

## **MINUTES OF THE JULY 19, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The following are the Minutes of the July 19, 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.

Mayor Serra 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 and Ekamon Venin and Councilwoman Maria Kent. Councilmen William Baig has an excused absence and Bobby Cruz was absent from the meeting.

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

### **MAYOR PRESENTATION AND UPDATES:**

#### **Accreditation Presentation:**

Mr. Delgado, EDS/Accreditation Program Director-Accreditation Net Chair and New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police addressed the Mayor and Council and expressed the significance of this accreditation achievement. Mr. Delgado described the rigorous process and noted only 54% of the eligible agencies in New Jersey have achieved this certification. Mr. Delgado stated it is his honor to congratulate Chief Clark, Accreditation Manager Anthony Rodriguez, the Governing Body and citizens of the community in this very exclusive achievement in joining a very exclusive group of law enforcement in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Delgado presented the Pompton Lakes Police Department with a plaque memorializing their achievement.

Chief Clark accepted the award and thanked the entire Police Department's team effort and noted Police Lieutenant Rodriguez's management during the two year process in achieving the accreditation. Chief Clark stated Lt. Rodriguez was professional and committed in attaining all standards of the accreditation process.

Mayor Serra thanked Mr. Delgado for his presentation and congratulated Chief Clark, Lieutenant Rodriguez and the entire Police Department on this respected and prestigious achievement.

### **APPOINTMENT POMPTON LAKES POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

#### **RESOLUTION 23-151**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Pompton Lakes Police Department is in need of a Police officer to fill a position in the ranks; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Civil Service Commission advertised and tested for the position of Police Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pompton Lakes Police Department has undertaken background investigations, physical and psychological evaluations of the potential candidate to fill this position; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon that information and a formal interview it is the recommendation of the Chief of Police, Borough Administrator and Investigating Committee that Hector Alcantara be appointed to the position of Police Officer under the Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission and the current collective bargaining agreement between the P.B.A. and the Borough of Pompton Lakes.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey that it hereby confirms the appointment of Hector Alcantara to the position of Police Officer with the Pompton Lakes Police Department effective July 19, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the CFO has certified that sufficient uncommitted funds are available in the 2023 Borough of Pompton Lakes Budget for the purposes set forth herein and made a part of this resolution.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman Venin Authorizing The Appointment Of A Police Officer To The Pompton lakes Police Department – Hector Alcantara

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

Mayor Serra invited Hector Alcantara to step forward along with his family and administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Alcantara. Mayor Serra congratulated Hector on his appointment as a Police Officer to the Pompton Lakes Police Department.

**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.

**MICHAEL SIMONE, West Lenox Avenue**

Mr. Simone stated the Senior Housing Project is a positive asset for the Borough as well as residents and thanked the Governing Body for moving forward this evening with the adoption of Ordinance 23-27. Mr. Simone congratulated the Borough Police Department and stated the accreditation is a significant achievement.

**RANDY HINTON, Montclair Avenue**

Mr. Hinton expressed his support for the Senior Housing Project and stated he is hopeful the project will be beneficial to the community. Mr. Hinton requested clarification for Resolution 23-153. Mayor Serra stated the Governing Body will discuss Resolution 23-153 during the approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hinton congratulated the Police Department on their accreditation achievement.

**GEORGE POPOV, Colfax Avenue**

Mr. Popov commented on an e-mail he received from the Borough regarding an issue that involves a drainage pipe and stated he is very frustrated with the number of years this issue has been ongoing. Mr. Popov referenced a plan that was drawn up by H2M Engineering in 2013 and stated a survey has been provided so therefore he feels there is no need for a Title Search.

Mayor Serra informed Mr. Popov of regulations and laws the Borough must follow when addressing an issue on private property. Mayor Serra stated the Borough will update Mr. Popov of the findings when the Title Search is completed.

Mark Semeraro, Borough Attorney, commented on easement and access agreements and explained the need for a Title Search to rectify this particular matter. Mr. Semeraro stated the Borough has taken the necessary steps and requested the Title Search be done. Mr. Semeraro remarked on the time frame for a Title Search and stated the timing for the Title Search is dependent on how far back in years needs to be searched before finding sufficient and accurate information to resolve this matter.

