION 21-153 AUTHORIZE RECREATION REFUNDS

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received a request for a refund of Recreation fees; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 requires governing body approval for said refund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby authorize a refund to:

Burchell Family, 111 Seminole Ave., Oakland, NJ amt. \$ 70 (Rec Basketball) and \$ 120 (Rec Baseball)

Edwards Family, 7 Iroquois Ave., Oakland, NJ, amt. \$ 113 (Lacrosse Pre-K)

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

#### RESOLUTION 21-154 AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF BOND-28 RYERSON LLC, BL.3802/L5

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received a request for a refund of Soil Erosion bond in the amount of \$2,000.00; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby authorize a refund from Account #T-13-56-286-010 to:

28 Ryerson LLC, c/o Philip Mimmo, 33 Bourbon Street, Wayne, NJ 07470  
amount due \$ 2,000.00.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-155 AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF BOND-91 W.OAKLAND AVE, LLC  
On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the following resolution be introduced, adopted and duly passed by roll call vote:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received a request for a refund of Performance Bond in the amount of \$ 10,740.00; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby authorize a refund from Account #T-13-56-286-010 to:

91 W. Oakland Ave, LLC, c/o Coli Construction, Attention: Jan Polman, 1 Sears Drive, Suite 104, Paramus NJ, 07652 amount due \$ 10,740.00.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-156 AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland entered into a Grant Agreement with Bergen County in June 2014 entitled "2013 Borough of Oakland Floodplain Protection Grant Program, Roosevelt Boulevard Park Expansion Acquisitions"; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the agreement require the Borough of Oakland to convey a conservation easement to Bergen County to assure that the public recreational opportunities and natural resource values of the property will be conserved and maintained forever;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize Mayor Linda H. Schwager and the Borough Clerk to execute the Deed of Conservation Easement for Floodplain Protection for Block 1605, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-157 AUTHORIZE GRANT APPLICATION TO ANJEC

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland wishes to make application for the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission's Grant Program in the amount of \$ 1,500.00 to help fund a Geographical Information System Map for Great Oak Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize the submittal of a grant application in the amount of \$ 1,500.00 to the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission's Grant Program.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 21-158 AUTHORIZE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANT APPLICATION-COMMUNITY GARDEN**

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

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program;

THEREFORE, the Governing Body of the Borough of Oakland has determined that the Borough of Oakland should apply for the aforementioned Grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Oakland, Bergen County, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 21-159 AUTHORIZE GRANT APPLICATION-BODY WORN CAMERAS**

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

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General is offering a grant program for the purchase of Body Worn Cameras for the Police Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby authorize the submittal of the grant application to the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 21-160 AUTHORIZE COUNTY ROAD RESURFACING AGREEMENT**

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

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen maintains roadways in the Borough of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, maintenance of County roads requires periodic resurfacing for the benefit of the drivers and residents of Bergen County; and

WHEREAS, the County Road Resurfacing Projects require cooperation and coordination from the municipality the roads are located in; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland needs to enter into a Shared Services agreement with the County of Bergen for the Road Resurfacing Program to memorialize the respective responsibilities of the County and the municipality in connection with a Road Resurfacing Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize the Shared Service Agreement with the County of Bergen for the County Road Resurfacing Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Linda H. Schwager and the Borough Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Borough.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 21-161 AUTHORIZE ADA COOPERATIVE CURB RAMP GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

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

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines mandate that public sidewalks at intersections provide, at a minimum, depressed curb cuts, detectable warning surfaces and a landing area at crosswalk locations; and

WHEREAS, public sidewalks are a municipal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.) promotes the broad use of shared services to reduce local expenses funded by property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Bergen County seeks to assist municipalities with the obligation to comply with New Jersey Department of Transportation and Federal ADA regulations on County roadways by dedicating a portion of the County's New Jersey Department of Transportation, Bureau of Local Aid funds for the installation of ADA improvements; and

WHEREAS, the County will, upon proper verification and pre-construction authorization by the County Engineer, reimburse participating municipalities for the design and inspection costs in connection with the County ADA Cooperative Curb Ramp contract provided that participating municipalities are responsible for all costs outside the scope of work; and

WHEREAS, in order to avail itself of this program, the Borough of Oakland must enter into a ADA Cooperative Curb Ramp Construction Grant Agreement with the County of Bergen; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council deem participation in this program to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the ADA Cooperative Curb Ramp Construction Grant Agreement as prepared by the County of Bergen, a draft of which is attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the County of Bergen.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

