

Borough of Palisades Park
275 Broad Avenue
County of Bergen
State of New Jersey

Work Session
of the Mayor & Council
May 20, 2024

Borough of Palisades Park
Work Session of the Mayor and Council
May 20, 2024

Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Work Session at 5:00 P.M.

STATEMENT:

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

1. Notice was filed January 4, 2024 with the Record & Newark Star-Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board at the Borough Hall and the Borough website at <https://mypalisadespark.com/>
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilwoman Jang	Present
Councilman Kim	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Vietri	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz, Esq.	Present
Borough Administrator Scott Herr	

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 2024-9 Establishment of Salaries for Year 2024.

Councilwoman Jang asked if the salaries listed are ranging from lowest to the highest possible. Councilwoman Jang specifically asked about the borough clerk having a maximum salary of \$135,000. Mayor Kim clarified that the percentage for every position goes up a certain amount every year, therefore the numbers presented are not random numbers, but they reflect the increase from last years salary amounts. Councilwoman Jang stated two years ago she had a big argument with the mayor and council regarding some positions having a ridiculous increase amount, when the state has a certain requirement for increasing salaries. She asked if we have a right to adjust the increase percentage. Mayor Kim responded they can, and called up Maria Elefteriou from the finance department. Maria Elefteriou explained that she sat in with the borough administrator, and the mayor to discuss the certain increases within each position. Maria Elefteriou stated sometimes, there are merit raises aside from the annual salary increase. Councilwoman Jang asked if there is room to change the numbers for certain positions. Maria Elefteriou explained that for right now, the mayor and council are only passing the ordinance for the salary ranges, and the raises will be presented separately in a different meeting. Maria Elefteriou also expressed that both Maria Elefteriou and Councilwoman Jang can always sit down and go over the ranges together. Councilwoman Jang asked if they can start looking into changing the range for the maximum for each position, in which Mayor Kim explained again that each maximum range is based off of last year's maximum range. Mayor Kim did acknowledge there was a drastic number of differences in salaries in prior years. Councilwoman Jang asked Maria Elefteriou for a list of the salaries from last year, and Maria Elefteriou agrees to provide them.

Councilman Min stated he agreed with Councilwoman Jang that there were a couple of positions with very unusual increases and decreases that he did not want to see this year. He also did not want to see any flipping over salaries from any departments.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated it would be better to present last year's salary ranges along with this year so the mayor and council could see the increases and decreases. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that New Jersey minimum wage was currently \$15.13 and, on the salary range some positions range from \$13.73. Mayor Kim made a note but also explained that this is only a range and it does not necessarily mean that they will be getting paid \$13.73. Councilwoman Won-Yoon responded that the minimum range should be set at New Jersey standards, Mayor Kim agreed. Councilwoman Jang stated the lifeguards were currently set at \$13.75, and so are some positions at the library.

Councilman Vietri asked what the differences are in the duties of the bilingual department secretary, and the bilingual department receptionist. Mayor Kim explained in the clerk's office there is one main full-time receptionist in the office, and another part time receptionist. Mayor Kim stated we all agreed on the positions before, and Councilman Vietri stated he is just asking a question because he had never seen two of them. Mayor Kim directed him to ask the borough clerk.

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Councilwoman Jang asked about the pay rate for the pool director, and assistant pool manager pertaining to resolution 142. Mayor Kim stated that to wait until the ordinance readings are finished, and he goes down the list.

ORDINANCE 2024-10 Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled “Alcoholic Beverages” to Modify the Permissible Hours for Sales, Delivery and Acceptable Forms of Identification, and Maximum Fines for Violations within the Borough.

