

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The following are the Minutes of the May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes that was held in the Council Meeting room of the Municipal Building, 25 Lenox Avenue, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey and was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Serra read a short prayer and led participants in saluting the flag. He then read the Open Public Meeting Law Statement of Compliance.

A Roll Call indicated the following members were present: Mayor Michael Serra, Council President Jennifer Polidori, Councilmen Erik DeLine, Ekamon Venin, Bobby Cruz and Councilwoman Maria Kent. Councilman William Baig was excused from the meeting.

Also present were Borough Attorney, Mark Semeraro, Borough Administrator, Paula Cozzarelli and Borough Clerk, Elizabeth Brandsness.

MAYOR PRESENTATION AND UPDATES:

Mayor Serra requested a motion to grant a leave of absence for Councilman Baig as he recovers from some recent medical issues. Mayor Serra noted Councilman Baig was listening to the meeting through an electronic device.

Councilman DeLine stated he would agree to the motion and requested additional clarification as to the reasoning for the motion this evening.

Mark Semeraro, Borough Attorney responded and stated the reasoning for this motion is to grant Councilman Baig a leave of absence and provided information pursuant to the Municipal Vacancy Law. Mr. Semeraro stated when an elected official misses eight week's worth of mandatory meetings it is deemed to be basis for the seat to become vacant. In order to avoid the seat from becoming vacant there can be a motion to excuse and grant a leave of absence for that individual. In this particular case, if entertained by the Governing Body, the motion should be an excused absence from March 22, 2023 which was his last attended meeting date into the future until further notice. Mr. Semeraro stated an alternate option for the governing body to consider is to grant an excused leave for a determined duration so that it can be reconsidered at that set date.

Councilman DeLine agreed to amend the motion to reflect a determined duration.

Councilman Cruz asked whether the set date could be revised at a later time and Mr. Semeraro responded and stated yes, the Governing Body can set a sunset revision to be revised at a later time.

Mr. Semeraro cautioned the motion be made specifically to include the sunset revision and stated the excused absence from March 23, 2023 up through the June Council Meeting date at which time the absence will be reconsidered if necessary.

Mayor Serra provide a brief update as to Councilman Baig's recovery progress and the goal is for Councilman Baig to return once he is feeling well enough to resume his official duties. Mayor Serra stated he had presented the option to step down from Council to Councilman Baig and his decision was to stay on Council.

Councilman DeLine expressed he was happy to hear Councilman Baig is recovering and voiced some concerns with an open ended process and suggested a timeframe be set through July 14, 2023.

Mayor Serra questioned whether there was any other discussion and if everyone agreed to the July 14, 2023 date.

Councilwoman Kent questioned why the resolution was not presented to the Personnel Committee prior to the meeting. Councilwoman Kent further stated she was not informed prior to the meeting and was unaware to the reasoning for a leave of absence for Councilman Baig.

Councilwoman Polidori stated she was not prepared to address this issue this evening as she had no prior information nor notice. Councilwoman Polidori questioned why there was no prior communication as to the request for a leave of absence to determine an opinion on the matter.

Mayor Serra explained Councilman Baig's health issues prevent him from in-person meetings at this time.

The Governing Body continued to discuss the presence of a Councilmember during meetings whether it be in person, by audio or video along with regulatory compliance for member participation during Council Meetings.

Prior to voting, Councilman Cruz voiced his concerns with not being informed and hindering his ability to form an opinion prior to voting on this matter. Councilman Cruz stated he would expect that by July 14, 2023 all the information that is needed to make a clear and intelligent decision on whether or not Councilman Baig is able to proceed with Council be provided.

Motion was made by Councilman DeLine for an excused absence from March 23, 2023 up through the July 14, 2023 Council Meeting date at which time the leave of absence will be reconsidered if necessary and Councilman Venin seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Kent, No, Councilwoman Polidori, No, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Excused, Councilman Cruz, Yes, Councilman DeLine, Yes.

REDEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION:

Mayor Serra announced there would be a presentation for Redevelopment and introduced the Redevelopment Agency Planner, Debbie Lawlor and Attorney, Andrew Brewer.

