

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE  
MUNICIPAL COURT /COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2020

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 7:31 pm.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Schwager called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck. Absent: None. Also Present: Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; Nylema Nabbie, Borough Attorney; John Yakimik, Borough Engineer; David Young, CFO.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Schwager announced this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law duly announced and included in the schedule of regular meetings and included in the schedule of regular meetings and held with the guidelines set up for this COVID-19 crisis.

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MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Schwager congratulated Indian Hills High School for being one of two Bergen County high schools to receive a \$ 10,000 grand prize promotion teen driver safety. Their campaign, Click Clack Front and Back, stressed the importance of seat belts. Mayor Schwager contacted the Board of Education. The public school is having virtual graduation on Friday June 19 at 6:30 pm. During the day on June 19<sup>th</sup>, they will be having a wave parade. The parade for 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Heights, Manito and Dogwood Schools will be held at 1 pm and the parade for 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be held at Valley Middle School at 3 pm. There will be another shredding event on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 1 pm unless the truck fills up before 1 pm. There is a limit of four boxes. Mayor Schwager asked residents to submit the census information online. It is simple, quick and private. This helps with federal and state funding in the future. The Recreation Commission is working hard to open up sports and camp safely. The Borough is going to compile a list of businesses, events and activities that are opening up. The Governor has lifted the stay at home order but she advised residents to stay home where practical.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Talamini, Van Eck.

No comments.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 27, 2020

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Levy, the minutes from the Mayor and Council meeting of May 27, 2020 be approved.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Talamini, Van Eck.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

On motion of Councilman Levy, seconded by Councilman Biale, this portion of the meeting be open for public discussion.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Talamini, Van Eck.

John Paul Renaudo, 30 Whittier Lane, has three children, one of whom is on the high school ice hockey team. He asked when the roller hockey rink would be open to be able to play. Mayor Schwager advised she asked the Governor's rep and spoke to Mike Guadagnino and Mr. Kunze. Mr. Kunze advised group sports is opening on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Al DiGiacomo, 24 Long Hill Road, stated he is glad the governor came around to allow passive recreation. Mayor Schwager advised that the Mayors are asking the Governor to allow municipalities to make their own decisions.

Zack Fox, 19 Boulder Run, is new to town and heard houses are being targeted for having American flags. Mayor Schwager and Mr. Kunze responded they had not heard about an issue. Councilman Knapp responded that he read about this on social media. He doesn't know what the Police can do to prevent an issue. He will speak to the Police Chief about this. He stated that he has a big flag and will not take it down. Mr. Fox asked what the Mayor has been doing to talk to the Governor. He stated businesses can't open but 200 students can protest. Mayor Schwager responded she is on calls with the Governor's rep daily. Councilman Levy stated the public session is just supposed to be for comment not for discourse.

Cindy Kwederis, Seminole Ave, asked if team tennis can start playing on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Kunze responded that Rec Chairman Mike Guadagnino sent an email stating they are trying to make sure everything is being done according to CDC guidelines in order to open.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Talamini, Van Eck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 27, 2020 EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Levy, the minutes from the Mayor and Council Executive Session of May 27, 2020 be approved.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Talamini, Van Eck.

**APPROVE REQUEST FOR PRIDE BANNER:**

Councilman Knapp asked what time frame this would be hung since there are two signs already. Mayor Schwager responded that June is Pride month so it is the same time frame as the other signs. Councilman Knapp suggested putting a sign on the property between the Police Department and First Aid Building. Councilman Levy commented that if the Pride banner is going to be put at an alternate location, we should ask the requestor first. Councilman Knapp suggested that the Thank you banner could be moved to the alternate location so the Pride banner can be put in Bush Plaza. Councilman Van Eck asked what the rules and regulations are. Mayor Schwager responded there is a sign ordinance but exceptions are being made this year. Councilman Knapp will move the Thank you banner to make room at Bush Plaza for the Pride banner.

