# Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Work Session at 6:02 P.M.

#### **STATEMENT:**

This is a Work Session of the Mayor and Council, and notice was given as follows:

- 1. Notice was filed March 20, 2023 with The Record & Newark Star Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
- 2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board
- 3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

# PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Mayor	Kim	Present
Councilperson	Jang	Present
44	Kim	Present
44	Min	Present
66	Park	Present
cc	Pirrera	Present
"	Vietri	Present

Borough Attorney Michael Collins, Esq. Present Borough Administrator David Lorenzo Present

Mayor Kim read a speech into the record:

"Dear Councilmembers, as Mayor, I want to ensure you in providing efficient and informed decision making process that enables us to address matters of significance with the utmost diligence and care. With this goal in mind, I am excited to propose a restructured meeting schedule that would provide also more timely information and ample time for comprehensive discussions leading to well-informed considerations of critical issues. The essence of this proposal is to separate our existing Work Session from our Regular Session thus creating distinct platforms for meaningful engagement. By doing so, we gain to achieve the following benefits: 1. Timely information - a separate Work Session will allow us to receive crucial information in a timely manner. Unlike receiving the meeting packet on the Friday before Monday's monthly meeting thereby facilitating a deeper understanding of pertinent matters before the Regular Meetings. This will enable us to be timely informed when making important decisions and could help all of us to avoid last minute agenda items presented. 2. Extended deliberations - the proposed change will afford us the opportunity to engage in a more extended and in-depth discussion, promoted through due diligence among Councilmembers before voting on important matters. This will lead to more informed, robust decision making. 3. Eliminating closed monthly agenda meetings. As a Councilmember, I expressed my concerns about closed agenda meetings involving only two minority representatives of the Council. As Mayor, I believe that agendas should be transparent and accessible to the public as understanding that it is not only our duty but also the right of the people. To implement this plan, I propose that the Borough administration provide the Governing Body with the complete agenda packet by the third Monday of each month and Work Session to be held every third Wednesday of each month. Providing us with the consistent and predictable time frame for focused deliberations and streamlining our planning process to ensure that all matters are adequately prepared and organized for efficient consideration. I do not personally appreciate the last-minute agenda presented to me and it hinders the Council's abilities to vote. So I want you guys to think about this Councilmembers.

Now we have come to the most important decision facing us today. It is our Borough building and health issue. I had a meeting this Monday with the head of the Departments to hear their concerns about their health issues working at the Borough building. Specifically the mold issue. I have already presented to the Councils, the minutes of that meeting. I agree with the BA that time to act has come upon us. One way or the other, we have to take measures now to protect our employees who are concerned about their health. The Borough Administrator stated the Governing Body has two choices: the first option was to relocate to a temporary facility. He said 21 Grand has made the Borough their lease offer. So we have this option at the facility. He also stated he is checking to see the availability of Oritani Bank, a building on Broad. Now the second option that we have at hand, is to do remote work as much as we can as we did during COVID with trailers to accommodate the Borough's essential functions and in-person services mandated by law. We as a Governing Body have a responsibility to protect the health of our employees. We as a Governing Body have discussed many aspects of issues surrounding the mold in the Borough building for a while. Both choices are not perfect. They both have their pros and cons. It is the duty of the Governing Body to investigate, review, and analyze the situation. It is also our duty to make our choice. Therefore, I think the time has come to hear what the Councils think." Mayor Kim asked Councilman Min what his thoughts were before discussing the Agenda.

Mr. Collins stated that public discussion could take place from an overall policy standpoint and what the Council may elect to do in terms of direction. He cautioned certain aspects should not be discussed as it affects employees and specific litigation. Also, anything regarding negotiations with third parties should be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Lorenzo suggested limiting the discussion to options.

Councilman Min stated that it was their duty to take the appropriate measures to ensure the well-being of everyone involved. Mayor Kim said that discussion was going to be about options. Councilman Min stated that he was happy the Council was getting involved. He wanted to take immediate action and evacuate the area as quickly as possible. Councilwoman Pirrera asked Councilman Min if he had a preference of one option. Councilman Min said his option was for remotely working and go from there.