Mayor Kim stated he thought this was a great ordinance. Mayor Kim acknowledged that Police Chief Anthony Espino, Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz, and Councilwoman Lee had been working diligently on the ordinance. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions, but none arose. Mayor Kim stated the council would still have an opportunity to ask any additional questions at the regular session, but it is a great idea to curb and restrict alcohol consumption. Mayor Kim stated this ordinance will restrict individuals from purchasing alcohol when they are already intoxicated. Mayor Kim further explained the ordinance would ultimately reduce the exposure of alcohol consumption to the general public. Councilwoman Jang asked if this means 10PM-10AM off premise consumption of alcohol is banned. Councilwoman Lee clarified that the original ordinance did not distinguish the alcohol that is being sold by liquor stores and alcohol being sold by restaurants. Councilwoman Lee clarified that this ordinance did not mean individuals cannot drink outside during these specified hours, but the liquor stores cannot sell during these specific hours. Councilwoman Jang asked if this meant liquor stores have to be closed by 10PM – Councilwoman Lee agreed. A member of the public asked if the mayor and council will be taking questions on the ordinances. Mayor Kim responded the mayor and council are not taking questions on the ordinances considering this is a work session. The woman rejected his response, stating the sunshine law stated he can take questions during the session. He responded that it does not say he must take questions but if he would like to then he can. The woman responded with every mayor that has been in office, she always had asked questions during the work session meetings. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained it is discretionary in if they wanted to open it up to the public. Mayor Kim tells Scott Krumholz he recalled during work sessions they do not need to open to the public. The woman responded that rule is for special meetings and stated he was confused. Scott Krumholz stated the mayor was right. At work sessions, questions are at the discretion of the mayor. The woman stated it is good discretion. Mayor Kim stated the council would follow the same procedures as a regular session, opening up questions after the mayor and council discussed. Mayor Kim asked for the council’s support on the topic, and asked if they thought they should open up to public questions at the end, or have the public hold their questions until the regular session. Mayor Kim specified even during the regular sessions; the session would not be open to the public for introduction ordinances. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz and Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated they do. Councilman Min explained the work session is for councilmembers to discuss, and then during regular sessions they open it up to the public for questions. Councilman Min agreed with waiting until the regular session to open to the public. The woman shouted out she begs to differ- that the mayor and council are creating the agenda for the next meeting and that is why it is open to the public. Mayor Kim stated at that time, the woman was breaking Roberts Rule of Order. Mayor Kim exclaimed the borough attorney stated it was under the discretion of the mayor. The woman yelled out that Mayor Kim does things the way he wanted to do it, and he was breaking the Sunshine Law. Mayor Kim reiterated public participation will be held off until the end, and residents would get their three minutes to speak.

Councilman Kim asked what is the reason the hours had been changed. Councilwoman Lee explained that the current hours were set from 3AM-6AM, but there were concerns that there were multiple people intoxicated on the street around 2AM, and 6AM. Councilman Kim responded that his main concern was the store owners that pay a lot of rent on their properties, who have not enforced their own policies. Councilwoman Lee stated they did compare surrounding towns such as Fort Lee, and Leonia. Fort Lee bans liquor store sales from 10PM-9AM. Councilwoman Lee stated she understood the concern for the business owners but as the mayor and council should be concerned for the residents. Councilman Vietri asked what state law says about the hours business owners could sell liquor. Councilwoman Lee responded that she did not know the state law. Councilman Vietri responded that Councilwoman Lee should have known because she is a lawyer. Councilwoman Lee responded that she is at the meeting in the capacity as a Councilwoman, and not a lawyer. Councilman Vietri stated that according to the ordinance, on a Sunday he could get up and go to a liquor store at 10AM to buy whatever he wanted but state law said business owners could only sell liquor at 12PM. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz interjected that there was an exception for Sundays, and holidays. Councilman Vietri said that in Fort Lee you could go on a Sunday morning to purchase alcohol. After going back and forth on the issue, Mayor Kim ultimately responded the whole reason for the ordinance was to guide people away from Palisades Park if they wanted to be drinking in the morning. Councilwoman Lee asked what the point of his questions were if there is a separate provision for Sundays.

ORDINANCE 2024-11 Further Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled “Alarm Devices” to Modify the Application Fee to Each Owner of an Alarm System Within the Borough.

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Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions in which there were none.