Motion to Approve:

On motion of Councilman Knapp, seconded by Councilman Biale, approval be granted for the Pride Banner to be hung at Bush Plaza for the remainder of June.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Talamini, Van Eck.

Councilman Pignatelli entered the meeting at 7:57 pm.

**APPOINTMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:**

Mayor Schwager brought forth the nomination of Elizabeth Ochoa for appointment as Alternate 2 on the Environmental Commission.

Motion to Consent:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Levy, the Council consents to the appointment of Elizabeth Ochoa to an unexpired term as Alternate 2 on the Environmental Commission. The term will expire December 31, 2021.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET AMENDMENT:**

**OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

No comments made.

**CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 20-155 ADOPTION OF BUDGET**

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

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

- (a) \$14,718,865.919 for municipal purposes, and
- (d) 217,528.30 Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Levy
- (e) \$ 876,187 Minimum Library Tax

**SUMMARY OF REVENUES**

1. <u>General Revenues</u>	
Surplus Anticipated	\$ 1,555,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue Anticipated	\$ 3,199,460.96
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	\$ 9,000.00
2. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Municipal Purposes	\$ 14,718,865.92
3. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Schools Type I	\$ 0.00
4. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Schools Type II	\$ 0.00
5. Amount to be Raised by Taxation – Library Levy	\$ 876,187.00
Total Revenues:	\$ 20,358,513.88

**SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS**

6. <u>General Appropriations</u>	
Within “CAPS”	
(a&b) Operations including Contingent	\$ 13,871,327.92
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures	\$ 1,822,450.00
(a) Operations	\$ 1,270,547.96
(c) Capital Improvements	\$ 1,130,000.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	\$ 1,784,188.00
(e) Deferred Charges – Municipal	\$
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 480,000.00
Total Appropriations	\$ 20,358,513.88

Councilman Pignatelli read a statement regarding his vote on the budget. He spoke about the high unemployment rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for the State to raise taxes. Residents cannot afford a high tax increase and he cannot see raising taxes above the 2% cap. A resident Senior Citizen told Councilman Pignatelli she would not be able to stay in town if taxes go up. Therefore, he will vote no on the budget. Councilman Van Eck stated that everyone did a

great job and thanked CFO David Young and Mr. Kunze. He appreciated that his recommendations were taken into account but does not think the cuts went far enough.

ROLL CALL: Yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Talamini.  
Nays, Councilmembers Pignatelli, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 20-156 CHAPTER 159 ROOTS FOR RIVERS GRANT

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received notification of a Roots for Rivers Grant in the amount of \$2,171.90 from the Watershed Institute for the Roosevelt Reforestation Park and wishes to amend its 2020 budget to include this amount as a revenue,

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

Miscellaneous Revenues:  
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written  
Consent of Director of Local Government Services - Public and  
Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
Roots for Rivers – Roosevelt Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$2,171.90 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"  
Public and Private Appropriations Offset by Revenues:  
Roots for Rivers – Roosevelt Park  
Other Expenses - \$ 2,171.90

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini,  
Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 20-157 AUTHORIZE RETURN OF FOUND MONEY-GROVER

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

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 a Trust Fund was established to hold Found Money for a period of time to allow for a claimant to come forward; and

WHEREAS, Gurmeet Grover did turn in \$1,823.00 to the Oakland Police Department on December 1, 2019 and 6 months have passed since the money was turned in and no one has made a claim;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland, that the Found Money in the amount of \$1,823.00 be returned to the finder, Gurmeet Grover.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 20-158 AUTHORIZE RETURN FOUND MONEY-ROTNDO**

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

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 a Trust Fund was established to hold Found Money for a period of time to allow for a claimant to come forward; and

WHEREAS, Megan Rotondo did turn in \$100.00 to the Oakland Police Department on October 21, 2019 and 6 months have passed since the money was turned in and no one has made a claim;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland, that the Found Money in the amount of \$100.00 be returned to the finder, Megan Rotndo.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 20-159 APPROVE UPDATE TO ROSI**