Councilwoman Jang still had a question about the early termination of the lease. She stated that they did not know how long the cleaning of the mold would take, so she wanted to have flexibility. Mr. Lorenzo clarified that early termination was brought up a year ago. Leem's agreed to provide for early termination. Councilwoman Jang said she could not find it in the lease. Mr. Lorenzo stated that this would be an addendum. The three-month early termination was negotiated by the former Borough Attorney, John Schettino. Councilwoman Jang said she would like to give everyone a choice to work from home.

Councilwoman Pirrera said that nothing would be rented without a 90-day opt-out option. She worked in property management and the 90-day was the norm. As far as working from home, she couldn't imagine why anyone would think it would be a good thing to do now just because workers did it during COVID. She could not imagine a Municipal Government working from home. She thought that many Departments needed to work as a team and interact, and there should be a place for the townspeople to be able to go and see people. She said if the Borough Hall had to relocate, working from home would not be an option and this would not be any advantage to the municipality. Without a doubt, her option would be to have a facility where government could function on a day-to-day basis.

Councilman Kim agreed with Councilwoman Pirrera. He stated that the health of the employees was of utmost importance. He said they should immediately try to move to another location. He agreed that government should be servicing the residents. He said maybe some work could be done remotely, but not all.

Councilman Vietri said that this subject had been played with for two years. He felt that they should move out as soon as possible. One question he had regarding the move to 21 Grand Ave was how long it would take to move there. He said he did not see any other way besides letting people work from home until they could get into 21 Grand Ave. He said people could not stay in this building. He asked about the timetable. Mr. Lorenzo said that the move would take about 45-90 days. That may have gotten tighter because the Police Department would not be touched. The Police Department was separate, and it needed to be coordinated with the State and the County. Mr. Lorenzo explained the moving process. He explained that logistically, putting a trailer in the parking lot still required services, ADA requirements, phone, cable, electric, water, sewer, which was a lot of work. Councilman Vietri reiterated that they had to get the people out of the building unless they found another way for people to work remotely. Mayor Kim asked about the communication lines and the cost. Michael Apicella had the program for the building, which was already paid for. The relocation would cost about \$20,000-\$25,000. If people were going to work from home, they would need laptops and some type of communications at home.

Councilman Park said that this mold issue occurred since last year. From that moment, since his background was engineering, he had a good experience with the construction field too. He was expecting that the building would be remediated section by section. However, this was not discussed, and all of a sudden, moving out was the only option. He said 40 people were sick. Mr. Lorenzo clarified that the number was 50. Mr. Collins stated that personnel should not be discussed. Councilman Park was still hoping that the work could be done section by section and essential employees should stay at the building. He suggested making one or two rooms a workable situation and have other rooms remediated later one by one. He stated there were lots of taxpayers monitoring the expenses if they moved into 21 Grand.

Councilman Min said he saw the mold report that was generated last year. Mr. Collins stated that he would advise against getting into any specifics that could affect potential litigation. Mayor Kim stated that he thought Councilman Min was trying to speak about the current situation of the building. Mr. Collins said his advice was not to speak about the specifics as there was going to be potential litigation. Mayor Kim asked what litigation. Mr. Collins said he could not get into what they could not talk about. However, he would be happy to explain in Executive Session. Mr. Collins explained that as a Councilmember, words could impact potential claims that the Borough would face at a later date, and he was trying to protect the Governing Body by not engaging in discussion on these issues. Councilman Min wanted to bring an expert who could further explain about the report. Mayor Kim asked if the mold report could be discussed in public. Mr. Collins said he could not offer an opinion about a document that he did not have in front of him. He advised going into Executive Session if that was the Council's desire.

Councilman Vietri said he did not know how Mayor Kim was reading Councilman Min's mind.

Councilman Kim wanted clarification of Councilman Park's choice. Councilman Park wanted remote work.

Mayor Kim stated that the Council needed to decide whether to go to 21 Grand Ave or remote work and have essential service trailers. Those were the only two options.

Mr. Collins stated that the Council was divided on the issue. He also stated that the Borough Administrator needed to do a lot of work administratively, and Mr. Collins would have to deal with the legal matters. This was why the professionals needed direction from the Governing Body.