#### RESOLUTION 21-162 ADJUST SALARY-ASSISTANT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council has deemed it appropriate to award a salary increase to the Assistant to the Administrator Michael Carelli in light of his performance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland that Mr. Carelli's base salary be \$ 62,500 effective April 15, 2021.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

#### RESOLUTION 21-163 APPOINT SENIOR CENTER AIDE

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland needs to hire a part-time Program Aide for the Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Center Director has made a recommendation to appoint Debbie Henry to work for the Borough of Oakland on an "as needed basis" for the Senior Center as a part-time Program Aide at a rate of \$15.00 per hour;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby appoint Debbie Henry to the position of part-time Program Aide at a salary of \$15.00 per hour effective April 14, 2021.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 21-164 SET FEE STRUCTURE-PLANT SALE**

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

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Oakland Green Team wishes to hold a Pollinator Plant sale in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the fee structure for the plant sale must be established;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following fees be established for the Sustainable Oakland Green Team Plant sale:

- 3 plants for \$25
- 6 plants for \$ 45
- 9 plants for \$ 65
- 18 plants for \$125

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 21-165 ASSIGN ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACT**

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland entered into a contract with Sophy Sedarat, Esq. to provide services as an Alternate Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, Sophy Sedarat, Esq. has accepted employment with the law firm Price Meese Shulman & D'Arminio, PC and desires to assign the contract to Price Meese Shulman & D'Arminio, PC; and

WHEREAS, an Assignment of Contract has been prepared by the Borough Attorney and executed by Sophy Sedarat, Esq. and Price Meese Shulman & D'Arminio, PC setting forth their desire to assign the aforementioned contract; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Borough of Oakland approve such assignment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Assignment of Contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to Sophy Sedarat, Esq. and Price Meese Shulman & D'Arminio, PC.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-166 AUTHORIZE CONTRACT-CONNOLLY & HICKEY-GRANT ASSISTANCE

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

WHEREAS, the Borough will be applying for a grant from the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund for construction funds for the Interior Renovation Project at the Van Allen House; and

WHEREAS, Connolly & Hickey has submitted a proposal dated April 6, 2021 for their services to prepare the grant application in the amount not to exceed \$ 1,250; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in Account # 1-01-20-110-044; and

WHEREAS, Connolly & Hickey 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 Council hereby authorize the contract for grant preparation services be awarded to Connolly & Hickey as specified in the April 6, 2021 proposal in an amount not to exceed \$ 1,250; and

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-167 SUPPORT S3522 LOCAL PERS

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

WHEREAS, county, municipal, and other local governments have met their pension obligations as employers for more than a decade while the State of New Jersey has continued to underfund the pension systems in varying degrees since 1996 and thus created one of the worst publicly funded retirement systems in the entire nation; and,

WHEREAS, despite fulfilling their fiduciary duties in meeting their pension obligations, local governments across the State will experience double digit percentage increases in total employer pension contributions in 2021 as determined in figures recently published by the Division of Pension and Benefits in the State Department of Treasury; and,

WHEREAS, even more alarming for local government employers is the fact that the unfunded accrued liability once again increased in 2021 to a staggering \$26.6 billion for the Public

Employee's Retirement System ("PERS") alone, causing in part, a decrease in the funded ratio for the Local Part of PERS to 65.4%, the State Part to 31.2%, and the combined rate to a disconcerting 52.2% far below the target funded ratio of 75.0%; and,

WHEREAS, S-3522 would divide PERS into two parts: A State Part for State employees, and a Local Part for all other employees; and

WHEREAS, the legislation creates a seven-member board consisting of three labor employee representatives, three management representatives, and one determined by the Board, tasked with operating the retirement system and directing policies and investments to achieve and maintain full funding; and

WHEREAS, this legislation is similar to the legislation that separated the Police and Fire Retirement System (P.L. 2018, c. 55) except for the control of investments and that management has an equal representation on the board, which was overwhelmingly supported by the legislature and signed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, S-3522 would protect local governing bodies from the State of New Jersey further directing property taxpayer dollars to subsidize its long mismanagement and underfunding of the pension systems as it would provide the new balanced board of trustees of PERS with the ability to determine or modify member benefits, direct policies and investments to achieve full funding, and serve as fiduciary of the system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland does in fact hereby support S-3522, which would establish a new board of trustees for the Local Part of PERS to preserve the structure and integrity of the more solvent Local Part.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Speaker of the General Assembly Craig Coughlin, Senator Holly Schepisi and Assemblyman Robert Auth and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-168 APPROVE USE OF ALTERNATE CDC QUARANTINE GUIDELINES FOR RECREATION SPORTS PROGRAMS