**DENNIS KIHMBERG, Mountainside Drive**

Mr. Kihlberg addressed the Borough Attorney, Mr. Semeraro, and requested clarification regarding the Vacancy Law particularly pertaining to the eight-week absence and a vacancy for a Council seat. Mr. Kihlberg commented on past interpretation by Mr. Semeraro for the Vacancy Law and stated there was no need for Council to vote to grant an excused absence. Mr. Kihlberg questioned whether his interpretation for the law was accurate.

**Discussion:**

Borough Attorney, Mark Semeraro replied the Vacancy Law, as it is written, eight consecutive weeks of unexcused absence creates a Municipal Vacancy. Mr. Semeraro stated on the evening of May 10, 2023 Council Meeting it was brought to his attention, the eight-week period, was approaching and it was determined at that time, the Council Member was not going to be able to participate in the meeting. Mr. Semeraro then stated at that time, it was recommended to Council, to make a motion and vote to grant an excused absence in order to avoid a vacancy.

Mr. Kihlberg disputed and disagreed with Mr. Semeraro's explanation and stated his interpretation of the law indicates there was no need for a vote since the Council Member was excused from the meetings.

Mr. Semeraro stated in preparation of this meeting (July 19, 2023 Council Meeting), it had come to his attention the past minutes reflected the absence as "excused." Mr. Semeraro stated at this point, the appropriate action to be taken would be a vote to grant an excused absence. Mr. Semeraro stated technically a motion should be made, however in his opinion if the matter was brought before a court of law, the Judge would find by virtue of the approved minutes there was an excused absence being granted.

Mayor Serra stated the Borough has practiced this method of roll call recording, when a Council Member is not in attendance it was recorded as excused for many years and was unaware this roll call practice was incorrect.

Councilman DeLine stated the Borough has always used the language of excused when a Council Member was not in attendance of a meeting.

Mr. Kihlberg stated so in conclusion the vote did not need to be made.

Mr. Semeraro responded and stated, past minutes, leading up to the May 10, 2023 Council Meeting, documented the word "excused" and the Council adopted those past minutes. Mr. Semeraro noted during the past Council Meetings, there was never a motion made nor a vote by Council to grant an excused absence for Councilman Baig. Mr. Semeraro went on to explain it was brought to his attention that Councilman Baig was not going to be able to participate in the May 10, 2023 Council Meeting so therefore he advised Council to make the motion to grant an excused absence in order to avoid a vacancy.

Mr. Kihlberg stated he understood the reasoning for the action however, in his opinion, there were some oversights in the way this matter has been addressed.

Mr. Semeraro stated the Minutes documented the word "excused" which reflects past practice roll call procedure in the Borough without an official vote by the Governing Body granting the excused absence. Mr. Semeraro stated it was an oversight and the Borough's past practice granting excused absence was incorrect.

Councilman DeLine stated there is much confusion by Council as well as the public regarding this matter. Councilman DeLine stated, fundamentally, the vote by Council for the eight-week extension on May 10, 2023 carried no merit as Councilman Baig had been recorded as excused during prior meetings. Councilman DeLine stated the 8-week extension for absence granted to Councilman Baig expires today and Council expected to make a decision whether to grant Councilman Baig an extension or vacate the seat.

Councilwoman Polidori agreed with Councilman DeLine's statement and further added during the May 10, 2023 Council Meeting she felt unprepared and rushed into making a decision. Councilwoman Polidori continued to voice her frustration with the lack of information provided and the fact she was unable to make an informed and educated vote for an extension for absence.

Mark Semeraro concluded and commented on the Vacancy Law and stated the Borough has recorded excused for Governing Body members not in attendance for many years.

Mayor Serra stated moving forward, the recording of the attendance for the Governing Body will reflect the proper way to record the attendance.

**LISA KIHMBERG, Mountainside Drive**

Ms. Kihlberg commented on a property that is in violation located on Whitney Avenue and inquired as to the status of the violation. Mayor Serra stated he does not have any information regarding the property and directed Ms. Kihlberg to the Building Department.