Mr. Lorenzo commented that he did not know if the building could be done section by section. That would be up to an expert. Mayor Kim told him not to worry about it. Mr. Collins said that the options that were teed up by the Mayor were based upon numerous consultants providing their perspective and providing advice which had been discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Kim said that the most important thing was to make sure that people were evacuated as soon as possible and second, fiscal responsibility. What would be the most efficient establishment for remote work? There was 21 Grand Ave or getting essential services in trailers. Mr. Lorenzo asked efficiency or economically. Mayor Kim said cost. Mr. Lorenzo said the cheapest cost would provide the least amount of services. Mayor Kim asked how long it would take to remediate the mold. The second part was remediating the mold. Mr. Lorenzo said that bids for remediation came back between \$40,000.00 and \$500,000.00. Mr. Lorenzo said that during remediation, if more than 20% was touched, then the building would have to be brought up to code compliance. Some members of the Council disagreed with that. Mr. Lorenzo stated that the Building Official 100% agreed with that.

Councilwoman Pirrera wanted clarification for herself because she had to vote and make a decision for the community. She asked the Mayor if finance was more important than the efficiency of running government. Mayor Kim stated that number one was welfare. Number two was fiscal responsibility. Number three was efficiency of government. She said that Mayor Kim was making three meetings a month so that the Council was informed. Now they were at a crossroads where they had to make a decision, and she wanted to be sure she understood how this decision making was happening. She said she kept hearing about mold remediation. She said that remediation comes second to correcting the issues that have caused the mold. Councilwoman Pirrera asked for ten minutes of respect from the Mayor and asked that he not speak until she was done. Her concern was that if the building was not able to be done section by section, which it very well may be as she had not spoken to one professional who really clarified how that remediation would go, and if the remediation took longer than expected, when then would they eat that cost and go to a facility where government could be run from one place? She wanted to know that if they voted to allow remote work and if remediation took two years, would the employees be working remotely for two years? Mayor Kim said that they didn't know how long the remediation would take, but it did not matter here. Everyone had their own opinions, and he made his own opinion. He stated that he could not foresee the future. He said not to think about what was going to happen, and to think about a decision. Councilwoman Pirrera stated that the Mayor was making absolutely no sense.

Mayor Kim recommended taking out Resolutions #2023-176, #2023-178. Mr. Lorenzo asked why they wouldn't renew the liquor licenses. Mr. Collins stated that it was the Work Session, and discussion could take place. Mr. Lorenzo said that liquor licenses had to be renewed statutorily. Mayor Kim said he was not talking about liquor licenses. Mayor Kim said that he wanted to talk about #2023-175 and #2023-176. Mr. Lorenzo clarified that #2023-175 allowed the Borough to enter into a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement so the Borough did not have to go through public bidding. This was authorization to buy from a certain source. Councilwoman Jang asked if the Borough could bid its own. Mr. Lorenzo answered that the Borough would have to publicly bid each item that it wanted to purchase, and in this case, there were only a couple manufacturers that made street sweepers. They were all part of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. If the Borough bid it, it would waste two months. The Cooperative Purchasing Agreement allowed for the best price collectively.

Mayor Kim said that the cost was missing from #2023-176. He wanted the specific information for the street sweeper.

Councilman Min made a motion to amend the Consent Agenda to exclude Resolution #2023-176. Councilwoman Jang seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilman Park: Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes

Councilman Vietri: Yes

Councilwoman Jang had a concern about #2023-177. She spoke about a resident's issue on Harriet Ave. Mr. Lorenzo advised the Mayor that the Councilwoman was speaking about a different subject matter.

Councilwoman had a concern about Ordinance #2023-10. Mr. Lorenzo explained that this was regarding an Open Space grant. Mr. Lorenzo stated that the Borough had to bond for the entire amount regardless of how much was received through the grant. The debt would be retired.