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

WHEREAS, while the Governing Body remains supportive of efforts to control the spread of the coronavirus, it is also mindful of the negative effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the mental and physical well-being of our children; and

WHEREAS, sports programs provide a much needed outlet for physical activity and socialization; and

WHEREAS, after due consideration, the Governing Body believes that the use of the alternate CDC quarantine periods are appropriate for team sports.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council that the Recreation Commission is hereby authorized to use either of the alternate CDC quarantine periods for outdoor sports programs as specified below:

- After day 10 without testing
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later). Proof of a negative test result must be provided.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that indoor sports programs will continue to follow the quarantine guidance issued by the Bergen County Department of Health.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-169 AUTHORIZE REFUND TAXES DUE TO JUDGMENT BL. 3204, L2  
On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the following resolution be introduced, adopted and duly passed by roll call vote:

WHEREAS, a Tax Court Judgment was entered, in the matter of 100 Bauer Drive Assoc. LLC et al v. Borough of Oakland, Docket No. 002510-2018, reducing the assessment of Block 3204, Lot 2 to \$3,400,000 for the Tax Year 2018 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, a refund of the 2019 property taxes is now due in the amount of \$ 5,692.50;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland, upon the advice of the Tax Collector, do hereby authorize a check be issued to Daniel Keough, Trustee, Ventura, Miesowitz, Keough & Warner, 783 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901-2332.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-170 AUTHORIZE REFUND TAXES DISABLED VETERAN BL.5301, L5  
On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the following resolution be introduced, adopted and duly passed by roll call vote:

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020, Bryan Fernandez, owner of 720 Ramapo Valley Road, Block 5301, Lot 5, was declared permanently disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor granted a full property tax exemption as a permanently disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, taxes for the first quarter of 2021 were inadvertently paid;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland that a refund for the 2021 first quarter property taxes in the amount of \$ 2,055.82 be issued to Bryan Fernandez.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-171 AUTHORIZE GRANT APPLICATION-B.C. AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland wishes to make application for the Bergen County Audubon Society's Grant Program in the amount of \$ 1,500.00 to help fund the expansion of the Borough's Monarch Waystations and Butterfly Gardens within Great Oak Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize the submittal of a grant application in the amount of \$ 1,500.00 to the Bergen County Audubon Society's Grant Program.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-172 AUTHORIZE REQUEST FOR FUNDING-TRANSPORTATION MEMBER DESIGNATED PROJECT

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland wishes to submit a "House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Member Designated Project Request" to the Office of U.S. Congressman Josh Gottheimer under the eligible program of "Local Transportation Initiatives" for the Superstructure Replacement of Patriots Way Bridge in the amount of \$ 4,184,830.00; and

WHEREAS, this request for funding in in the best interests of the citizens of the Borough of Oakland;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby authorizes the submittal of the funding request for the Patriots Way Bridge request to Congressman Gottheimer's office.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 21-173 AUTHORIZE COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland wishes to submit a "Community Project Funding Request" to the Office of U.S. Congressman Josh Gottheimer under the State and Tribal Assistance Grants Program for the Sewer Utility Decommissioning Project in the amount of \$ 4,572,864.00; and

WHEREAS, this request for funding in in the best interests of the citizens of the Borough of Oakland;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby authorizes the submittal of the Community Project Funding Request for the Sewer Utility Decommissioning Community Project to Congressman Gottheimer's office.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

FINAL PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE NO. 21-CODE-825 CAP BANK

The Clerk was directed to take from the table Ordinance No. 21-Code-825 and read by title for its final hearing.

The Clerk then read by title an Ordinance entitled " CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-45.14)"

OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

No comments made.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled, Calendar Year 2021 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-45.14)", be adopted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and she is hereby directed to cause said Ordinance to be published by title in The Record in the manner provided by law.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

FINAL PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE NO. 21-CODE-826 REGULATE CHICKENS-  
ORDINANCE AMENDED

The Clerk was directed to take from the table Ordinance No. 21-Code-826 and read by title for its final hearing.