Mr. Brewer began his presentation and provided a brief background as the Attorney for the Redevelopment Agency, Planning and Zoning Boards relating to his past involvement with the Redevelopment process. A power point presentation followed with a narrative that focused on various topics for the progression of Redevelopment within Pompton Lakes. Mr. Brewer stated the Redevelopment process includes an assessment of an area to determine whether an area is in need of Redevelopment. Once the area is determined to be an area in need of Redevelopment, an action plan is set forth and the project is monitored in an effort to revitalize the targeted area.

Mr. Brewer stated the Redevelopment Agency, Planning and Zoning Boards work collectively during the various stages of the Redevelopment process. Ms. Lawlor stated all proposals for Redevelopment are viewed and evaluated by the Redevelopment Agency. Ms. Lawlor stated once approved by the Redevelopment Agency further action and conformance must be determined by the Planning and Zoning Boards as well as the Governing Body. Ms. Lawlor noted some proposed projects do not conform with the criteria for the Master Plan so therefore the project does not move forward nor become a Redevelopment Area.

Mr. Brewer provided a timeline for past projects and remarked on the progression of past Redevelopment in Pompton Lakes. Mr. Brewer spoke about a few locations that were designated as Redevelopment areas within the Borough and stated the projects were vetted for compliance. Mr. Brewer further noted the Borough does not implement imminent domain and residents have a choice to opt out of being a part of a Redevelopment Area.

Ms. Lawlor stated the Zoning Board of Adjustments deems and sets the criteria for Redevelopment projects; height, setbacks, styles and uses permitted. The Planning Board assures the presented plan complies with the Borough's Master Plan along with a determination for the criteria; appearance for the buildings, color scheme, roofing etc. The Governing Body reviews and assesses the proposed project for conformity prior to the final adoption by Ordinance.

Mr. Brewer and Ms. Lawlor addressed questions from the Council regarding powers to grant various types of variances within the Redevelopment Area. Both Mr. Brewer and Ms. Lawlor detailed the allowance of variances through the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Mayor and Council discussed the financial components for a PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes), contractual obligations between the Municipality and Redeveloper, percentages of revenue/taxes collected and payments made to the Municipality and the Board of Education.

Mr. Semeraro stated payments received from a PILOT go directly to the Municipality, agreements are negotiated, provided examples of funds generated through PILOT agreements and duration of agreements. Mr. Semeraro offered some additional input for the disbursement of payments collected through the PILOT and stated the Board of Education receives 5% of the PILOT reimbursement and the Borough may choose to provide additional funding.

Councilwoman Polidori commented on the PILOT payment and questioned how the formula for payment is determined. Mr. Brewer provided a response and defined how a PILOT payment is calculated and compared the benefits for a PILOT vs. traditional taxation.

Borough Attorney, Mark Semeraro further remarked on the compared revenue stream for PILOT agreements in comparison to generated taxes and noted without a PILOT agreement there is no developer's incentive nor negotiating leverage for a Redevelopment project.

Councilwoman Kent commented on 223 Wanaque Avenue (CJM Building) and stated the building had been demolished by the property owner and has had no improvements for some time. Councilwoman Kent voiced her concerns of the unappealing appearance of the property and questioned exactly how to effectively handle the property owner's PILOT obligations.

Mr. Brewer commented on foreclosure and stated if the contractual agreement is not fulfilled the Governing Body does have negotiating powers and the ability to impose code enforcement, fines and rescind the financial agreement. Mr. Semeraro stated the role of the Redevelopment is to assure financing and negotiate the terms for the financial agreement. Mr. Semeraro commented on past developer's escrow and the continuation for escrow through the life of the PILOT once the project is completed to assure any related costs are charged to escrow.

Councilman DeLine commented on the Redevelopment process and stated it is the Redevelopment Agency's role to investigate and determine if a redeveloper has the ability to meet the criteria prior to being awarded a PILOT agreement. Councilman DeLine stated the Redevelopment Agency advises and recommends to Council whether to award the agreement. Councilman DeLine went on to state the process failed in the case of the CJM building and cautioned the Redevelopment Agency be more diligent in their investigations prior to their recommending the award of a PILOT agreement.