Mayor Kim asked if the Council had any questions regarding the three Bond Ordinances. Councilwoman Jang stated that she did not receive the details of the \$355,000. Mr. Lorenzo stated that the details were in the bond, which she received. Councilwoman Jang asked why the pool did not serve food anymore. Mr. Lorenzo asked if it was prudent to get into that now. Mayor Kim said that she could ask her questions during Council Reports.

Councilman Vietri asked when he could make a motion. Mr. Collins answered that the Work Session was for framing the agenda, but Councilman Vietri had every right as a Councilmember to make a motion anytime during the Regular Meeting.

Mayor Kim had a question about Ordinance #2023-12. He asked if this was an emergency appropriation. Mr. Lorenzo stated that this was a Bond Ordinance that was put together by the request of the Police Department, and it was worked out with the Borough's financial officer. Mayor Kim asked if this was an unforeseen emergency, he could understand the emergency appropriation, but

Councilwoman Jang had a question about the bond and debt. She asked what happened to the bond if there was money left. Mr. Lorenzo explained that if the bond wasn't expended to the full amount, the amount would be retired when bond payment comes due. Mayor Kim asked if the bond could be transferred to somewhere else after retirement. Mr. Lorenzo said the bond had to be used specific to that item.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Councilwoman Jang made a motion to open to the public. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Susan Brauer asked when the Work Session and the Regular Meetings would take place. Mayor Kim said that the Work Session would be separated from the Regular Meeting. He proposed meeting on third Wednesday to talk about the agenda, and then have the Regular Meeting on the fourth Monday of the month. Mr. Collins said that if the Mayor and Council wanted to restructure its meetings, it could do so by formal motion. The new dates would then be advertised so that the public would be aware. Mayor Kim did not think a Resolution was required. Mr. Collins stated that a Resolution was necessary. Mayor Kim said this would be considered at a Special Meeting.

Ms. Brauer asked if the Borough had to move to 21 Grand, was there any way to get State funds such as unused COVID funds? She said that the Court had to move out due to the mold. The mold was remediated, and the Court staff was back. This was another thing to think of. She said personally working remotely was hard during COVID, and the Council did not have to be at the Borough from 9-5 everyday. However, other people did. She asked that the Governing Body consider how hard it might be for the public if they decided to move.

Marsha Schor asked if the meetings could take place at the Early Learning Center if the Governing Body decided to move out. Mayor Kim said that this was a great idea.

Melanie Comas asked about the remediation. She said this was not the first time the town dealt with the mold problem. She wanted to know how much it would cost to remediate. She said she would rather do it all at once, get rid of the old stuff, and put in all new equipment.

Youbong Won-Yoon said that having a separate Work Session and Regular Meeting was a great idea. Regarding the mold, she said that she was sure the Mayor and Council would make the right decision for the residents. She asked why there were no Resolution regarding fixing or improving the town building. She asked that people work to prevent this situation.

Youngmin Jung spoke about the mold situation. As a taxpayer and voter, he emphasized financial matters.

Neris Papoters said that there was no clear report about the mold. She asked why the mold could not be remediated like the school. Ms. Papoters was concerned about the men sleeping and being drunk on the sidewalks. Mr. Collins answered that the Council was informed about the mold issue, and there were numerous discussions in past Executive Sessions. Given the potential legal issues surrounding it, he

advised against detailed discussions about specifics as it related to the building. Mr. Collins stated that if there was an OPRA request, he would have to review it to see if the mold report could be produced. Mayor Kim said that the Governing Body was aware of the mold situation.

Peter Longo said he got more confused listening to the Governing Body, and he wished more people were in agreement rather than have a split Council. Mayor Kim said they were doing their duty of evacuating the premises.

Ernst Bearly had concerns about remote work and trailers. He asked if the Grand Ave building was safe in terms of mold. The Mayor asked the Borough Administrator to get to the bottom of that question.

A resident on Bergen Blvd said that 2 properties were demolished next to her home, and as a result, there has been backflow. She also had concerns with property dumping. There were transient people camping there, and there were metal bolts coming out of the ground. She said that there were health concerns. Mr. Lorenzo asked if she went to the Building Department. She asked if something could be done.

