

Borough of Palisades Park  
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
October 6, 2023

**Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Special Meeting at 5:33 P.M.**

**STATEMENT:**

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

1. Notice was filed October 4, 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	Absent
"	Min	Present
"	Park	Present
"	Pirrera	Absent
"	Vietri	Absent
Borough Attorney	Tiffany Tagarelli, Esq.	Present via Zoom
Borough Administrator	David Lorenzo	Absent

The Mayor stated that he would like to discuss the payment of September bills in public and discuss the FedEx Account and PEOSH Complaint in Executive Session. Ms Tagarelli stated this was fine.

The Mayor said that he hoped the Council had reviewed the September bills. The Finance Department was there to assist with any questions. He asked the Finance Department if anything was else added to the bills besides the 23 pullouts from the bill. The Mayor stated that there were 29 pullouts. The Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Maria Elefteriou, answered that when the Mayor had numbered the 23 items to pull out, there were multiple purchase orders within items #23. There were no additional items added to the bills list, and they were only passed the 23 items that were last pulled from the bills list.

The Mayor confirmed with Ms. Tagarelli with the stipulation that no other bills had been added to the bills list. Councilman Min spoke about the interfund, and it was acceptable to pay. The Mayor asked the Council if they were okay with the Capital Improvements and the \$25,000 for the library was ok too. All agreed.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2023-210 Claims

Councilwoman Jang made a motion to adopt Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-210. Councilman Min seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

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

The Mayor asked the Borough Attorney if they could do the Executive Session after the public participation. Ms. Tagarelli answered that they could do that.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

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

Neris Papoters asked about the Special Meeting, and if there would be one every month. The Mayor explained that when the GB tried to separate the Work Session from the Regular Meeting, they were supposed to meet on the third Monday for the Work Session. By the third Monday, the Mayor and Council was supposed to get all the bills. However, the bills were not received until the Regular Meeting at 3:00 P.M. The Mayor and Council pulled out certain bills for review. The Mayor said that the bills should be prepared by the third week as requested to the administrative staff and finance department.

Ms. Papoters wanted to know about the PEOSH complaint. The Mayor explained that this was regarding environmental safety concerns for workplace areas, which involved mold and asbestos. He could not say anything more. It seemed that there was another complaint and the Mayor and Council would be talking

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about this in Executive Session. Ms. Papoters stated that it seemed like the Council was trying to make a difference.

Soo Chung asked if the public could ask questions about the agenda. The Mayor stated that although the Executive Session was not on the agenda, he wanted to discuss these matters with the Council in Closed. Ms. Tagarelli recommended that these items be spoken about in Executive Session.

Roy Riggitano stated at for the next meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the only thing that would be added to the bill list would be payroll, utility bills, and attorney bills. The Mayor stated that he would like to see all the attorney bills. Mr. Riggitano stated ok, but he did not have them yet. The Best Practices Inventory would be presented next Monday as well. The Mayor and Council would review the checklist during the meeting.

Peter Longo asked how long the Executive Session would take. He wanted to know if action would be taken afterwards. The Mayor stated that he could not answer.

Councilman Min made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilman Park seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2023-210A Authorization to Enter Executive Session

At approximately 5:45 P.M., the Mayor and Council proceeded with the Executive Session inside the Mayor's Office.

At approximately 6:35 P.M., Mayor and Council returned to the dais and Councilwoman Jang made a motion to close the Closed Session and reopen the Special Meeting. Councilman Park seconded. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

The Mayor stated that after the Executive Session, the Governing Body decided on two subject matters. The first was to create #2023-11, which was a Resolution for a professional service agreement on a certain matter. Ms. Tagarelli stated that she had just called Mr. Collins on the phone, because she was not present at the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Mayor stated that the Governing Body decided to amend #2023-209. The Resolution would read:

**"BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park hereby authorizes and directs the Borough Administrator or designee to issue a request for proposals from law firms to provide legal services in the form of Special Counsel – Labor Counsel, when the employee has grievances against a member of the Governing Body or when the Governing Body has grievances against the employee."