Mr. Brewer responded and stated a formal letter has been sent to the property owner of the CJM building and the matter is being addressed. Borough Attorney Mark Semeraro offered ways to address those who do not conform to the Redevelopers agreement and negotiation strategies.

Councilwoman Polidori questioned the demand by developers for communities with accessibility to bus systems and railways. Ms. Lawlor stated transportation for commuters is in close proximity and developers are aware of the mixed use for transportation.

The public questioned the number of years for a tax agreement and the study process for a designated Redevelopment area. Mr. Brewer and Ms. Lawlor addressed the public and provided answers to their questions.

Mayor Serra thanked Ms. Lawlor and Mr. Brewer for their presentation tonight.

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to open the Meeting for public comments. All voted in favor of the motion.

RANDY HINTON, Montclair Avenue

Mr. Hinton commented on dust in the area of his home that is a result of Tilcon operations and requested this issue be addressed. Mayor Serra advised Mr. Hinton that he did speak with Tilcon and he has been in the area and did not see much dust. Mr. Hinton also questioned whether a determination has been made regarding the vacation of Clerihew Lane. Mayor Serra stated the matter is being reviewed and Ms. Cozzarelli further stated she has a file and will continue to review the file to determine the status for Clerihew Lane.

DANIEL TASJIAN, Howard Street

Mr. Tasjian commented on an incident that occurred in a parking lot with someone requesting assistance and questioned whether there are any programs available for individuals in need of food and/or shelter. Mayor Serra replied and stated that he receives calls occasionally about these concerns and he guides these people accordingly. Mayor Serra stated those seeking assistance can also be directed to a police officer for guidance or provided information for County services and housing resources.

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilman DeLine to close the Meeting for public comments. All voted in favor of the motion.

MINUTES:

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2023. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2023. All voted in favor of the motion.

BILL LISTS: None

Current Fund	\$
Capital Fund	\$
Recreation Trust	\$
Unemployment	\$
Dog Trust Account	\$
Other Trust Account	\$
Clerk’s Account	\$
Open Space Trust	\$
Affordable Housing	\$

PETITIONS:None

CONSENT AGENDA:

(No Council Members Required Any Resolutions to Be Pulled from the Consent Agenda)

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes has reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of various proposed Resolutions, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes does not desire to remove any Resolutions from that Agenda, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda are hereby approved:

1. Resolution 23-120 Accepting The Resignation Of Emma Brennan (Part-Time Dispatcher) From The Pompton Lakes Police Department
2. Resolution 23-121 Accepting The Resignation Of Kyle Stefanic (Police Officer) From The Pompton Lakes Police Department
3. Resolution 23-122 Designating Paula Cozzarelli As The Qualified Purchasing Agent Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(30)

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to approve the Consent Agenda. All voted in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION 23-120

WHEREAS, Emma Brennan, notified the Chief of Police that she would be resigning from her position of Part-Time Dispatcher effective April 16, 2023; and

WHEREAS, her formal letter dated April 6, 2023 is on file with the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey that it hereby accepts this letter of resignation and thanks Emma for her service to the Borough and wishes her well in her future endeavors.

RESOLUTION 23-121

WHEREAS, Kyle Stefanic, notified the Chief of Police that he would be resigning from his position of Police Officer effective May 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, his formal letter dated April 21, 2023 is on file with the Borough; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey that it hereby accepts this letter of resignation and thanks Kyle for his service to the Borough and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

RESOLUTION 23-122

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pompton Lakes is subject to the provisions of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law was amended to give local contracting units the ability to increase their bid threshold up to \$44,000 if a qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pompton Lakes has filled and maintained the position of Qualified Purchasing Agent and desires to continue the use thereof, and maintain the higher bid threshold of \$44,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Paula Cozzarelli possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.4; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes to appoint Paula Cozzarelli as the Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Borough of Pompton Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Paula Cozzarelli shall receive an annual salary increase of \$10,000 prorated from May 1, 2023, for the execution of the duties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(30).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Pompton Lakes, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Borough of Pompton Lakes hereby maintains its bid threshold at \$44,000.00
2. The Borough of Pompton Lakes appoints Paula Cozzarelli as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(30).
3. Paula Cozzarelli shall receive an annual salary increase of \$10,000 prorated from May 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2 the Borough of Pompton Lakes Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Paula Cozzarelli's certificate to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

SEPARATE ACTION RESOLUTIONS: None

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION:

(Ordinance will be presented for second reading and final adoption on May 24, 2023)

ORDINANCE 23-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 7, "TRAFFIC," SECTION 7-44.1, "POND HOLE PARKING LOT REGULATIONS", OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilman DeLine to Approve Ordinance No. 23-17 for Introduction.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Excused, Councilman Cruz, Yes, Councilman DeLine, Yes.