Councilwoman Polidori provided an update and stated the Building Department served the resident with a notice of violation. Councilwoman Polidori stated it was determined the structure is on Borough property and must be removed.

Paula Cozzarelli commented on the process for retrieving information on the violation and advised Ms. Kihlberg to file an OPRA request with the Building Department.

**DAVE PULICE, Wanaque Avenue**

Mr. Pulice commented on the property located on Whitney Avenue that is in violation and inquired as to how long after an OPRA request is filed should the requester expect to receive the information. Ms. Cozzarelli responded and stated by law the Borough has seven business days beginning the day after the OPRA was submitted and in some cases the process may take longer in which an extension is requested.

Mr. Pulice questioned how the structure was built in violation and expressed his concerns that the issue was not addressed by the Borough; inspections, permits, or violations. Mayor Serra responded throughout town there is construction, structures, and fencing illegally on Borough property and the Building Department does address non-conforming matters. Mayor Serra stated the process to address the notice of violation will take some time.

**MINUTES:****Discussion/Correction:**

Councilwoman Kent commented on past practice for approving recorded roll calls in Council Meeting Minutes and questioned whether the June 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes should be amended.

Councilwoman Kent stated to reflect past discussions and memo forwarded to Council by the Borough Attorney, both Councilmen Cruz and Baig should have been absent and not excused during the June 28, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Semeraro responded and stated Councilman Baig is considered excused by virtue of a motion made during the May 10, 2023 meeting granting the excused absence from Council Meetings up until tonight's meeting and Councilman Cruz will be recorded as absent.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Kent, second by Councilwoman Polidori to adopt the June 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes as amended to reflect Councilman Cruz as absent. All voted in favor of the motion.

Councilwoman Polidori requested additional clarification in making a motion to excuse a member from Council Meetings. Mr. Semeraro stated the Council could choose to make the motion if there was a threat of the Vacancy Law going into effect.

Councilman DeLine inquired if the Vacancy Law applies only to Council Meetings or if it also applies to Liaison Appointments and attendance for meetings. After a short discussion, Mr. Semeraro stated he will research the matter further.

**BILL LISTS:****RESOLUTION 23-150**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,708,025.70**

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilman DeLine to approve the following Bill Lists. All voted in favor of the motion.

Current Fund	\$3,604,619.56
Capital Fund	\$ 97,613.65
Recreation Trust	\$ 2,667.49
Unemployment	\$ 209.60
Dog Trust Account	\$ 37.20
Other Trust Account	\$ 2,340.70
Clerk’s Account	\$ -0-
Open Space Trust	\$ -0-
Affordable Housing	\$ 537.50

**PETITIONS: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*(Council Members Required Resolution 23-153 to Be Pulled from the Consent Agenda for Separate Action)*

**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 desire to remove Resolution 23-153 from that Agenda, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda are hereby approved with Resolution 23-153 removed for separate action:

1. Resolution 23-152 Deferring Due Date For Third Quarter Property Taxes
2. Resolution 23-153 Approving A Chapter 159, P.L. 1948 Resolution Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Providing For The Insertion Of Items Of Revenue In The 2023 Budget (Spotted Lanternfly Program \$15,000.00)
3. Resolution 23-154 Authoring A Shared Services Agreement Between The Pompton Lakes Board Of Education And The Borough Of Pompton Lakes FOR The Assignment Of Class Three Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO III) In The District’s Schools Effective Through The 2023-2024 School Year

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

**RESOLUTION 23-152**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Pompton Lakes Tax Collector has not received the certified tax rate and is unable to prepare property tax bills; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66 et. seq., the third installment of 2023 property taxes shall not be subject to interest until the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date on which the final tax bills are mailed by 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 in accordance with the law that the third installment of 2023 property taxes shall not be subject to interest until the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date on which the final tax bills are mailed by the Borough.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, all third installment property tax payments received at the Borough’s offices after said 25<sup>th</sup> calendar day following the mailing of property tax bills by the Borough shall be subject to interest commencing from August 1, 2023, until such date on which the third installment tax payment is received.