Joseph Sperlazzo asked about the mold and remediation. He asked if the roof and plumbing had been repaired. Mr. Lorenzo answered that the maintenance on the building, and proposals to have the roof replaced went back to 2019. The Governing Body chose not to do it due to money. Rather than replace the roof at that time, which would have solved a significant portion of what was going on, the building was then sealed in 2020. That lasted for two years. The roof as well as the building was well beyond its useful life, and it needed major repairs.

Councilman Park stated that as far as he knew, it had nothing to do with the ADA application for the remediation of the mold.

Melanie Comas asked if she could see a proposal to take out the mold and start from scratch. Mayor Kim stated that the Council had a duty to choose between two options: 1. Move to 21 Grand or 2. Do remote work as much as possible and establish essential services trailers. Mr. Collins stated that if her questions were about the prospect of the repairs to be complete, he could share with the public that the Mayor and Council was having a very general discussion tonight and looking for the Governing Body to potentially give guidance to the Administrator and the Borough Attorney on the direction that they intended to proceed on. This was the first of many actions that would need to be taken by the Governing Body.

Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to close to the public. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Councilwoman Jang made a motion to close to the public and adjourn. Councilwoman Pirrera seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Attest:

Gina S. Kim, RMC/CMC

**Borough Clerk** 

# Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Regular Meeting at 7:24 P.M.

#### **STATEMENT:**

This is a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council, and notice was given as follows:

- 1. Notice was filed March 20, 2023 with The Record & Newark Star Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
- 2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board
- 3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

Councilman Vietri made a motion to put a Resolution on for hiring a Police Department Records Clerk because the Police Department did not have a Records Clerk. Mayor Kim stated that he asked the Borough Attorney to do a Special Meeting for that matter. Mr. Collins stated that Councilman Vietri had a right to make a motion. Mayor Kim asked the Council who looked at the Police Records Clerk application.

Councilman Vietri made a motion to approve a Resolution to Hire a Police Records Clerk position. Councilman Kim seconded.

Mayor Kim said that 50 percent of the Council did not get the application, and they should know what it was. He asked that these Resolutions do not come out at the last minute.

Councilman Vietri stated that the Police Department requested this because there was no Records Clerk. They interviewed an individual that wanted to be the Records Clerk, and he passed the interview. Chief Espino sent an email to the Mayor, Councilman Vietri, and the rest of the Police Committee. The Mayor said he did not see it. Councilman Min said that he may have missed the email. The Clerk stated that she received the email.

Councilwoman Jang asked if someone was already hired for that position. Mr. Lorenzo stated that the previous hire did not work out.

Councilman Vietri said that the Records Clerk was needed by the Police Department.

Mayor Kim said this wasn't about the qualifications but rather about following proper procedure. Mayor Kim said he was there to delegate and manage Borough business. The Mayor asked for a motion to table this matter for a Special Meeting.

Mr. Collins reviewed the procedure to table a motion during a discussion following Robert's Rules of Order.

Councilman Park made a motion to table the hiring of a Police Records Clerk. Councilman Min seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: No
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilman Park: Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera: Recused
Councilman Vietri: No

Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion regarding the staffing of lifeguards at the pool. There was a request for a small salary increase because it was very difficult to get lifeguards for any pool. There were 18 regular guards at the pool. Ms. Brauer asked if the pool was doing well. Councilwoman Pirrera stated that the pool will pay the increase.

Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to approve the lifeguard salary increases. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: No
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilman Min: No
Councilman Park: No
Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes
Councilman Vietri: Yes

Mayor Kim broke the tie and voted yes.

# CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION 2023-173 Claims

RESOLUTION 2023-174 Authorization of Agreement with Windsor Square for Municipal Waste

Management Reimbursement

RESOLUTION 2023-175 Authorization of Execution of an Application for Cooperative Purchasing
RESOLUTION 2023-176 Authorization of Acquisition of Tymco Model 435 Regenerative Air Sweeper

RESOLUTION 2023-177 Award of Contract for E. Harriet Ave and W. Columbia Ave Road Improvements

(RE: AJM Contracting)