The Clerk then read by title an Ordinance entitled " AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 59 "LAND USE AND ZONING", ARTICLE VII "ZONING", SECTION 59-49 "RESIDENTIAL ZONES", SUBSECTION 59-49B "ACCESSORY USE" TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS AS AN ACCESSORY USE"

OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

No comments made.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance entitled, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 59 "Land Use And Zoning", Article VII "Zoning", Section 59-49 "Residential Zones", Subsection 59-49b "Accessory Use" To Establish Rules And Regulations For The Keeping Of Chickens As An Accessory Use", be adopted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and she is hereby directed to cause said Ordinance to be published by title in The Record in the manner provided by law.

Councilman Kulmala stated there was confusion over discussion at the last meeting having to do with a fenced in yard serving as a chicken run. He asked if the ordinance can be modified to have a fenced in yard serve as chicken run. Mr. Chewcaskie stated that the issue that came up last time was that the chicken run was attached to the coop and was required to maintain a setback. His understanding of the modification is that the chicken run would not have to be subject to setback requirements. Councilman Pignatelli stated that there should be a revision in item 4 to say if the yard is fenced in , there does not have to be a separate chicken run. Mayor Schwager stated that the language in item 6 needs to be changed. Councilman Van Eck stated that an additional sentence should be added to say a fenced in yard would qualify as a chicken run. Mr. Chewcaskie read the wording to amend item 6 to confirm the chicken run no longer has to comply with the setback. He stated there needs to be a motion to amend. If that motion passes,

this will need to be republished. Councilman Pignatelli stated the language in item 4 needs to be modified as well.

#### MOTION TO AMEND ITEMS 4 AND 6

On motion of Councilman Kulmala, seconded by Councilman Biale, the language in items 4 and 6 of Ordinance 21-Code-826 be amended.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

Mr. Chewcaskie advised this must be sent back to the Planning Board. Mr. Kunze advised this can be adopted at the second meeting of May. Mr. Chewcaskie advised that the public hearing and adoption will be scheduled for May 26, 2021.

#### WORK SESSION:

##### GOVERNING BODY BYLAWS:

Motion to Carry:

On motion of Councilman Kulmala, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the discussion of the Governing Body bylaws be carried to the meeting of April 28, 2021.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

#### MARIJUANA:

Mayor Schwager stated that the Council must decide by the end date what they want to do or the State will decide for the Borough. Mayor Schwager state that the Council has to decide about what licenses to allow before August 20<sup>th</sup>. She stated marijuana is legal in NJ. The Council must decide if they want to allow licenses in Oakland. There are four licenses that must be decided on 1. Commercial/retail, 2. Cultivation 3. Processing/manufacturing and 4. Wholesale. Mayor Schwager advised if the first three licenses are allowed, the Borough gets 2% of sales. If the wholesale license is allowed, the Borough gets 1% of sales. She stated the Planning Board is in favor as long as it is properly placed.

Councilman Biale stated that Oakland residents voted for legalization by a 2 to 1 ratio. He thinks if residents are asked if they would allow marijuana to lower their taxes, it would pass again. He asked if the Council accepts one option, do they have to accept all options. Mayor Schwager stated they do not have to accept all. The ordinance needs to specify what will be allowed or prohibited. Mayor Schwager spoke of cultivation. She knows Councilman Pignatelli spoke at the last meeting about how much water is needed for cultivation but the person would be paying for it. She stated the Borough may have to purchase water if the downtown is sewerred. She has had inquiries from people interested in cultivation. Councilman Pignatelli stated the Commission met yesterday and he asked if there are any rules or regulations yet. He does not want to pass something before seeing what the rules and regulations are. Mayor Schwager advised that there is time to discuss this because the Council has until August to act.

Mr. Chewcaskie advised that the legislation established 6 distinct type licenses. The legislation gave the municipality 180 days to opt out. If the municipality does not take action, all those uses would be permitted based upon the municipality's current zoning. If a municipality had ordinances on the books to prohibit marijuana businesses as a preemptory strike, that would not be in force and effect. The Council can choose what they want to allow. When you regulate, the

statute provides you can regulate the number of types of licensed facilities, you can establish police power regulations and can establish distance requirements. He explained that most municipalities have prohibited all classes of use. The preclusion of use pursuant to zoning does not preclude use of produce on an individual's property. The Council cannot prohibit licensed delivery of the product. The question is if the Council wants to permit any types of uses. If so, where would you permit them, how many licenses would you allow and what are the restrictions in terms of location. He advised if the Council prohibits licenses today by outright ban, there is nothing that precludes coming back to amend that later.