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

WHEREAS, the Borough has updated its Recreation and Open Space Inventory;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland hereby approve the updated Recreation and Open Space Inventory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Linda H. Schwager is hereby authorized to sign the Recreation and Open Space Inventory on behalf of the Borough of Oakland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Board Chairman shall be authorized to sign the Recreation and Open Space Inventory on behalf of the Planning Board.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 20-160 AUTHORIZE RECREATION REFUNDS**

On motion of Councilman Levy, seconded by Councilman Biale, 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 in the amount of \$ 478.00; 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:

Chuck Manzo, 9 Sienna Way, Oakland, NJ , amount \$ 78 (softball)

Cindy D'Alto, 3 Spear Street, Oakland, amt. \$ 150 (TGA Spring Break Camp)

Lauren Gallo, 33 Princeton Terr, Oakland, NJ, amount \$ 125, (TGA Spring Golf)

John Golden, 9 Sioux Ave., Oakland, NJ, amount \$ 125 (TGA Spring Golf)

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

**RESOLUTION 20-161 CONSENT TO WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland desires to provide for the orderly development of wastewater facilities within the Borough of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) requires that proposed wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities and wastewater treatment service areas, as well as related subjects, conform with an approved WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has established the WQM plan amendment procedure through the WQMP rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5 as the method of incorporating unplanned facilities into a WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, a proposed WQM plan amendment publicly noticed in the New Jersey Register and is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Oakland that:

1. The Borough of Oakland hereby consents to the proposed amendment for the purpose of its incorporation into the applicable WQM plan(s) for the project known as Guru Nanak, Inc. located at Block 3603, Lot 2 in the Oakland Borough, Bergen County, New Jersey with the NJR date 4/6/20.
2. This consent shall be submitted to the NJDEP pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(g)6.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

RESOLUTION 20-162 AUTHORIZE REFUND OF REDEMPTION OVERPAYMENT

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oakland has received a request from the Lien Holder for a refund of an overpayment of a Redemption; 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, upon advice of the Tax Collector, do hereby authorize a refund as follows:

<u>Cert Number</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
18-00004	23 Waters Edge.	\$ 9.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the check be sent to Corelogic @ 3001 Hackberry Rd. Irving, TX 75063.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

WORK SESSION:

WELCOME TO OAKLAND SIGNS:

Councilman Pignatelli commented that the Council received an email a week ago that the Welcome signs were in and would be installed. He does not remember any discussion on this issue. It was mentioned by the Mayor on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, the Council did not have any discussion on the matter. It was supposed to be funded by local businesses but it is not just businesses that have sponsored the signs. Mayor Schwager responded that it was brought up on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. At the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mayor Schwager announced there was one location available and to contact Michael Carelli if interested. Everyone saw pictures of the signs. This issue was actually brought up by Eric Kulmala last fall who said we didn't have nice Welcome signs. Councilman Pignatelli stated it was only mentioned in two sentences and there was not discussion. Councilman Levy stated that it was brought up on a couple of occasions. When it was announced that not all the signs were sponsored, Councilman Levy took one. He stated that the signs look the ones that were there previously. Councilman Pignatelli stated that the past practice is to have business sponsors. Councilman Levy asked if anything was done that violated Borough procedures. Borough Attorney Nylema Nabbie responded she did not think anything that was done violated current procedures. If the Council wishes to have a policy, it can be put on for a future discussion.

Councilman Levy asked how many signs were purchased. Mr. Kunze responded there were 10 or 15 signs. Councilman .Levy commented that there are \$ 15,000 in signs ready to be put up. Councilman Knapp asked what the problem is with the signs and advised he bought a sign from his family. Councilman Pignatelli stated there are only five major entrances to Oakland. Councilman Knapp asked what the issue is. Councilman Pignatelli responded that there had been a lengthy discussion about the banners. These Welcome signs deviated from past practice because you had to be a 501c3 in order to purchase a banner. Mayor Schwager responded there never was a past practice and the banners were offered to all businesses not just those that were 501c3.

