

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

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

**November 21, 2023, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**

**MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**November 21 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

Mayor Linda H. Schwager presiding.

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

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

**Also Present: Borough Administrator Richard Kunze, Acting Borough Clerk Wendi Seelin, Borough Attorney Matt Gilson, Borough Engineer Kevin Boswell.**

**Absent: Councilman McCann**

Motion by Councilman Pignatelli to excuse Councilman McCann, seconded by Councilman Talamini.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR**

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Schwager stated that the Patriot's Way Bridge bids have been received. The bids are lower than estimated and the full cost of the replacement should be paid for in full with the Department Of Transportation and Community Grants received. Mayor Schwager also announced that the Well 5 units have arrived and are being installed. All three wells are on track to be completed by February 2024. Mayor Schwager advised the public that there is a Sewer Utility meeting scheduled

for December 13, 2023 7 PM at the Oakland Senior Center. She also reminded residents to keep writing letters with regards to the Recycling Facility. Mayor Schwager stated that the Super bowl winning Pee Wee Football team and cheerleaders will be honored at the Christmas Tree and Menorah lighting event in Veterans Park on Sunday December 3, 2023 5PM followed by the Parade of Lights. Mayor Schwager announced that Oakland Public Events will be participating in the Van Saun Park Winter Wonderland Tree decoration contest. All are welcome to donate decorations and participate. Mayor Schwager stated that she has hired an attorney to submit to Bergen County Board of Elections for a recount of the 2023 Mayoral Election. She feels the results are very close, and stated people are concerned. This will not be a taxpayer expense.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Kevin Boswell reported that the Patriots Way Bridge bids have been received. The lowest price was under \$5 million and the highest was at \$9.4 million. The Borough has received \$8 million in grants and the bridge will be fully funded from the grants received. Boswell Engineering is evaluating the bids and will recommend to the Attorney who they feel would be the best candidate. He stated the goal is to award the project at the December 6, 2023 Mayor and Council Meeting. Councilman Talamini asked how long after awarding the contract would the project start. Mr. Boswell stated that they are creating a spending plan that tracks expenses, duration and status during the tenure of the project. Mr. Boswell expects a six month process to do drawings, purchase the bridge and obtain everything necessary to move forward to start the project. Mr. Boswell added that the utilities are complicated, and will need support at different stages of the project. A competent contractor is required for this complex project. He added that the seasons will not affect progress and will be supplying a full project schedule. Councilman Pignatelli asked about the materials being used on the new bridge. Mr. Boswell stated that the materials being used are very different than used on other bridges in the Borough. Councilman Kulmala asked what the resident impact will be for this project. Mr. Boswell stated it will be a 20 month construction period. Mr. Boswell also stated that the bridge is still at a weight limit of 3 tons and working to see if an increase is possible. Mr. Boswell stated that the PFAS project will be done by the end of February 2024. All of the units are in place but the generators are on back order. Mr. Boswell stated the backorder will not interfere with getting the units up and running. Mr. Kulmala asked if we are required to send out another letter to residents. Mr. Boswell responded yes and will work with Administration to prepare a letter. Mr. Boswell stated that the Allerman Brook project will be submitted to the DEP by the end of December.

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

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**



No Public wished to speak.

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

November 8, 2023

November 8, 2023 Executive Session

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Talamini, to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR**

Councilman Pignatelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Talamini, to approve the November 8, 2023 Executive Session minutes.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR**

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

- Authorize Raffle License #RL1470 for Hawthorne Cubs Football Raffle on December 2, 2023 at Portobello's 175 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, NJ 07436

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Saliani, Raffle License #1470 be approved.

**ROLL CALL:**   Ayes:   Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.  
                  Nays:       None.  
                  Abstain:   None.

(5 ayes – 0 nays –motion carried)

**ALL IN FAVOR**

- **Approve Social Affairs Permit for BPOE Elks # 2167 Oakland Lodge for a Texas Hold'em Tournament**

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, Social Affair permit for BPOE Elks #2167 be approved.