2ND READING/PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE 2024-8 Ordinance #300-41.4 Multifamily Residential in AA Residential District/ Repeal Councilwoman Jang stated she believes this was a good idea to repeal the ordinance, because there were too many variants. A member of the public stated that questions should be directed toward the Board of Adjustments. Mayor Kim cut off the woman again and attempted to restore order. He stated that Roberts Rules of Order states that while councilmembers were talking amongst each other they could not also have direct conversation with the public. Councilman Kim asked if there was any way they could start with a lower price than \$25, and then they could gradually go up. Mayor Kim responded at the moment they were on a different ordinance.

DISCUSSION (ITEMS FOR CONSENT AGENDA): RESOLUTIONS 2024-137 THROUGH RESOLUTION 2024-155.

RESOLUTION 2024-140 Re-authorize bid for Municipal Building Mold and Asbestos Remediation Councilman Vietri asked if the borough had a bid already. Borough Administrator Raymond Herr explained the borough would be going out for a bid a second time, because there were problems with the original bids. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained the first bid they received did not include a scope of the work that still needed to be completed. The borough would be rejecting all bids, redoing them and reauthorizing.

RESOLUTION 2024-142 Hiring of Pool Employees for the 2024 Pool Season Councilwoman Jang asked about the pool directors' salary. Mayor Kim explained that he had spoken with Maria Elefteriou in making an hourly rate instead. Councilwoman Jang explained that some departments received a salary cut, and it would not be fair that the pool director get too much of an increase. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked about the part-time and full-time employees that are currently relatives of the pool director. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the borough policy has a section on nepotism. Mayor Kim explained that cannot be, because there was never a nepotism resolution created before. Therefore, Mayor Kim stated Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz would have to go through the manual.

Mayor Kim called for Tax Assessor James Anzevino. Mayor Kim explained that we had a five-year contract to assess the tax rate for the county report mandated by state. The contract had expired and the borough received one offer which was recommended by the tax assessor. It was called the Associated Appraisal Group (AAG), but now it is Appraisal Systems Incorporated (ASI) that wanted a five-year contract to assess our tax rates. Deputy Clerk Sophia Jang got Tax Assessor James Anzevino on the phone to answer a few questions. James Anzevino explained the ASI and AAG were originally one company. The founder of ASI passed away due to an illness so the borough switched over to his son who was the current owner of AAG. Mayor Kim made sure everyone understood these two companies were pretty much the same company considering it was a father and son company. Tax Assessor James Anzevino explained there was an annual reassessment five years ago. Each year the borough receives a letter from the appraisal company with a postcard attached explaining what the reassessment is. James Anzevino stated the commercial values typically go up more than the residential areas which were better for the residents. James Anzevino stated he did the annual reassessments for nine different towns. James Anzevino explained it was better to do a five-year contract instead of a three-year contract because it would save money in the long run. Mayor Kim asked that councilmembers who had any questions, contact James Anzevino directly. James Anzevino explained around 2020 the state had to come and inspect every home interior and exterior which is why the prices were much higher than following years because the bulk of the work was already performed. The 2024 bill would be increased because there was never an increase due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and the few years that followed. James Anzevino explained the difference in sales and tax assessments, and stated out of personal experience it was better to start by defending the appeals, keep tax rates low, and win loses through the appeals. When a reassessment was done, it was automatically assessed at 100%, not the ratio divided by market value that the state provided. James Anzevino confirmed the deadline for the contract was June 5th, so the Board of Taxation could introduce it at their June 5th meeting. James Anzevino explained if they were to wait for the county's next meeting in September, they would not get an answer until October which would not leave enough time to assess all the properties. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated an annual reassessment was not required by the state. Mayor Kim explained that the state required a ten-year report, and it did not matter if it was done all at once, or spread out. Mayor Kim further explained when the reassessment is done all at once, it was hard to get the true market value of the property. When the reassessment is done every five years, property tax shifts would be eliminated which would save money in the long run. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked why spend the money, and what the benefit was. Mayor Kim explained we have to by law. Borough Administrator Raymond Herr explained instead of spreading out the assessment, they would be going to do the reassessment every five years which not only would save money, but also keep the ratio close to 100%.

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Mayor Kim asked if everyone remembered when in 2020 after the assessments were completed the property values started going up. James Anzevino explained that all ten towns do the annual reassessment. He stated the tax value was pretty much the same as five years ago. Before the reassessment there were over 100 appeals and now there at maybe 35.