Councilman Van Eck stated he would like an ordinance crafted that would permit activities like cultivation, manufacturing, wholesale, and warehousing in Industrial zones. As far as retail sale goes, he does not know what areas would be allowable when you take into account the drugfree zone and not having it within 1000 feet of a school. It also cannot be within a certain number of feet from a residential zone. He would recommend permitting licenses dependent on those local restrictions. Mayor Schwager asked if medical marijuana is still separate from recreational. Mr. Chewcaskie responded that medical can be separated from recreational use. Councilman Van Eck stated he is in favor of the ability of our community to get 2% tax on cultivation, manufacturing, retail and 1% on wholesale. He would like an ordinance crafted to allow for that to get the tax to go to the municipality. There was unanimous support by the Planning Board because they could see substantial tax revenue if an ordinance were adopted.

Mr. Chewcaskie stated that there are houses of worship and schools in the Industrial Park. Borough Engineer John Yakimik stated that Boswell has prepared a map with houses of worship and schools showing the radius. Mr. Kunze stated that this was looked at when medical marijuana was discussed a couple of years ago. Councilman Kulmala stated he has been making inquiries this past week to understand the law. He spoke to the Executive Director of the League of Municipalities Michael Cerra about what Mr. Cerra is seeing statewide. Mr. Cerra had advised that the Cannabis Commission only met for the first time on Monday. They meet again on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Kulmala would hate to see Oakland put the cart before the horse. The best course of action would be to outright ban it for now. It preserves the Borough's rights to make changes down the road when the Commission sets the rules. Councilman Van Eck stated that the Council knows what is best for Oakland.

Mayor Schwager would like to get the views of the residents. The votes on the legalization of marijuana from the November of election were more than 2 to 1 in favor of legalization. She stated that there are a lot of people that use medical marijuana. The Council has to make a decision whether to allow marijuana businesses because it will be big industry. The Council should hear from the residents. However, if the residents don't get it there, they will go to another town. Councilman Van Eck stated it is not just the ratables but the extra 1 or 2% that goes directly to the town. Councilman Pignatelli stated if the question is put to the Oakland residents what they want, they could answer "not in my backyard". He stated that the decision does not have to be made tonight and the Council should wait until the Commission publishes rules and regulations.

Mayor Schwager asked the Council to talk to the residents and do research. The Mayor and Council want to hear the opinions of the residents. Councilman Kulmala stated that the League of Municipalities does not know if the rules and regulations will even be ready before the deadline in August. He feels the Council should put the ban in now so it can be revisited in a responsible way when the rules are released. He does not want something passed in a knee jerk reaction before the rules are released. Councilman Van Eck stated there is no rush and the knee jerk reaction would be to ban this outright. Councilman Kulmala would support banning it now

so this can be discussed throughout the year. Councilman Van Eck would support taking leadership and allowing it in the Industrial zones to be pro-growth to our community. He wants an ordinance crafted to allow cultivation, manufacturing, wholesale and warehousing in Industrial Zones based on the map Mr. Yakimik referred to.

Councilman Kulmala asked what the mechanism would be to collect the taxes. He stated that this is not known without the rules and regulations. Councilman Van Eck asked why the Council should ban it now when they have until August to act. He asked what the purpose of banning it is. Councilman Kulmala responded it buys time. Mr. Chewcaskie advised he would leave this discussion on every agenda. The ordinance should be introduced the second meeting of May or the first meeting in June because it has to be referred to Planning board. Councilman Van Eck stated the Planning Board sent two letters of support already. Mr. Chewcaskie advised that ordinance would still have to be referred to them statutorily.