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

**Nays: None.**

**Abstain: None.**

**(5 ayes – 0 nays –motion carried)**

**ALL IN FAVOR**

- **Authorize Raffle License #RL1471 for BPOE Elks #2167 Oakland Lodge for a Texas Hold'em on December 9, 2023**

On motion of Councilman Saliani, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, Raffle License #1471 be approved.

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

**Nays: None.**

**Abstain: None.**

**(5 ayes – 0 nays –motion carried)**

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA:**

**23-328: AWARD CONTRACT TO BOSWELL ENGINEERING FOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT ONEIDA AND MONHEGAN AVENUES**

**WHEREAS,** there is a need for construction inspection services for the drainage improvements at Oneida and Monhegan Avenues; and

**WHEREAS,** Boswell Engineering has submitted a proposal dated November 16, 2023 for services required at a total cost not to exceed cost of \$17,200.00; and

**WHEREAS,** the Chief Financial Officer has certified funds are available in Account #C-04-56-810-302 in the amount of \$17,200.00; and

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland, in the County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, hereby authorize Boswell Engineering to perform the construction inspection services for the Drainage Improvements at Oneida and Monhegan Avenues a cost not to exceed \$17,200.00; and

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

**23-329: AUTHORIZE REFUND OF RECREATION FEES**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Oakland has received a request (attached) for a refund of recreation fees in the total amount of \$248.00; and,

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby authorize payment in the total amount of \$248.00 to:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SPORT TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Michael Best	19 Osage Rd, Oakland NJ 07423 Block 5603 Lot 16	Basketball Fees	90.00
Kelly Falcon	58 Rutgers D., Oakland NJ 07436 Block 4912 Lot 13	Wrestling Fees	158.00

**23-331: AUTHORIZE TRANSFER BETWEEN BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, it has become necessary to expend funds in excess of the amounts approved in the Calendar Year 2023 budget of the Borough of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, there exist certain budget expenditures with funds available in excess of the amounts approved in the Calendar Year 2023 budget of the Borough of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 permits the transfer of such funds during the last two months of the fiscal year;



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland that, based on the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer, the following transfers be made to the Calendar Year 2023 Current Fund budget:

<u>Current Fund</u>		<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
3-01-20-130-011	Fin Admin Full Time	\$ 3,000.00	
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	
3-01-36-473-000	Defined Contribution Plan		\$ 3,000.00
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>
<b>23-332:</b>	<b>AWARD CONTRACT TO BOSWELL ENGINEERING FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS ON LAKESIDE BOULEVARD</b>		

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for construction management services for the water main improvements on Lakeside Boulevard; and

**WHEREAS**, Boswell Engineering has submitted a proposal dated November 20, 2023 for services required at a total cost not to exceed cost of \$61,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified funds are available in Account #C-06-56-931-203 in the amount of \$61,500.00; and

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

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

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Discussion:** Councilman Talamini asked why the Diner needs Board of Health approval. Mr. Kunze explained that they need to update their septic system and need approval from the Board of Health in order to get a permit from the State.

**23-327: AUTHORIZE CONSENT OF TWA APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, an application has been made to the Borough of Oakland by the Lenape Valley Grill for the replacement of a malfunctioning septic system for the facility located at 176 Ramapo Valley Road.

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

The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the necessary consent by Governing Body to be attached to the Treatment Works Application to be filed by Lenape Valley Grill subject to the following:

- A. The construction shall conform to all applicable requirements of the Borough of Oakland and the Board of Health of the Borough of Oakland.
- B. The installation of all sewer lines and appurtenances shall be inspected and approved by the Borough of Oakland and/or the Borough of Oakland Board of Health.
- C. Lenape Valley Grill shall pay for all engineering expenses incurred by the Oakland Board of Health and the Borough of Oakland for all inspections and testing of the sewer lines and/or appurtenances.
- D. Lenape Valley Grill shall pay for the Borough's application fees, legal fees and other applications, administrative, technical or any other expenses relating to review of the project.
- E. Any manholes constructed or modified by reason of this project be fitted with sewer guards to prevent inflow. All manholes constructed must be installed with all required waterproofing measures, including exterior painting and pipe gasket interlock.
- F. Water conserving plumbing fixtures be installed in all new buildings constructed as part of this project.
- G. Lenape Valley Grill shall comply with all conditions imposed by the Oakland Board of Health.



