

Borough of Palisades Park
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council
August 14, 2023

Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Special Meeting at 6:01 P.M.

STATEMENT:

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

1. Notice was filed August 10, 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
"	Kim	Present
"	Min	Present
"	Park	Present
"	Pirrera	Present
"	Vietri	Absent
Borough Attorney	Michael Collins, Esq.	Present via Zoom
Borough Administrator	David Lorenzo	Absent

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to enter Executive Session.

Councilman Min made a motion to adopt Off Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-182. Councilwoman Pirrera seconded. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

OFF CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION 2023-182 Authorization to Enter Executive Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act provides that the Mayor and Council may enter into Executive Session to discuss matters that are of a confidential nature, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Borough Attorney and Borough Administrator that the Mayor and Council enter into Executive Session to discuss matters set forth hereinafter which are permissible for discussion in Executive Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Palisades Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the governing body shall enter into Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

Legal Issues, Litigation, Potential Litigation, Contract Negotiation, Attorney-Client Privilege – N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7)

Risk Management/Borough Hall – ATOD August 2023

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Session shall be released to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists, with an estimate of the circumstances and/or time for public disclosure provided in the above-listed anticipated times of decision (“ATOD”).

At approximately 6:07 P.M., the Mayor and Council proceeded with the Executive Session inside the Mayor's Office.

At approximately 6:38 P.M., Mayor and Council returned to the dais and Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to close the Closed Session and reopen the Special Meeting. Councilman Kim seconded. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

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.

The Mayor stated that there was nothing to talk about because the Executive Session was about a specific matter.

Marsha Schor asked if anything was settled.

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Mr. Collins stated that under OPMA, if there was any issue of governmental concern, the Council should hear them on it. However, they could not talk about the Executive Session.

Susan Brauer asked what Thursday's Special Meeting would encompass. Mr. Collins asked the Borough Clerk if this meeting was noticed. Ms. Kim answered yes, and the three items listed on the Agenda was regarding hiring the mold specialist, authorization of contact for the off-duty police officers and separation of the Work Session from the Regular Meeting.

Ms. Brauer asked if an attorney needed to be present for the Work Session. The Mayor stated that it would be advisable to have an attorney present. Ms. Brauer asked if this would increase the legal fees. The Mayor answered that it may. The Mayor stated that they made a decision to vote on a date, and that decision would take place on Thursday.

Youbong Won-Yoon said that she did not see many people working in the office when she stopped by during the day. She asked if working remote already started. Mayor Kim answered that the remote work was initiated a month ago.

Neris Papoters asked where she could go to pay her taxes. Mayor Kim answered that there were certain departments that were still open. There was also a drop box. The Mayor said that whatever could be done remotely is being done. The Governing Body wanted to prevent further exposure from mold. The best way to save money was to work remotely as was done during COVID. He said it would not be for long.

Youbong Won-Yoon said that the tax paystub arrived late. She wanted to know why. The Borough Clerk explained that according to the tax collector, the Borough was waiting for the actual tax rate from the County. The County was late on giving the actual value, which is why the tax bills were late going out. They were sent out last Friday. Everyone would be given an extension until September 6th. Ms. Won-Yoon stated that some other towns in Bergen County received the taxes a long time ago. The Borough Clerk answered that according to the tax collector, other towns who sent out the bills earlier, they sent it out with an estimated tax value.

Ms. Won-Yoon asked if Officer Espino becoming the Chief was official. It was her understanding that this was a correction of a procedural issue. If so, she stated that it should have started from the beginning with a job opening and interviews. Mr. Collins answered that he could not speak to the process that was followed back in December, but it was his belief that the Council did not view this as a new hiring situation as much as situation in which two Officers had served in their roles for seven months or so. Ms. Won-Yoon said that this did not make sense to her. She said that as the town lawyer, he should give advice to the Council and Mayor as to the right procedure. Mr. Collins answered that the public and any other member of the Governing Body could suggest a particular process or critique what occurred. His job was to advise on the law, and the Council was within its rights to elect to take the action it took at the previous meeting to ratify the actions taken in December. In terms of providing advice to the Governing Body on hiring, he would not be doing that in public. His role was not having an academic discussion or provide academic legal advice in public.

Ms. Brauer said that the Judge found any problem with who was picked. It was just the method in which the Council appointed them. They have already been Officers and Chief for seven months. They were just doing it properly with the Mayor and Council.

Marsha Schor said that the Police Officers should be working towards advancement.

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

COUNCIL REPORTS:

There were no reports from the Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Attest:



Gina S. Kim, RMC/CMC
Borough Clerk

**RESOLUTION
BOROUGH OF PALISADES PARK
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ**

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jang			X			
Kim			X			
Min	X		X			
Park			X			
Pirrera		X	X			
Vietri						X

NO. 2023-182
 DATE August 14, 2023
 Carried Defeated Tabled
 Approved on Consent Agenda

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Approved:



Chong Paul Kim, Mayor

Attest:



Gina S. Kim, Borough Clerk



I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park at a Special Meeting held on August 14, 2023.

SEAL