Mr. Collins joined the meeting via Zoom and asked if this was being asked in public. The Borough Clerk answered that it was during public session. Mr. Collins stated that he would be happy to answer this question in Executive Session for the legal rationale for the advice that he provided and the emails sent in the afternoon. Mr. Collins stated that if the Mayor's only concern was the clause that read "consistent with the remarks set forth on the record of the Borough Council on September 25, 2023," it could be taken out. Mayor Kim stated that they could play the record everytime they wanted to understand the Resolution.

Mayor Kim stated that they had talked about this specific reason: when an employee files a grievance against a member of the Governing Body, it was disadvantageous, so the Governing Body decided to get Special Counsel for the employee and the Governing Body. Mr. Collins stated that there were some aspects that should be discussed in Closed Session.

Councilman Min made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilman Park seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2023-210B Authorization to Enter Executive Session

At approximately 6:40 P.M., the Mayor and Council proceeded with the Executive Session inside the Mayor's Office.

After the second Executive Session, the Mayor and Council returned to the dais and Councilwoman Jang made a motion to close the Executive Session and reopen the Special Meeting. Councilman Park seconded. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

The Mayor said that they would like to amend Resolution #2023-209.

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**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2023-211      Amendment of Resolution #2023-209 to Advertise RFQ's (RE Special Labor Counsel)

Councilman Min made a motion to adopt Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-211. Councilwoman Jang seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

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

The Mayor stated that he would like to vote "yes" too. Councilman Park asked when the Resolution would take effect. The Mayor said that the Borough Clerk would finalize the Resolution exactly as such, but the Resolution was already passed. Ms. Tagarelli asked if there were enough votes for the Resolution to pass. The Mayor stated that there were three votes on the Council, and he was the fourth vote as the Mayor. There was a quorum. Ms. Tagarelli asked Ms. Kim if she agreed with the Mayor. Ms. Kim stated that there were three affirmative votes, and there was a quorum. There was no tie so the Mayor did not need to vote. The Mayor stated for the record that he supported the Resolution. The Mayor said there were three votes only. The Mayor said he still had to vote. Ms. Kim stated that the Mayor only voted when there was a tie. The Mayor asked if the Resolution passed with three votes. Ms. Tagarelli stated that it should pass with three votes, yes.

The Mayor stated that the Governing Body thought it was wise to hire a professional service agreement on a specific matter, which involved the... Councilman Min finished the Mayor's sentence and stated that this motion would reference the library shared services between the Borough and the library. Councilman Min stated that he would like to appoint Special Counsel who would look into this matter and took care of it. It would be Mark DeMarco from Law Offices of DeMarco and DeMarco. The Mayor asked where the office was located. Councilman Min stated in North Haledon. The Mayor asked Ms. Tagarelli if this was ok. Ms. Tagarelli stated this was ok.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2023-212      Appointment of Law Office of DeMarco and DeMarco

Councilman Min made a motion to adopt Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-212. Councilman Park seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

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

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilman Min had no report.

Councilwoman Jang said this Council starting taking a very close look at the spending. For two months, they met with the CFO, and they went through each individual line item. While they were doing it, there was a delay with paying the bill. She spoke about the FedEx account being cancelled. She stated that it was unfortunate, but what they had started was a good thing because the townspeople had been saying that the accounting had not been transparent and the spending was not transparent. From now on, she said the people would not complain about having suspicions anymore because the Council would tell exactly how the money was flowing. Everything took time to align and go smoothly, so they were hoping soon enough, they would have a smooth transition.

Councilwoman Jang stated that the Mayor and Councilmembers were working hard so the townspeople should be happy that Councilmembers were working and doing what they should be doing. She stated that everyone in accounting and finance was working hard.

The Mayor added that the professional services that was passed would be upon the contingency that the CFO would approve it at the hourly rate that the Borough had been using.

Councilman Park had no report.