Mayor Kim invited Chief Fire Inspector Michael Valente to speak. Mayor Kim also mentioned that last year the councilmembers had brought up that they wanted a universal POS system so people can come in and pay with card, cash, or online although this had been delayed. Mayor Kim explained as of right now, people have to go into each individual department to process payments, but they were trying to get the universal POS system so that payments could be completed any way. Michael Valente stated that the program they were trying to become apart of was the record management system that the police and fire already use. This new system would allow forms and payments to be done entirely online. There were no additional fees included, and this would ultimately be an add on from the fire departments payment of \$20,000. Mayor Kim stated to study this and recommends a government committee to assess what they could do for each department.

Councilman Min asked if this payment would be run by a separate host and domain. Chief Fire Inspector Michael Valente explained there would be a domain for the borough which would direct you to all the different departments. From there, individuals could complete payments and forms that would directly be sent over to each department. These departments could also send back, and request more documentation. Michael Valente clarified there would be a completely separate link to submit these documents. Councilman Min asked if these documents would be backed up by these separate domains. Michael Valente confirmed two different servers were being backed up constantly. Councilman Min asked how many layers of backup there are, in which Michael Valente responded two, one from the county and one from Mahwah.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Won-Yoon reported that the end of the audit process had kicked off and an audit report would most likely be ready by the end of June. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that the work session meetings were more efficiently effective. Councilwoman Won-Yoon proposed the council should only vote on resolutions that had been discussed at the work sessions and regular meeting. If the council was going to be hearing resolutions that had not been through both sessions, then they should have been classified as an urgent resolution. Mayor Kim responded that last year he advised the borough staff that the governing body would not accept resolutions after the work sessions. If it was an emergency then it was under the mayor's discretion to pass it or not.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated recently she got a dog, and she was not aware she had to apply for a dog license every year. After having conversed with neighbors, she realized that many people had not licensed their dogs. She asked if there was a better way to promote it and enforce the licensing of pets. Councilwoman Jang also brought up the rabies clinic that the health department has every year. She recommended that the residents bring their registration in order to get the rabies vaccination for their pet. Councilman Min stated that he had a previous conversation with Councilwoman Won-Yoon, and they figured out that there was an ordinance that stated residents had to register their pets with the proper vaccinations in order to prevent any issues between pet and owners. Councilman Min recommended the town send out notices to residents that they are responsible for registering their dogs with the proper vaccinations. Mayor Kim stated he had to talk with the borough attorney on how to enforce this ordinance. Mayor Kim stated the town can always send out notices to residents, but they cannot force residents to come in and actually do it. Mayor Kim also had to figure out who enforced this, which may be the code enforcement officer and governance committee together. Mayor Kim would set up the meeting for the issue.

Councilman Vietri had no report.

Councilman Kim reported May 29th there would be free skin cancer screening. Councilman Kim advised to contact the health office because this was going to be taking place in a different town. Councilman Kim also reported May 30th from 10AM-12PM there would be a senior health and wellness program taking place at the senior citizen building. Physicians would be presenting on how to monitor blood pressure, as well as heart movement.

Councilman Min spoke about a complaint with the borough placard system. Councilman Min explained the purpose of the placard system is to provide employees with a parking spot considering the borough did not have a parking lot with assigned spaces. Councilman Min brought up the abuse this placard system had created, with individuals providing family members with different placards. The borough had created a new designed placard system. Each department would receive notice of registration, and they would be responsible for providing to employees. To register employees needed a valid car registration, car insurance, and drivers license. Councilman Min stated the police director would keep all the records of registers individual vehicles, and with approval from the public relations department a newly designed

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placard would be created. Councilman Min also stated that all old placards would not be valid and, any violations would receive summonses after the one month. Councilman Min presented conditions:

1. No parking at yellow lines (Except for first responders on duty)
2. No handicap parking
3. No fire hydrant parking
4. All employees at the borough do not have to feed meter parking while on duty.

Mayor Kim mentioned that no resolution had to be made, and that Councilman Min had given fair warning. Starting Monday department heads would be given the registration papers to distribute.