**RESOLUTION 23-154**

**WHEREAS**, the Pompton Lakes Board of Education desires to have Class Three Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO III) assigned to the District's schools; and

**WHEREAS**, to effectuate the assignment of SLEO III officers to the District's school, it is necessary to enter into a shared services agreement with the Borough of Pompton Lakes by way of a Shared Services Agreement as permitted by N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached Shared Services Agreement with the Pompton Lakes Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with the Borough Clerk and shall be open for public inspection at the Borough Hall Building upon adoption of this resolution.
3. The agreement shall take effect upon the lawful adoption of the requisite resolutions by all parties thereto.
4. A copy of the Agreement shall be sent to the State of New Jersey, Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR SEPARATE ACTION:****RESOLUTION 23-153**

**WHEREAS** N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special items of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such item shall have been made 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 any item of appropriation for an equal amount; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Borough Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of items of revenue in the budget of the year 2023, in the amount listed below, which item is now available as a revenue from the State of New Jersey Department of Agriculture/Division of Plant Industry Spotted Lantern Fly Program, Other Expenses \$15,000.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum, be, and the same, hereby is appropriated under the above appropriation titles.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Cozzarelli stated this is a Federal Grant managed by the County and the Resolution is a Chapter 159. Ms. Cozzarelli stated the Grant funding is not currently included within the 2023 Budget therefore the 2023 Budget must be amended to show an increase of revenue in the amount of \$15,000. Ms. Cozzarelli commented on the program and stated Pompton Lakes will be treating for the Spotted Lantern Flies and is hopeful other surrounding communities will be doing the same.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilwoman Kent to approve Resolution 23-153. All voted in favor of the motion.

**ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION: None**  
(Ordinance will be presented for second reading and final adoption on )

**ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION:**

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

**ORDINANCE 23-26 Tabled****AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 10, "ANIMAL CONTROL" OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES**

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman DeLine to carry Ordinance 23-26 to the August 16, 2023 Council Meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

**ORDINANCE 23-27****AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE SENIOR HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman DeLine to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-27. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment on Ordinance No. 23-27

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to close the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-27. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to approve Ordinance No. 23-27 for Final Adoption.

**Roll Call: Councilman Cruz, Absent, Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, (Excused) Absent.**

**ORDINANCE 23-28****AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,362,894 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,611,615 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES, IN THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY**

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-28. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment on Ordinance No. 23-28

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Kent to close the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-28. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Polidori to approve Ordinance No. 23-28 for Final Adoption.

**Roll Call: Councilman Cruz, Absent, Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, (Excused) Absent.**

**MAYOR MICHAEL SERRA:**

Mayor Serra reported on the following.

- the Police Department is seeking to hire crossing guards. Anyone interested may contact the Police Department - Lt. Klepacky for an application.
- the Borough has been approved to receive a grant for \$500,000.00 for Library renovations and thanked Congressman Pascrell for his assistance
- will be speaking with campers at Hershfield Park tomorrow. Mayor Serra thanked the Elks and the Board of Education for use of their facilities for Summer Recreation Camp during rain events.

- commented on several meetings he attended regarding the Senior Housing Complex. The project will include 50 one-bedroom units. Mayor Serra commented on the waiting list at the existing Senior Housing and stated he hopes these residents will apply for residency at the new complex.
- commented on reconfiguring the Recycling Center (one road in and one road out) along with maintaining the salt dome
- commented on discussions with Meridian to construct a new Civic Center. The Civic Center will remain closed due to water damage and instructed Borough groups using the Center to contact the Borough Clerk for additional information.
- attended the Planning Board meeting

Motion moved by Mayor Serra, second by Councilman DeLine to approve the request of Jennifer Polidori and surrounding neighbors to host a block party on Walnut Avenue from Riverdale Blvd. to Willow Field Dead End on October 8, 2023 (Rain Date October 15, 2023) from noon until 7pm. (Police/Fire/First Aid to be notified) All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Mayor Serra, second by Councilman DeLine to approve the request of the Pompton Lakes Volunteer Fire Department to host a Community Function to Celebrate the arrival of a New Fire Truck on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at the Fire Department Headquarters on Passaic Avenue to begin at 5PM until 10PM and to close Passaic Avenue between Hamburg Turnpike and Ramapo Avenue between 3PM until 11PM. (Police/Fire/First Aid to be notified) All voted in favor of the motion.

#### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT POLIDORI:**

Councilwoman Polidori reported on the following.

- congratulated the Police Department on achieving accreditation
- welcomed Hector Alcantara to the Police Department
- attended her first meeting as the incoming president elect for the Pompton Lakes Rotary. The first fundraiser is the upcoming golf outing and proceeds will be given to the Pompton Reformed Church Food Pantry and the Pompton Lakes Fire Department.
- looking forward to the Senior Picnic at the Elks Lodge
- questioned if there is an update regarding the removal process for a member on the Redevelopment Agency. Ms. Cozzarelli responded she is reviewing the Ordinance. Mr. Semeraro cautioned this is a personnel matter and is subject to a RICE notice.

Councilwoman Kent suggested Mayor Serra appoint Councilman Baig's liaisons to other Council Members during his vacancy.

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilwoman Kent to appoint Councilman Baig's liaisons to other Council Members through his absence or vacancy of the office.

Senior Citizens – Councilwoman Polidori  
 Finance Member – Councilwoman Polidori  
 Board of Education – Councilman DeLine  
 Public Safety / Chairperson – Councilman Venin  
 Public Safety / Member Councilman Cruz  
 Police / Fire / First Aid / Police Reserve / Office of Emergency Management – Councilman Venin  
 Chamber of Commerce – Mayor Serra

All voted in favor of the motion.

#### **COUNCILMAN DELINE:**

Councilman DeLine reported on the following.

- congratulated the Police Department accomplishing the accreditation
- also congratulated Hector Alcantara on his appointment to the Police Department
- the Redevelopment Meeting has been cancelled



- attended the Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) meeting – there were 23 water/sewer mark outs for the month of June. MUA employees are inventorying water lines into homes in the Borough to determine how many lines are made out of galvanized steel or lead material. These materials must be removed for safety reasons according to state law. Councilman DeLine offered suggestions on how to identify the material of the service lines.

#### **COUNCILWOMAN KENT:**

Councilwoman Kent reported on the following.

- congratulated and the Police Department for achieving accreditation
- met with the vendor who treats the lakes in the Borough and stated the lakes have been satisfactory. If anyone witnesses any vegetation in the lakes they should notify Ms. Cozzarelli.
- commented on the efforts and work provided by the Shade Tree Commission. Councilwoman Kent advised anyone with an infestation of the Spotted Lantern Fly to contact the Shade Tree Commission.
- the Civic Center is closed due to water damage. Town organizations may use the Prevention Coalition Office located on Wanaque Avenue.
- questioned if there is an update regarding the Heimall property. Mr. Semeraro replied that he has been in contact with Mr. Heimall and received his OPRA request.
- commented on the Senior Picnic and the number of volunteers who assisted in the event. Councilwoman Kent stated the seniors enjoyed a lunch as well as music and dancing.
- the next concert at the Library will be held on July 20, 2023
- Middle School camp ended and thanked Ms. Allen and Ms. Warnek for their assistance
- commented on the Pompton Lakes Recreation Field Hockey Camp and thanked Sharon Fluger, Tina Brindy and coaches for their assistance with the program
- one hundred and seventy children attended Summer Camp this year. Councilwoman Kent thanked the Board of Education and the Elks for the use of their facilities.

Mayor Serra stated an agreement has been reached between the Board of Education and the Borough to hire Class Three Special Police Officers for the schools. The Pompton Lakes Police Department will begin the interview process for the hiring of the officers.

Mayor Serra announced National Night will be held on August 1, 2023 at 7:00pm in the High School parking lot.

#### **COUNCILMAN VENIN:**

Councilman Venin reported on the following.

- welcomed Hector Alcantara to the Police Department and congratulated the Police Department for achieving accreditation. Councilman Venin stated he appreciated the time and effort in accomplishing this status.

#### **COUNCILMAN BAIG:**

Councilman Baig was absent.

#### **COUNCILMAN CRUZ:**

Councilman Cruz was absent.

#### **PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

##### **MARK SEMERARO, Borough Attorney**

Mr. Semeraro stated he has discussed an offer for the purchase of property to Mr. Heimall and is awaiting a reply.