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Mayor Kim addressed that the Record newspaper article regarding the closure of the FedEx account was false. He stated that the Closed Meeting showed that it was false. It was an error, and it would not happen again. This was not because the Council had ill intent or was trying to disrupt the governing procedure.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Councilman Min made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Park seconded. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

**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		X			
Kim						X
Min		X	X			
Park			X			
Pirrera						X
Vietri						X

NO. 2023-210

DATE October 6, 2023

Carried  Defeated  Tabled

Approved on Consent Agenda

**RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park, that the following claims, aggregating **\$ 3,121,755.79** as so ordered and approved by the Finance Committee; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor, Borough Clerk and Collector shall and are hereby authorized to draw warrants in payment of said claims:

Affordable Housing Acct	\$ 0.00
Affordable Housing Rent Acct	\$ 1,284.96
Affordable Housing Security Acct	\$ 0.00
Affordable Senior Facility	\$ 7,500.00
Animal Account	\$ 0.00
Building Dept Account	\$ 0.00
Capital Account	\$ 0.00
Cash Management Account	\$ 0.00
Centennial Trust	\$ 0.00
Community Development Trust	\$ 0.00
Community Policing	\$ 0.00
Current Account	\$ 3,112,970.83
Developers Escrow	\$ 0.00
Dog Trust	\$ 0.00
Electronic Parking Meter Account	\$ 0.00
Federal Share Forfeiture	\$ 0.00
Found Property	
Library Trust	\$ 0.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 0.00
Municipal Court Bail Account	\$ 0.00
Municipal Court General Account	\$ 0.00
Net Payroll	\$ 0.00
Night Out Against Crime	\$ 0.00
Parking Meter Account	\$ 0.00
Payroll Agency	\$ 0.00
POAA	\$ 0.00
Police Acct	\$ 0.00
Public Defender Trust	\$ 0.00

Recycling Trust	\$ 0.00
Swim Pool Operating Account	\$ 0.00
Swim Pool Cafe	\$ 0.00
Swim Pool Capital Account	\$ 0.00
Tree Preservation	\$ 0.00
UFC Fines & Penalty	\$ 0.00
Unemployment Trust	\$ 0.00
Veterans Account	\$ 0.00
Total:	<u>\$ 3,121,755.79</u>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized to furnish copies of this Resolution to the following:

1. Chief Financial Officer
2. Tax Collector

Approved:



Chong Paul Kim, Mayor

Attest:



Gina S. Kim, Borough Clerk

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park at a Special Meeting held on October 6, 2023.




SEAL

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

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

NO. 2023-211


DATE October 6, 2023

Carried  Defeated  Tabled   
Approved on Consent Agenda

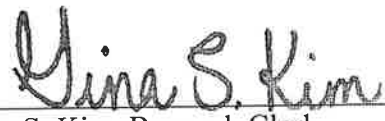
**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council that Resolution 2023-209 is revised to provide as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park hereby authorizes and directs the Borough Administrator or designee to issue a request for proposals from law firms to provide legal services in the form of Special Counsel – Labor Counsel, when the employee has grievances against a member of the Governing Body or when the Governing Body has grievances against the employee. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved:

  
Chong Paul Kim, Mayor

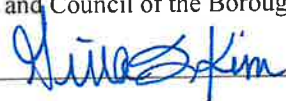
Attest:

  
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 October 6, 2023.

SEAL



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

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

NO. 2023-212


DATE October 6, 2023

Carried  Defeated  Tabled   
 Approved on Consent Agenda

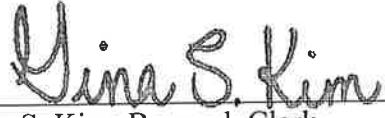
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park hereby appoints the Law Office of DeMarco & DeMarco in North Haledon, NJ to investigate the library shared services agreement between the Borough of Palisades Park and the Public Library of Palisades Park.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the foregoing resolution shall be in an amount not to exceed \$17,500 and is contingent upon certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

Approved:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chong Paul Kim, Mayor

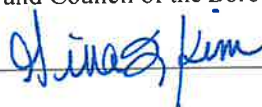
Attest:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 October 6, 2023.

SEAL

  
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