H. Lenape Valley Grill shall comply with all rules and regulations of the Borough of Oakland, the Oakland Board of Health and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Lenape Valley Grill and the Oakland Board of Health.

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

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

**Discussion:** Councilman Kulmala will abstain from voting due to relationship with Fire Department

**23-330:                AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF NJARPA FIREFIGHTER GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Oakland desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$17,150.00 to carry out a project to obtain a Turnout Gear Dryer, and:

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Oakland does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, The Borough of Oakland recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between The Borough of Oakland the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

**ROLL CALL:**    **Ayes:**                Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini  
                  **Nays:**                None.  
                  **Abstain:**            Kulmala  
                  (4 ayes – 0 nays - 1-abstain -motion carried)  
**ALL IN FAVOR**

**ORDINANCES:**

**Final Adoption:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-CODE-932**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9, SECTION 1.2 OF THE OAKLAND CODE  
RELATED TO VENOMOUS SNAKES**

The Borough Clerk was directed to take from the table Ordinance No. 23-Water Capital-931 and read by title for its final hearing.

The Borough Clerk then read by title an Ordinance entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9, SECTION 1.2 OF THE OAKLAND CODE  
RELATED TO VENOMOUS SNAKES**

**OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

No public comment.

**CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

Motion to Adopt:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Saliani, Ordinance 23-Code-932 be adopted.

**ROLL CALL:**   Ayes:           Kulmala, Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.  
                  Nays:           None.

Abstain: None.  
(5ayes – 0 nays –motion carried)

**ALL IN FAVOR**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 23-CAPITAL-933**

The Borough Clerk was directed to take from the table Ordinance No. 23-Water Capital-933 and read by title for its final hearing.

The Borough Clerk then read by title Ordinance No. 23-Water Capital-933 entitled, **CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$1,325,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND BALANCE.**

#### **OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

No public comment.

#### **CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

Motion to Adopt:



On motion of Councilman Saliani, seconded by Councilman Slasinski, Ordinance 23-Capital-933 be adopted.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**WORK SESSION:**

**Renew Membership BMED:** The Borough's membership in the BMED expires at the end of 2023 and is up for renewal. As we do every three years, our Health Benefits Risk Manager, Vozza Associates, conducted a market check to determine whether remaining in the BMED is our best option for obtaining employee and retiree health benefit coverage. Four large health insurers were contacted and all declined to quote for our coverage, either because they could not be competitive, do not quote for towns that are members of health insurance funds or because our retiree population was too high. We also looked at the State Health Benefit Plan. In that case, the projected premiums would be almost the same, but our plans have slightly better coverage. Adjusting for these differences and taking into account our dividend history with the BMED, we estimate coverage with the BMED to be about 9% less expensive than the SHBP. Based on this review, current financial strength and long term outlook for the BMED, we recommend renewal for a new three year term.

**Amend Salary Ordinance:** Our salary ordinance needs to be amended to account for various personnel actions taken throughout 2023

**Amend Water Rates:** Although it is still early in the budget development process, our focus so far has been on the water and sewer utility budgets to determine what rate adjustments may be needed for 2024. Based on our projection, water utility rates will need to increase by 10.3%. Water Utility debt service will increase by almost \$110,000 due to the PFAS Treatment project. While there may be settlement money coming from the various class action lawsuits, that money is not expected until 2025 based on the latest developments in the litigation. We have reduced capital funding to offset the debt service increase but there are also declines in the amount of available surplus to use for rate stabilization funding. This will be offset by increasing the anticipated water rents. The change in water rates would result in an increase of \$48.23 (\$12.05 per quarter) on the average bill. There is no recommended change in sewer utility rates for 2024.