Councilman Talamini stated the problem is that the Council did not see a picture of the signs until last week. There was so much discussion on the banners but the Council did not discuss or see these signs. He has an issue with someone's personal name being on a Borough sign. It does not give the right impression. He feels that the people who sponsored the Welcome signs should just be given a plaque. He stated that the Borough is getting a large donation for the digital sign and asked if that person's name is going to be on the digital sign. Mayor Schwager asked Councilman Talamini what he wanted to do now that the Borough has the signs. There should be a policy but what does Councilman Talamini suggest be done with these signs. Councilman Talamini responded that the people should be asked if they will still contribute the money and they should be given a plaque instead of having their name on the sign. Councilman Knapp responded that the old Welcome signs had sponsorships as well. Councilman Talamini stated he has never seen a Welcome sign that is sponsored by an individual.

Mayor Schwager reiterated that the Borough has \$ 15,000 worth of signs and asked Councilman Talamini what he wanted to do. Councilman Talamini reiterated that those people should be asked if they still want to contribute to the sign without their name being on it. Then the names can be taken off. Mr. Kunze advised this issue was brought up at a couple of Council meetings. The banner program was a new program. These signs were pre-existing signs and we did not hear from Councilmembers that they wished further discussion on this matter. There was a mailing sent to the business community about sponsorship opportunities. At the end when no more businesses stepped forward, several Council people stepped in to sponsor signs. If the Council wishes, a policy can be established going forward. However, we have the signs ready to be installed.

Councilman Levy commented that if the sponsors take away their donations, the Borough will have to now come up with \$ 15,000 for the signs. He stated that former Councilman Kulmala made a huge issue about the condition of the signs. Mayor Schwager advised that if the signs are not used, the money has to be returned to the people who purchased the signs. Councilman Levy stated that he was involved in getting a donation from Columbia Bank for the roller hockey scoreboard and their name was put on the scoreboard. Councilman Talamini questioned if someone's name is going to be put on the LED sign. Mr. Kunze responded that the LED sign was not a sponsorship but it was a straight donation. Councilman Talamini asked if we can ask the people who gave sponsorships if they would just make a straight donation and not put the names on the signs. Councilman Van Eck stated that the Levine family donates a lot of money to the town and they don't ask to be recognized. He would like to make motion that the signs be put up with no names attached. Mayor Schwager responded that people have paid \$ 1500 to sponsor signs. A motion cannot be made to put up signs without their name. Councilman Van Eck stated he will work to find sponsors.

Motion:

On motion of Councilman Van Eck, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the Welcome signs be put up without sponsorship names.

Councilman Talamini asked if Councilman Levy and Councilman Knapp should vote if they bought signs. Borough Attorney Nabbie advised they should recuse themselves. She voiced concern that there was a sign application that was circulated to the business owners with the expectation that their name would be on the sign. She has concerns about making a motion to remove those names from the signs. Councilman Van Eck just wants to remove the individual's names not businesses. Mayor Schwager responded that you cannot pick and choose which names go on the signs. Ms. Nabbie advised that any action should be taken uniformly.