Mayor Schwager asked residents once again to give their opinions on what they would want to allow in Oakland. She said years ago, IBM approached Oakland many years ago to come to the Industrial Park. They were turned down and then IBM ended up building a big complex in Franklin Lakes which is why the tax base in Franklin Lakes is much better. She advised people not to rush to say yes or no. Councilman Pignatelli read an article which stated that there is an increase in greenhouse gases from indoor cultivation of marijuana. Councilman Kulmala stated that the Borough will receive more information from the League of Municipalities. He suggested putting a link on our website to the League's materials. Councilman Van Eck stated that the industry is related to hemp which is used in many products and CBD which has been legal for awhile. Those are increasingly growing industries. Councilman Pignatelli stated if the TCH could be separated out, he wouldn't have as much doubt about it. Councilman Biale stated that marijuana is being used in our town medically and recreationally. It would be beneficial to our community to receive the tax that is being put on marijuana. Councilman Kulmala agreed as long as we proceed cautiously. Councilman Van Eck stated that an outright ban would be insane. Mayor Schwager asked residents to contact the Council with their opinions and announced it would be listed on the next agenda.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Van Eck congratulated the junior roller hockey team for winning their championship. They are the first roller hockey team in Oakland to win a championship. He would like to have the team at a meeting. Mayor Schwager asked if we could have an outdoor meeting. Mr. Chewcaskie responded the Council can have an outdoor meeting but there are logistics to recording the meeting.

Councilman Van Eck advised he sent Michael Carelli information regarding T-Mobile grants. He talked about how the Borough could leverage technology to make Oakland smarter and bring financial savings.

Councilman Talamini advised that Public Events is questioning if they can have the carnival. Mayor Schwager advised that the Governor's representative stated there is no information regarding summer activities at this time. Councilman Talamini stated that Public Events wants to have the carnival June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. The vendor has sent a package with their COVID protocols. Public Events is looking for guidance. Councilman Van Eck stated it would be great to have the carnival. Councilman Kulmala stated that we should have the carnival if the State allows it. Mayor Schwager stated the Public Events Committee should reach out to the organizations to see if they are interested in participating. Councilman Talamini asked Mr. Kunze to speak to the Chairman, Chopper Russo. Mr. Kunze will speak to him about gauging

interest from the organizations. There is a challenge with capacity limits but we will try to make it happen. Councilman Pignatelli stated that for the 501c3 organizations, this is the main fundraiser of the year. He asked if it would be worth having the carnival if the organizations didn't want to participate. Councilman Talamini stated it is important to have the carnival and it would be a great boost for the community.

Councilman Kulmala stated there was a successful in-person meeting at the Senior Center. There were 20 people in attendance. He stated it is time to revisit having Council meetings in public. He wants to see a plan to go back to in-person meetings in May. Mr. Chewcaskie stated that the public must be accommodated. Mr. Kunze is looking into the logistics. Mr. Kunze stated that he had looked at the Council Chambers where no public could be accommodated in person. The Senior Center can accommodate some public but is more difficult to broadcast the meeting. The DLGS guidance stated that if in-person meetings were held, we would have to provide to the normal public capacity. We can't have the meetings at either venue due to social distancing requirements. Councilman Kulmala asked if other towns are doing meetings in person. Mr. Chewcaskie stated the Union City has had some Planning Board meetings in person and Wayne has held some Executive Sessions in person but there was no public. None of his other clients are fully open. He stated they all have problems that Oakland has with logistics because there is no facility large enough to accommodate the public while social distancing. Councilman Kulmala asked if the Council could meet at the fire house in the bays. Mr. Chewcaskie responded they could if the public could be accommodated while social distancing and if the meeting can be recorded via zoom. Councilman Kulmala stated if the Council can't meet in person in May, then it should be done in June. He stated the plan should be in place so the Council can move forward when the State gives the go ahead.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Van Eck advised that the Borough Planner submitted a report on distilleries. Councilman Van Eck hopes to get this on the next agenda so an ordinance can be crafted to allow breweries, brew pubs and distilleries. He hopes the Council will consider allowing this in Industrial zones and it will increase rateables.

Councilman Pignatelli advised that Borough Engineer John Yakimik sent a report on Monhegan Avenue parking. Mr. Yakimik advised that in order to support parking on one side of the street, the street would need to be widened and curbing installed on both sides of street. The area looked at was between Manito and Pawnee Ave where the density of houses is the highest. The cost would be roughly \$ 75,000. There are safety issues that would be created with the on-street parking. The Police Department agreed with the safety concerns. Mr. Yakimik explained there is sufficient parking on the side streets for visitors. The driveways are long and accommodating. His opinion is that on-street parking is not warranted at this location.

#### COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Pignatelli: The Senior Center extended the "Sit, Stand, Move" program by an additional day on Fridays at 1 pm. A representative from the State Health insurance program will be available by appointment for assistance with Medicare. The Book club will meet April 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a Movie Day on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. The First Aid squad has had 118 calls year-to-date with 236 on call hours and 1723 standby hours. The Board of Health will meet April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Councilman Kulmala: Benches have been installed around the great lawn at Great Oak Park. The work on the Dog Park is proceeding. The licensing for the Dog Park opens on Monday. The cost will be \$ 10 for residents and \$ 20 for non-residents. The Dog Park grand opening will take

place May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm with a raindate of May 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Adjustment is aware of residents' frustration at the time frame to process applications. They have added an additional hearing date on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The process has also been streamlined. If the Board needs to schedule more meetings to address a backlog, they will do so. The OEM meeting was a recap and review of COVID issues. The Green Team held an invasive species removal last week. Next month, they will plant new trees. The Community Garden ribbon cutting will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The invasive species removal will take place at Roosevelt on April 17<sup>th</sup> and at Great Oak Park on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The Arts Amble will be held at the Library June 11 to 13<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Biale: He received emails today about the back up from the sewer lines near the homes of Sarah Michel and Rachel Gregory and he investigated. The April 5<sup>th</sup> incident was triggered by a grease pack in the line. That was taken care of. Today's incident was caused by tree roots. He explained that the lining of the pipes will prevent this situation from happening. The DPW will tv the line tomorrow to ensure this doesn't happen again. Councilman Biale explained that the issue with the sewer re-lining project is that some of the lines go through back yards of homes. The Borough will need to access manholes and some residents have built sheds on top. The Borough is working to resolve the issue to get access to the manholes in order to proceed with the project. The Attorney and Engineer are working on establishing easements necessary for the Ramapo Valley Road sidewalk installation. Councilman Biale spoke about there being no place to walk on Powder Mill and it being dangerous where it turns into Courthouse Place. He would like the Engineer to look into that situation. Architect Margaret Hickey is working on a rendition for the replacement of the Stream House. Councilman Biale is looking for more members for the Committee to plan the new building. He is asking local landscapers to volunteer their time for the new landscape plan. Lewis Graham was awarded the contract for the interior renovation in the Van Allen House including the mold remediation. The rest of the interior work in the Van Allen House will be done in Phase 2. Councilman Biale is happy to see the Borough is pursuing funding for the Patriots Way Bridge and sewer decommissioning projects to help with the tax base.

Councilman Van Eck: The Borough has been awarded Tree City USA for 2020. Oakland is one of 3600 towns in America with the designation. The criteria include having a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of \$ 2 per capita and having an Arbor Day celebration. The Recreation baseball and softball parade has been canceled. The annual hall of fame event for Recreation will be held June 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Summer sports camps are holding registrations. The pickleball program will run. He congratulated the junior Braves roller hockey team again for winning the championship. The OCC is looking for volunteers. They are looking for original music for the bulletin board. The OCC is asking residents to film sporting activities and events for broadcast. The next meeting of the OCC will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Councilman Van Eck wanted to reiterate how important it is to vote since the majority of the taxes is from the school budgets. Councilman Van Eck announced the Knights of Columbus has a Dine to Donate program where the money will donated to charities for special needs children.

Councilman Slasinski: The Library is applying for a CARES grant. The front doors have been repaired. There is a new program called Proquest which gives access to scholarly journals and program as well as the New York Times and Wall Street Journal. The Library is fully open and functional or materials could be picked up curbside as well.

Councilman Talamini: Reminded residents to vote on the school budget April 20<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 8 pm. He stated that voting is one of the most important things people can do. The Public Events Committee wants to have a carnival. They are meeting the second Monday of the month. They held the Easter Egg Hunt. The Public Events Committee is a great group of people.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Van Eck, this portion of the meeting be opened for public comment.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

Rachel Gregory, 2 Kiowa Terrace, totally supports cannabis if it lowers taxes. She would be grateful if the Mayor and Council spent more time talking about sewers. She advised some of her neighbors had back ups on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Schwager asked Ms. Gregory who was called to report the issue on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Gregory advised that her neighbor called DPW to notify them. They took care of the issue and said it was tree roots. The problem is that the pipes are not relined. There is no information when that would be done.

Katrine Beck, 8 Chapel Hill, wants to follow up whether the town will be hiring a grant writer to help with grant opportunities. Ms. Beck is not in favor of cannabis but does support breweries.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

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: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck.

*Lisa M. Duncan*

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Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk  
May 12, 2021

*Linda H. Schwager*

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Mayor Linda H. Schwager

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Date Approved