RESOLUTION 2023-178 Authorization of Liquor License Renewals

RESOLUTION 2023-179 Hiring of 2023 Pool Employees

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

ORDINANCE 2023-12

Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Acquisition of New Information Technology Equipment, New Additional or Replacement Equipment and Machinery and a New Automotive Vehicle, Including Original Apparatus and Equipment, for the Use of the Police Department In, By and For the Borough of Palisades Park to Appropriate the Sum of \$372,500

#### **2<sup>ND</sup> READING/PUBLIC HEARING:**

ORDINANCE 2023-9 Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Undertaking of Various Improvements to

Lindbergh Field (Phase II) In, By and For the Borough of Palisades Park to

Appropriate the Sum of \$175,000

ORDINANCE 2023-10 Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Undertaking of Various Improvements to the

Municipal Swimming Pool Complex In, By and For the Borough of Palisades Park

to Appropriate the Sum of \$355,000

Mayror Kim wanted to take #2023-176 off the Consent Agenda. Mr. Collins confirmed that this was off already.

Councilman Pirrera made a motion to adopt Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-173 thru #2023-178, with the exception of Resolution #2023-176 which was removed during the Work Session. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilman Min: Yes

Councilman Park: Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes

Councilman Vietri: Yes

The Borough Clerk confirmed that the lifeguard pay increase would be reflected as Resolution #2023-179. All agreed.

Mayor Kim wanted a motion directing the Clerk to advertise the public Work Session to take place every third Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. each month preceding the already scheduled public meeting on the fourth Monday at 6:00 P.M.

Councilwoman Jang made a motion directing the Clerk to advertise the public Work Session to take place every third Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. each month preceding the already scheduled public meeting on the fourth Monday at 6:00 P.M. Councilman Park seconded. Discussion followed.

Councilman Kim said this was a good idea, but one month was too short to make a decision, and he asked for a grace period for more than one month. Mayor Kim said that he was having a difficult time digesting last-minute issues. He said he wanted to separate the Work Session from the Regular Meeting, and it would be productive. Councilwoman Jang agreed with Mayor Kim.

Councilwoman Pirrera said that she knew nothing about the separation of the Work Session, and she had a different meeting to attend the third Wednesday of every month. She said this was never discussed with her as a Councilperson, and the Mayor was adding this to the agenda the same way there was objection to voting because he found out about the Police Records Clerk and the lifeguard raises at the last minute. Councilwoman Pirrera said she had no time to digest the recommendation for a different night.

Councilwoman Jang said that separating the meetings was an issue brought up by residents for many years.

Councilwoman Pirrera asked if she was incorrect. Councilman Vietri stated she was definitely right. She said this was not on the agenda. Councilwoman Pirrera stated that the Mayor made a speech at the beginning of the meeting in front of all the people that procedurally, they were going to do things correctly. However, the Mayor was already going back and doing something that they just had objections to because procedurally, the Mayor wasn't told ahead of time. Councilwoman Pirrera pointed out that the Mayor was doing the exact same thing to the Council by not informing them about this matter.

Councilman Min stated that there were more issues to address besides this. He requested a Special Meeting this week.

Councilman Vietri made a motion to table the scheduling of the Work Session every third Wednesday of the month. Councilwoman Pirrera seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilman Park: Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes
Councilman Vietri: Yes

The Borough Clerk reminded everyone that the agenda was a living document, and there were extraordinary things that may be brought up even though the Work Session was scheduled a week ahead of time. She did not want the Governing Body to be misled into thinking that the agenda will not change after the Work Session. Mayor Kim said that they had been getting last minute agendas continuously that was not foreseeable. Mayor Kim asked why the street sweeper came up at the last minute. The Clerk and Administrator reminded the Mayor that this was brought up at the agenda meeting. The Mayor said that he needed the documentation. The Clerk stated that she could only send the Mayor what she had. Discussion followed about the agenda timeline.

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING/PUBLIC HEARING:

**ORDINANCE 2023-9** 

Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Undertaking of Various Improvements to Lindbergh Field (Phase II) In, By and For the Borough of Palisades Park to Appropriate the Sum of \$175,000

Councilman Pirrera made a motion to open Ordinance #2023-9 to the public. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Joseph Sperlazzo asked what was being done at Lindbergh Field. Mr. Lorenzo answered.