ORDINANCE 23-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, “LICENSES, PERMITS AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS,” ARTICLE 1, “PAYMENT OF TAXES REQUIRED,” SECTION 1, “PAYMENT OF TAXES REQUIRED FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSE OR PERMIT” AND CHAPTER 20 “RENTAL PROPERTY,” ARTICLE 1, “RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION,” OF THE BOROUGH’S MUNICIPAL CODE

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Cruz to Approve Ordinance No. 23-18 for Introduction.

Councilman DeLine stated this local Ordinance is aligned with requirements by the State. All owners of rental units are required to register rental properties located within the Borough and maintain liability insurance.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Excused, Councilman Cruz, Yes, Councilman DeLine, Yes.

ORDINANCE 23-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 28, “TELEVISION AND MOVIE FILMING” OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilman DeLine to Approve Ordinance No. 23-19 for Introduction.

Councilman Venin thanked Councilman DeLine for his assistance with updating the Ordinance and stated this is part of the process for the Borough to become *Film Ready Certified*. Councilman DeLine commented on the three main changes to the Ordinance and stated the hope is to attract television and movie filming to the Borough.

Mayor Serra stated the *Walking Dead* film is taking place at the former Toys R Us building in Wayne, NJ.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Excused, Councilman Cruz, Yes, Councilman DeLine, Yes.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION:

(These Ordinances have been advertised and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board)

ORDINANCE 23-15

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilwoman Polidori to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-15. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment on Ordinance No. 23-15.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Cruz to close the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-15. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to approve Ordinance No. 23-15 for Final Adoption.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Excused, Councilman Cruz, Yes, Councilman DeLine, Yes.

ORDINANCE 23-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 2, “ADMINISTRATION,” ARTICLE VII, “ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND

PROCEDURES,” SECTION 71, “VIDEO RECORDING OF MEETINGS,” OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES TO RECORD AND BROADCAST THE MEETINGS OF ALL MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND BOROUGH PLANNING BOARD, BOROUGH ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND THE POMPTON LAKES REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilwoman Polidori to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-16. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment on Ordinance No. 23-16.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman DeLine to close the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-16.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman DeLine to approve Ordinance No. 23-16 for Final Adoption.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Excused, Councilman Cruz, Yes, Councilman DeLine, Yes.

MAYOR MICHAEL SERRA:

Mayor Serra reported on the following.

- commented on a meeting with Assemblyman Jay Weber and several staff members to discuss some concerns regarding Daniel’s Law – protection of judges and law enforcement addresses
- participated in the River Clean-up. Thanked Councilwoman Kent and the Environmental Committee for their assistance with planning the event.
- attended a Pompton Day meeting and stated volunteers and vendors are welcome to participate
- attended Personnel and Ordinance Committee meetings

COUNCIL PRESIDENT POLIDORI:

Councilwoman Polidori reported on the following.

- hosted the Arbor Day presentations held at Lincoln and Lenox Schools along with Councilwoman Kent and Shade Tree Commissioner, Randy Hinton. Commented on the enthusiasm of the students and the naming of their saplings.
- participated in the River Clean-up and thanked Councilwoman Kent for arranging the event
- thanked Tony Massaro, Pompton Lakes Fire Department, for his presentation at the Rotary luncheon
- plans for the Lakeside Park Sculpture dedication have been finalized and is scheduled for May 24, 2023
- thanked the Ordinance Committee for completing the Transparency Ordinance
- attended the 200 Club Valor Awards and thanked all First Responders for their service
- wished all mother’s Happy Mother’s Day

COUNCILMAN DELINE:

Councilman DeLine reported on the following.