##### **PAULA COZZARELLI, Borough Administrator**

Ms. Cozzarelli reported on the following.

- commented on successfully achieving the accreditation by the Police Department. Ms. Cozzarelli commented on the standards to achieve the accreditation and congratulated all those involved in the process. Ms. Cozzarelli noted by achieving the Police accreditation there will be a savings with the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF).
- Ms. Cozzarelli congratulated Hector Alcantara for his appointment as a new Police Officer for the Borough.
- received a phone call from Mr. Skupien, Hydrology expert, to discuss the opening of the culvert of the Dawes Highway Bridge. Mr. Skupien stated that he is familiar with the area and flood prevention efforts by the Borough and offered his assistance with the design for the County Bridge.
- Assemblyman Webber's office advised her the Mobile Motor Vehicle Truck has been scheduled to arrive on August 28, 2023. Appointments are required and additional information to follow at the next Council Meeting. Anyone wishing to register for a "Real ID" must have an appointment.
- the Federal Government is offering a grant "Resilient Communities Program." The Borough will be applying for this grant that will help with infrastructure upgrades – flood related natural hazards.
- commented on the breakdown of taxes: 19% of tax dollars goes to the County, 24% to the Borough and 57% to the Board of Education. The tax rate is 3.835. The tax bills will be due 25 days after the date post marked on the envelope.

Mayor Serra commented on the devastation caused by flooding in several Counties the past three weeks and stated the Borough has not experienced any flooding recently. Mayor Serra stressed changes to the Dawes Highway project are very important to keep water flowing downstream and his hope is to have the flow of water continue through Pompton Lakes.

#### **MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

#### **RANDY HINTON, Montclair Avenue**

Mr. Hinton questioned why Ordinance 23-26 - An Ordinance Amending And Supplementing Chapter 10, "Animal Control" Of The Municipal Code Of The Borough Of Pompton Lakes has been tabled until the August Council Meeting. Mayor Serra replied and stated additional review is needed prior to voting on the Ordinance. Mr. Semeraro to further review the Ordinance and offer some additional input during the August Meeting.

Mr. Hinton thanked Ms. Cozzarelli for the work she provided on the Clerihew Lane project.

Mr. Hinton requested an update as to when repaving of roadways will begin in the Borough. Ms. Cozzarelli replied and stated work will not begin until September 2023.

Mr. Hinton commented on Ordinance 23-27 Approving and Adopting the Senior Housing Redevelopment Plan. Mr. Hinton commented on housing projects and the additional number of housing units and questioned whether the Municipal Utility Authority is capable of the additional capacity and operations at the facility. Councilman DeLine assured Mr. Hinton the Commissioners discuss utility operations during the Municipal Utility Authority Meetings. Mayor Serra also commented and stated the Municipal Utility is part of the Redevelopment process. The Municipal Utility Authority is compensated by developers to assist with upgrades and operations to stabilize water and sewer capacity and fees.

Mr. Hinton commented on the infestation of the Spotted Lantern Fly located on several Borough properties along with his concerns for the dead ash trees located in Hershfield Park. Mr. Hinton agreed with Mayor Serra that many of the volunteer groups assist and help to prevent major destruction during weather events.

**LISA KIHBERG, Mountainside Drive**

Ms. Kihlberg questioned whether new Redevelopment buildings have pump stations. Councilman DeLine and Mayor Serra responded and stated the Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) evaluates each Redevelopment project to determine the need for a pump station as well as upgrades to the system.

**DENNIS KIHBERG, Mountainside Drive**

Mr. Kihlberg commented on mobile signage located in the middle of the roadway warning vehicles to stop for pedestrians and suggested the signage be located near crosswalks.

**MICHAEL SIMONE, West Lenox Avenue**

Mr. Simone thanked the Governing Body for contracting with a flood expert to oversee the Dawes Highway Bridge project. Mr. Simone commented on the property violation matter and stated inquiries should be addressed with the Building Department and not discussed during a Council Meeting.

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

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: None**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION: None**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilman DeLine to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:10PM. All voted in favor of the motion.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ELIZABETH BRANDSNESS, RMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MICHAEL SERRA  
MAYOR**

Dated: July 19, 2023