Neris Papoters asked about the fence. Mr. Lorenzo stated that no one bid on the project. She wanted the details of the project and what would be fixed. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Kim to call Dr. Cirillo to talk about repairing the fence at Lindbergh Field.

Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to close and adopt Ordinance #2023-9. Councilwoman Jang seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilman Park: Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes
Councilman Vietri: Yes

# 2<sup>ND</sup> READING/PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE 2023-10

Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Undertaking of Various Improvements to the Municipal Swimming Pool Complex In, By and For the Borough of Palisades Park to Appropriate the Sum of \$355,000

Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to open Ordinance #2023-10 to the public. Councilwoman Jang seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

There were no comments from the public.

Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to close and adopt Ordinance #2023-10. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilman Park: Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes
Councilman Vietri: Yes

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

ORDINANCE 2023-12

Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Acquisition of New Information Technology Equipment, New Additional or Replacement Equipment and Machinery and a New Automotive Vehicle, Including Original Apparatus and Equipment, for the Use of the Police Department In, By and For the Borough of Palisades Park to Appropriate the Sum of \$372,500

There was no motion made to introduce Ordinance #2023-12.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ordinances #2023-12 was introduced and passed on first reading at a meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on July 24, 2023 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance(s) will be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on August 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance(s).

A copy of the Ordinance(s) will be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Borough Hall and will be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

Mayor Kim said it was time to vote for the most important decision facing them today. Option A was to go to 21 Grand Ave. Option B was to do remote work as much as possible and establish essential services trailers. Mr. Collins said that a motion could be made that's voted upon, and there could be a memorializing Resolution put together. The Council could make a motion to provide direction to the Administrator to pursue one of the two options. Nothing was binding because a contract was not being proposed. Binding actions would be taken when the Administrator comes back based upon the direction provided.

Councilman Vietri said that people would have to work remotely until the place was ready to move into. Mayor Kim said that the Borough Administrator got authorization from the Governing Body to address the need to work at home. Mr. Lorenzo's concern was how the needs of the people coming into the Borough would be met. The second concern was the amount of work people would be getting done at home. He was also concerned with the security with accessing Borough information from a laptop. Councilwoman Pirrera asked if someone had spoken to the Risk Manager about this issue. Mr. Lorenzo said he spoke to the IT consultant. Mr. Collins stated that if there were IT concerns, he suggested this be discussed in Executive Session.

Councilman Vietri made a motion to move to 21 Grand Ave. Councilwoman Pirrera seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: No
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilman Min: No
Councilman Park: No
Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes
Councilman Vietri: Yes

Mayor Kim broke the tie and voted no.

Councilman Min made a motion to work remotely as much as possible and create temporary essential trailer offices.

Mr. Lorenzo asked where the trailers would go. The Mayor stated that they would figure it out. Councilman Vietri said that the Mayor was throwing everything on the Borough Administrator, but there was a Facility Manager. The Facility Manager was responsible for the building. Councilwoman Pirrera asked if someone would be checking with the insurance company about the risk of remote work. The answer was yes. Councilman Kim asked how the trailers would be different from moving into 21 Grand Ave. Mr. Lorenzo stated that if they were moved into a facility, a firewall would protect the employees. Councilman Min explained the connectivity to Wi-Fi and password requirements for remote work.

Councilman Park seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: No
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilman Park: Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera: No
Councilman Vietri: No

Mayor Kim broke the tie and voted yes.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilman Min wanted to introduce an expert at the Special Meeting to explain the mold report.

Councilwoman Jang had no report.

Councilwoman Pirrera had no report.

Councilman Kim stated that he received complaints about the lack of crossing guards. Captain Gasparovich stated that he would relay the complaint to the Chief.

Mayor Kim stated that at the end streets of the 500 numbers, there were a lot of drunk people there.

Councilman Vietri reported that the Fire Department had been busy going to mutual aid calls. The Police Department would have to do without a Records Clerk for now.

Councilman Park had no report.

Mayor Kim asked a question about how other town pools open earlier. There were questions about the food vendor at the pool. He asked Councilwoman Pirrera to consider opening earlier. There were no bids submitted for the food trucks at the pool. Councilman Vietri stated that a food truck needed to be inspected by the Fire Department every time they left the premises. Discussion was held about the food trucks.