- commented on the next Trails Maintenance Days, scheduled for May 13 and May 21, 2023. Volunteers to meet at Willow Field parking lot at 10:00am. Congratulated and thanked Councilwoman Kent, Ms. Doncoes, Stephen Baig and the Environmental Protection Committee for their hard work and commitment towards the river clean-up.
- National Trails Day is June 4, 2023 and he will announce the program at the next Council Meeting
- commented on Ordinances regarding boating and park events that have been moving forward and anticipates them being introduced at the next Council Meeting – will review existing municipal code regarding pet stores/puppy mills in the near future

COUNCILWOMAN KENT:

Councilwoman Kent reported on the following.

- Passaic County will visit the Borough on May 12, 2023 from 1-2pm to distribute free radon kits
- thanked the Redevelopment Agency for attending the Meeting this evening and providing the presentation. Councilwoman Kent stated she supports Redevelopment and future projects.
- the Flood Advisory Board (FAB) is concerned with the design for the reconstruction of the Dawes Highway Bridge and have provided a letter requesting a Resolution be directed to Passaic County Engineer and County Commissioners. The FAB is seeking the support of the Governing Body and requested their concerns be conveyed through a Resolution. Ms. Cozzarelli stated she would follow up with Joe Skupian, Hydraulic Engineer, to express their concerns. Mr. Semeraro to follow up and review the Resolution.
- Shade Tree Commissioners are planting trees and removing dangerous trees in the Borough
- commented on the Arbor Day Essay Contest for 5th grade students in Lincoln and Lenox schools. Councilwoman Kent and Shade Tree Commissioners to select the winning entries. The students will present their essays during the next Council Meeting. Councilwoman Kent commented on the 8th Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting for 3rd graders
- met with Valerie Coll - Business Improvement District (BID) Trustee to discuss her concerns with trash and litter in/near the Pond Hole. Councilwoman Kent to further discuss the Environmental Protection Committee (EPC) for their input in creating an Ordinance to address the issue.
- attended the Board of Health meeting and reported as of this time restaurants are compliant
- extended her gratitude towards the many volunteers and sponsors who contributed to the successful 20th Annual Town Wide River Clean-up. All waste tonnage collected assists with attaining CRS program points and Clean Community grants.

Councilwoman Kent stated she wanted to express her disappointment in the way the motion to grant a leave of absence for Councilman Baig was presented this evening. Councilwoman Kent stated this is a private matter and should have been handled differently. Councilwoman Kent stated she was not provided advance notice and she has an obligation to know the facts prior to making a decision. Councilwoman Kent questioned why the Attorney did not provide guidance to her in advance of the meeting. Mr. Semeraro responded and stated this was an administration issue and he was unaware of the timing and it became evident as to its urgency as he reviewed the Municipal Vacancy rule earlier this evening. Mr. Semeraro noted the Attorney does not reach out to individual Council members to discuss Agenda items.

COUNCILMAN VENIN:

Councilman Venin reported on the following.

- thanked all the volunteers and especially Councilwoman Kent for organizing the 20th Annual Town Wide River Clean-up
- the Filming Ordinance has been updated to offer a streamlined and flexible process to entice movie and film crews to consider Pompton Lakes as a viable filming location

COUNCILMAN BAIG:

Councilman Baig was excused.

COUNCILMAN CRUZ:

Councilman Cruz reported on the following.

- at the Board of Education meeting, the Department of Special Services gave an overview of the Children's Place (Autism program) that includes Kindergarten

through 5th grades. Councilman Cruz commented on the presentation and the positive growth of the program.

- announced Dr. Przybylinski will be retiring at the end of the school year and stated he is retiring as the longest tenured principal. Councilman Cruz commented on his numerous accomplishments over the years and wished him well.