Councilman Levy asked for a list of who sponsored signs. Mr. Kunze read the list: Visions Credit Union; Tire Tech Auto; Andrea Levy, Realtor; Chopper Russo, Realtor; Robert Knapp and family; Councilman Lew Levy; Oakland Smile Station; Laser Dentistry of NJ; Mayor Linda H. Schwager. Mayor Schwager stated that the Council should not be voting on a work session item. Councilman Talamini stated the problem is the “sponsored by” on the Welcome signs. Mayor Schwager reiterated that you cannot put an item on work session for a vote. It will go on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Levy stated that the Borough made a contract with the other entities. He questioned if this would be a breach of contract. Ms. Nabbie responded that these business owners had certain expectations. They paid for these signs with the expectation their names would be on the signs. It is not appropriate to ask business owners to remove their names. Councilman Levy stated that the Borough has tied up resources of these small business owners since February waiting for signs and now certain Councilmembers want to tell them to forget about it. Ms. Nabbie stated that if action is taken, it has to be done uniformly. All of the money would have to be returned to all the sponsors. Mayor Schwager advised this should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Knapp is offended by wanting the personal names off. He does not understand what the issue is. Everyone had an opportunity to talk about the signs at a Council meeting and no one did. Councilman Knapp and his father have served the Borough for 60 years and he thought this was a great thing to do. Councilman Pignatelli commented that even the Mayor said she didn't see the signs. Mayor Schwager explained she had only seen pictures not the actual signs. This will be listed on the agenda for next meeting. If the Council wants to refund the money for the signs, the CFO will have to find the money for the signs.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Van Eck questioned the Suburban News situation. Mayor Schwager stated she has called them numerous times and doesn't get a response. Councilman Van Eck stated it is a problem with the Suburban News littering driveways of residents that don't want the paper. Mayor Schwager suggested that perhaps a letter could be sent. Ms. Nabbie will discuss this with Mr. Chewcaskie. Mr. Kunze advised he will confer with the attorneys about how to express to the media company that they should honor the request of citizens to opt out.

#### COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Van Eck: The target opening for Recreation sports is June 22<sup>nd</sup> and Day Camp is July 6<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is working hard on finalizing plans with the guidance from the State. He thanked all the Recreation Commissioners and thanked Mike Guadagnino for his leadership. The OCC will hold a meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. The OCC would like to recognize graduates in This Week In Oakland. The next newsletter will be available on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked anyone who has a story for the newsletter to email the OCC. The Planning Board will determine if the next meeting will be held.

Councilman Talamini: The Library is open 24/7 with digital items. The Library is hoping to be able to open soon. He asked people to be patient and understanding. The K-8 schools will have a wave parade on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade parade will take place at 1 pm and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parade at 3 pm. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade virtual graduation will be held June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and will be broadcast on Channel 77 and Channel 45 and on YouTube. The FLOW district has decided just to do a virtual graduation due to logistics. They have to follow the rules of the Department of Education. The Boards have done what they can and have been responsive. He thanked the Boards of Educations for all they do. The high school will be done on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Their virtual graduation will be held

June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 pm. The in-person graduation will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Councilman Talamini wished a Happy Flag Day which is on June 14<sup>th</sup> and is his wife's birthday.

Councilman Biale: The Senior Center Director is still coordinating the Senior volunteer program for food shopping. They are continuing free zoom fitness classes that are open to the entire community. You must register on Community Pass. The Fit for Life class is held on Tuesday and the Zumba class is held on Thursday. The Senior Center will be holding socially distanced programs outdoors beginning June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The programs will require pre-registration by Seniors. The DPW is concentrating on preparing Borough buildings for reopening as well as getting the Park ready. The Shredding event will be June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm.

Councilman Pignatelli: Team Up to Clean Up will take place June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Residents are encouraged to clean up and social distance. Registration is required. If there are concerns regarding litter, residents should contact the DPW. Oakland is at 82% response rate for the census. Participation affects our community for funding from the Federal Government. The DPW has compost bins for sale and they are available for pick up or delivery. The Green Team has compiled a list of buying fresh farms. Green Team member Carol Petersen will make a presentation on Thursday to Sustainable Jersey Bergen County on composting. The Green Team would like residents to cut and leave the grass.