**Regulate Private Salt Storage:** For the latest five-year storm water management permit cycle, the NJDEP is mandating that towns regulate the storage of de-icing materials on private property to prevent them from being exposed to storm water.

**Draft 2024 Mayor and Council Meeting Schedule:** Review of the 2024 Mayor and Council Calendar. Meetings will be on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Borough Attorney Matt Gilson gave an update on the Recycling Center. It was decided that during the comment period no litigation action will be taken. He advised the Council to wait the 60 days of response time, and reevaluate actions at that time.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

**Councilman Talamini:** Councilman Talamini stated that Public Events has the Christmas tree and Menorah Lighting on December 3, 2023 starting at 5pm followed by the Parade of Lights. He stated Santa will be there along with singing and caroling as well as honoring the junior football Super bowl champions. Reported that the volunteers. On December 9, 2023, the Toys for Tots train will be visiting Oakland. Councilman Talamini stated that the schools have a minimum day on November 23 and are closed on November 24, 2023. He added that Valley Middle School is having a seminar on November 30, 2023 at 6:45pm on Internet Safety Awareness'. Councilman Talamini stated the Finance Committee will be scheduling a meeting in January.

**Councilman Kulmala:** Councilman Kulmala stated that he had the privilege to attend the Sustainable NJ Luncheon. The Sustainable Oakland Green Team won the Silver Award as well as the Sustainable New Jersey Creativity and Innovation Award. Councilman Kulmala wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Councilman Pignatelli:** Councilman Pignatelli reported that the Police Department has been doing speed studies on Ramapo River Terrace and the average speed traveled was 23 mph. He reported that the recent police recruits will be graduating from the Academy in December of 2023. He added that the Police were present at the Rotary Car Show. Officer Albert had given a tour of headquarters to students. Councilman also stated that the SLEO 3 officers received certificates from the Board of ED. Councilman Pignatelli thanked all the volunteers on the Green Team. It takes a lot of work and they are working together with the Environmental Commission to achieve goals for the borough.

**Councilman McCann:** Absent

**Councilman Slasinski:** Councilman Slasinski reminded the public that the Oakland Public Library will be closed on November 23 & 24 and will reopen on the weekend. He gave a review of the upcoming library events and wished all the residents a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Councilman Saliani:** Councilman Saliani repeated a message from the DPW reminding residents we might receive 2 inches of rain and to please clear the storm drains of leaves. Councilman Saliani reported that the Shade Tree Commission has planted 44 trees in the past month and are running an Adopt a Tree program. Councilman Saliani stated that the Flood Commission is revisiting the Ramapo River Restoration Project and preparing a letter opposing the Class B Facility. Councilman Saliani reminded the public of the upcoming Access for All event on December 17, 2023 at the Danny D'Elia Building from 2-4pm with limited lights and sounds. Light refreshments will be served and Santa is scheduled to arrive around 2:30 PM. Councilman Saliani also reminded the public to come out and honor the Pee Wee football champions on December 3, 2023.



**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

Jodi Goffredo 44 Sioux Avenue Oakland, Stated she attended an open meeting at the BCUA. She spoke up and asked them to please pay attention to the petition. Their next meeting is on Tuesday December 19, 2023 at 6pm, and Ms. Goffredo would like to see residents show up. She believes a large public showing and comment will be helpful, as the BCUA are the ones making the decision. It would be great if our Green Team, Flood and Environmental Commissions would come and speak up.

Kevin Gallo 4 Pool Hollow Road, Oakland stated he lives very close to the location of the facility and he went to the BCUA to give a statement.

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

**BILLS TO BE PAID:**

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

**(See following pages)**

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

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

**ALL IN FAVOR**



**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

Adjourned: 8:04 p.m.

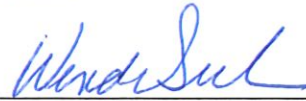
APPROVED BY:

DATE: 12/6/23

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Linda H. Schwager in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Council Pres".

Linda H. Schwager, Mayor

Handwritten signature of Wendi Seelin in blue ink.

Wendi Seelin, Acting Borough Clerk