Mr. Lorenzo stated that after the meeting, he would pursue a price on a trailer for a satellite Borough Hall office and instruct everyone to work from home. Prior to doing that, he said he would contact the Risk Manager to find out what the liability was going to be in terms of collecting money, such as taxes, in a secure spot.

Mayor Kim spoke about the meeting held with the Department Heads regarding remote work.

Mr. Lorenzo asked what his instructions were for people who could not work. Mayor Kim said he would talk about it later.

Captain Gasparovich stated that the Police Department met with all of the liquor license establishments. This greatly reduced the amount of ATRAS a day. He had a meeting with the County of Bergen and they would had a Mobile Crisis Unit. The Captain spoke about reaching out to the Guatemalan Consulate as well as the Guatemalan Community Activist Group located out of Paterson. He announced that National Night Out would take place at the pool on August 1st from 5:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M. The Junior Police Academy ran from June 23rd to June 30th and graduation would be held on July 27th. He gave an update regarding the Central Blvd issue in Palisades Park. There was signboard placed on E. Central Blvd that measured speed. Mayor Kim asked for a monthly report of prone accidents so he could see if accidents were being reduced or not.

# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to open to the public. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Susan Brauer asked when the next Regular Meeting was. Mayor answered that it was the fourth Monday of each month. She asked about the Special Meetings. She commented on the website and asked that itbe updated regularly. She asked about the Executive Sessions.

Neris Papoters had a suggestion about lifeguards. She wanted to know the results of the past Special Meetings. Mr. Collins reviewed what the past Special meetings were about. If there was a Special Meeting only to discuss Executive Session items, it was still a legal, publicly noticed meeting. The public had a right to attend the meeting even if the Governing Body left the room and the entirety of the Governing Body went into Closed Session. However, this did not mean that there was going to be action.

Mayor Kim asked Councilman Kim to speak to Dr. Cirillo, the Superintendent of Schools, to create a class to foster lifeguards. Ms. Papoters stated that this was not what she was proposing. She stated a lot of students could not afford to get a lifeguard certificate. She suggested that the town pool pay for lifeguard school, and in return, hire lifeguards and give them less money since the pool was paying for the lifeguard certificate. The Mayor said it was a great idea, and it would be considered.

Peter Longo stated that the website needed to be approved. He made suggestions to update the minutes.

Youbong Won-Yoon stated that she had more than 30 years experience in information security. There will multiple ways to make remote work secure. She spoke about separating the Work Session from the

Regular Meeting. She said that Fort Lee, Ridgefield, and Leonia all had a Work Session one week before the Regular Meeting.

Marsha Schor stated that the meeting separation was fine, but some people did not open the mail until the day of the meeting to read it. She stated that no matter how many meetings there were, some people didn't bother to read. Ms. Schor said that people were getting sick while working at the Borough Hall. She suggested that a temporary worker be hired to help the Borough Clerk because she was the only person at the office during the day, and she had much to do. She was only getting paid for one person and not for three people.

Loretta Martini said thank you for the microphones. She wanted confirmation about when the Work Session would take place. She wanted a report about what happened inside Executive Session. Mr. Collins stated that she could request to see the Executive Session minutes, which were released when the need for confidentiality no longer existed.

Melanie Comas spoke about the reducing the speed limit on Grand Ave. She requested a sign on Grand Ave coming from Ridgefield and Leonia saying that drivers were entering Palisades Park. The signs should also state the reduced speed limit.

Mayor Kim stated that he had been getting complaints about street signs not being updated and missing. Mr. Lorenzo asked where. The Mayor said that it was not about finding the location, and he requested that the Department of Public Works scan the streets and signs. He stated that he may present a Resolution next month to see if the Borough could request the State to reduce the speed limit on Grand Ave to 30 MPH.

Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to close to the public. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Councilwoman Jang made a motion to close to the public and adjourn. Councilwoman Pirrera seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

Attest:

Gina S. Kim, RMC/CMC Borough Clerk