Motion moved by Councilman Cruz, second by Councilman DeLine to approve request for the Veterans Of Foreign Wars of the U.S. John Hand-Tri County Post No. 2906 to conduct the annual Memorial Day parade sponsored by the John Hand Tri-County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2906 and the Borough of Pompton Lakes on Sunday May 28, 2023, parade to assemble at 10:45 AM at the intersections of Lakeside and Jefferson Avenues and the V.F.W. Memorial Services to be held at 11:30AM at the Veterans Memorial Park, Jefferson and Lakeside Avenues. Parade will then commence its route following the services and ending at the V.F.W. Post 2906 located at 260 Wanaque Avenue where refreshments will be served, the Police Department will temporarily close the route: portions of this route include County roads. (Notify Police/Fire/First Aid) All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman Cruz, second by Councilman DeLine to approve request to allow the Pompton Lakes Girl Scout Troop #96380 to hold a Girl Scout Camporee at Hershfield Park on May 20, 2023 from 8:00am thru 7:00pm. (Notify Police/Fire/First Aid). All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman Cruz, second by Councilman DeLine to approve request from Lakeside Middle School for a portion of Lakeside Avenue be closed to traffic between Mandeville Street and Grant/Schuyler Avenue to allow students and parents access to Lakeside Park prior to the 8th grade Dance on June 8, 2023 from 3:30pm to 5:15pm. (Notify Police/Fire/First Aid) All voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Serra announced that the Memorial Day Parade services will begin at 11:30am on May 28, 2023. The Parade will commence at the Vietnam War Memorial on Lakeside Avenue.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

MARK SEMERARO, Borough Attorney

Mr. Semeraro has no report.

PAULA COZZARELLI, Borough Administrator

Ms. Cozzarelli reported on the following.

- she along with the Borough Engineer and the Superintendent for the Department of Public Works met with residents from 1102 and 1104 Colfax Avenue. Ms. Cozzarelli commented on the storm water line will be televised and stated it is going to be a challenge to remedy the piping issue along with amount for costs associated with the repairs.
- commented on a letter from the Mayor Dale of West Milford regarding the recent fires that occurred and thanked the first responders for assisting during the April 13, 2023 incident. This was one of the largest fires West Milford has experienced.
- Announced the continuation on the replacement of bridges in the Borough including DuPont Place culvert – the Borough will bear the costs for the engineering and responsibility for the construction oversight. The County will be receiving funding from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for construction.

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman DeLine to open the Meeting for public comments. All voted in favor of the motion.

AL EVANGELISTA, Ringwood Court

Mr. Evangelista stated he recently attended the Emergency Preparedness Conference sponsored by FEMA and the NJ State Police. Mr. Evangelista commented on the use of the three digit phone number 211 that he will provide to Michael Carelli and the Borough Clerk, Ms. Brandsness.

Mr. Evangelista clarified 2-1-1 provides essential community services including basic human needs- food, clothing, shelter, work support, financial assistance, etc. Ms. Brandsness advised the information is posted on the Borough website.

Councilman Venin offered the number for the National Suicide Prevention line – 9-8-8.

DANIEL TASJIAN, Howard Street

Mr. Tasjian questioned if he were to go around town and pick up debris on the streets where would he be able to discard the debris. Ms. Cozzarelli replied and stated that she would help him coordinate the disposal of debris with the Department of Public Works.

RANDY HINTON, Montclair Avenue

Mr. Hinton thanked Mayor Serra for attending the Shade Tree Commission meeting and for inducting the newest commissioner, Alexa Reed, to a five year term.

Mr. Hinton announced that the Shade Tree Commission removed eleven ash trees from Hershfield Park due to the emerald ash borer. Mr. Hinton also mentioned the oak leaf scorch is affecting oak trees and it was suggested oak trees in Hershfield Park be removed. Mr. Hinton will have Mr. O’Rourke examine the oak trees before arranging the removal of the trees.

Mr. Hinton stated residents should contact the Shade Tree Commission if interested in having a tree planted in front of their home.

Motion moved by Councilman Venin second by Councilwoman Polidori to close the Meeting for public comments. All voted in favor of the motion.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Councilman Venin wished to congratulate a friend for being named Ridgewood High School’s head football coach, and to his former high school football coach on his thirty- eight career at Ridgewood High School.

Mayor Serra wished all mothers a Happy Mother’s Day and thanked all those who attended this evenings Meeting.

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to Adjourn the Meeting at 10:01 PM. All voted in favor of the motion.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**ELIZABETH BRANDSNESS, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

**MICHAEL SERRA
MAYOR**

Dated: May 10, 2023