Councilman Levy: The Flood Commission has not met. The Flood seminar that was held can be viewed on YouTube. There are 7 or 8 residents who were paying \$ 21,000 for flood insurance that are now paying approximately \$ 3100. He suggested that anyone paying for flood insurance should watch the seminar because they gave good tips on how to reduce the flood insurance. The Shade Tree Commission is waiting for the Borough Attorney to review the revisions to the Shade Tree ordinance. Councilman Levy explained the purpose of the Shade Tree ordinance is to protect the canopy. It is environmentally in everyone's best interests. If a healthy tree is cut down, it must be replaced. Shade Tree sent out letters to residents who cut down trees advising them to either plant a replacement tree or put money into a fund for the Borough to buy and plant a tree. The Borough got preliminary approval from the Highlands for Phase 1 of the sewer project. There is a meeting with the residents around Huber Lake on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Levy has been speaking to residents. The Capital Projects committee meets tomorrow at 1 pm. There is a zoom meeting with residents on Glen Gray Road regarding the impact of construction of the Patriots Way Bridge.

Councilman Talamini advised that he was approached by a resident who questioned why the Huber Lake meeting is being held during the day. Councilman Levy advised when the meeting was being organized, it was when everything was shut down. He advised if the meeting were to be changed, it would have to be readvertised and would be delayed. Councilman Levy explained that the Borough has three sewer treatment plants that are at the end of their life. It would cost \$4 million to replace the treatment plants and the plants would have to operate under new DEP regulations which are stricter. Therefore, running the plants would become more expensive. The Borough is going to remove the treatment plants. The material from the Skyview plant will come to the pump station at Huber Lake and then continue down to Franklin Ave. to the BCUA. The plants will be taken offline. He explained that currently the effluent from the Skyview plant goes into Huber Lake. Once the pump station is online, no more effluent will go into the lake. Councilman Pignatelli had been contacted by a resident asking for the pump station to be screened by landscaping. Councilman Levy advised that Borough Engineer John Yakimik staked out the footprint. He spoke to some residents while there who asked for a different fence. Councilman Levy spoke to Ed Clark about landscaping and green giant arborvives will be planted. There may be subsequent conversations about turning the property into a community

garden or a pocket park. Mr. Kunze explained that Huber Lake meeting is going to run live on YouTube and be recorded.

Councilman Knapp: He read a message from Police Chief Sanzari who stated that on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 300 people participated in an organized demonstration. The Police Department would like to thank the participants for remaining peaceful and respectful. The Oakland Police Department joins other law enforcement agencies in denouncing the tragic death of George Floyd. What occurred that day was disturbing and indefensible. The mission of the Oakland Police Department has always been to work harmoniously with all citizens to create a safe environment consisting of mutual trust and dignity. With unwavering faith and honor, the Oakland Police Department will continue to demonstrate our commitment to the safety and prosperity of Oakland's residents. Councilman Knapp read a thank you sent to the Mayor addressed to Captain Keenan thanking the Oakland Police Department for doing a great job to ensure everyone's safety at the protest. Councilman Knapp had been contacted by some of the businesses saying the Borough could have done a better job communicating details of the protest. He advised that there are other times when traffic is affected in town, for instance for a dignitary funeral, and businesses should be advised of these events. Discussion ensued on ways to keep the business community informed. The Dog Park is going to be built at Great Oak Park.

**OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

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

**ROLL CALL:** All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

Vivian King, 113 Hiawatha Blvd, commented that she remembered the meeting when Eric Kulmala said we needed new Welcome to Oakland signs. There was pushback from taxpayers that didn't want spending on the signs so there was the idea to get sponsors. People who purchased the signs are expecting their names to be on those signs. The way the Council behaved tonight was shameful.

Dana Andro, 43 Acorn, inquired about the chicken ordinance. Mayor Schwager responded that the Borough Attorney is coming up with a draft ordinance for discussion. Councilman Pignatelli advised that the Board of Health should review it as well. Mr. Kunze advised that the Borough Attorney sent an ordinance from another town to show to the Board of Health. Mayor Schwager advised it will be discussed at the next meeting.

**CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

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

**ROLL CALL:** All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

**BILLS TO BE PAID:**

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Biale, 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, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the meeting be adjourned at 9:19 pm.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini, Van Eck.

*Lisa M. Duncan*

*Linda H. Schwager*

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Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk  
June 24, 2020

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Mayor Linda H. Schwager

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Date Approved