Councilwoman Jang reported the recreation department was going to have the Memorial Day Parade. Councilwoman Jang stated the pool director as well as herself brought someone to the pool to take over the renovation and running of the snack bar. One company was very interested, but asked if in return to renovating the snack bar they could also receive free rent for one year. The council did not agree to this proposition, and decided to open up a bid to allow companies to get the full picture on the scope of work needed. Councilwoman Jang stated there was one company that was interested. Councilwoman Jang stated she did not know if it was possible to get the new company in with a lease for renting just yet because there still had not been any renovations done. Councilwoman Jang asked if in the future they were to put out a need for a certain service but only one company steps forward to do the work what should be done? Should we wait for other companies coming in? Councilwoman Jang suggested setting a certain limit on days. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained this is a legal issue they had been discussing and he was set to have a conference call the next day. Mayor Kim confirmed that they would have a meeting tomorrow for this matter.

Councilwoman Jang spoke about an issue with sick day payments from a member of the DPW that had been working at the DPW for 40 years. This employee was getting paid for sick time up until 2022, but from 2023 and on it had stopped. Councilwoman Jang wanted to know what would be the direction to point them in. Scott Krumholz stated it was being worked on in deciding if the union should represent the employee, or if the employee should just be paid for sick and vacation days accrued at the end.

Councilwoman Jang also had received another complaint from a resident on Glen Avenue who stated that their street sign was completely destroyed and wanted to know how to get it fixed. Mayor Kim responded that the borough administrator and DPW were looking into the right way to correct this issue. Mayor Kim stated the borough administrator had already initiated the conversation with the DPW and they were going to be replacing or renewing all old street signs. Councilwoman Jang asked about a grant she was told the town could apply for. Mayor Kim responded the facilities manager is in charge of the grant. Borough Administrator Raymond Herr also mentioned that he had already provided the DPW with three pages of street signs that needed to be replaced including Glen Avenue.

Councilwoman Lee reported the school boards final budget was completed in early May. In early May a bunch of high school students received community service hours in an effort to clean up Broad Avenue. Councilwoman Lee wanted to revisit Councilman Vietris question about whether the changes to the proposed ordinance was legal. Councilwoman Lee stated just for the record before any changes were made to any ordinance, it had to go through legal council who would advise if the town was following state law. Councilwoman Lee wanted to clarification this once again.

Councilman Min asked Chief Fire Inspector Michael Valente if on Cleveland Street next to the borough, by the monument, and the pharmacy if it was possible to remove the signage that read fire fighters only, and extend the yellow line to make it employee parking only. Chief Fire Inspector Michael Valente stated that about 20 years ago there was an ordinance that created those specific spots for firefighters to park only because there was an issue finding parking when responding to calls. If firefighters had to circle and wait to find parking then there would be a delay in response that had to be reported to the state. Michael Valente responded in the 90's the ordinance was created to allow firefighter parking only. Councilman Min said at that time he was not familiar with the ordinance allowing firefighter parking only. Councilman Min asked if there could be wording put on the ground stating firefighters only. Michael Valente responded there were signs up on the side. Mayor Kim went through the proper procedure in ensuring the area could be changed. Mayor Kim explained first to speak with Borough Engineer Steve Callozuol, Police Chief Anthony Espino, then make sure it was allowed by the state by giving them a call after the borough engineer, and police chief made a decision. Councilman Min asked if it could be changed to red to dedicate to fire department only. Mayor Kim responded that after all procedures had been followed then they could decide if certain spots could be dedicated for borough employee parking only, or firefighter parking only. Mayor Kim stated the yellow had to be for firefighter emergency response only but if they wanted to make an employee parking only then it had to go through the process. Councilman Min requested Michael Valente to look into this matter.

Borough Administrator Raymond Herr reported that a few years ago, Bergen County and the borough entered into a computer agreement. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it was held up then later died down. This past week, Councilwoman Won-Yoon, Borough Attorney Raymond Herr, and Michael

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Apicella went to the county to try and revive the program. Nothing had been signed, but Raymond Herr wanted to let everyone know that there is some sort of movement on the issue.

Attorney Scott Krumholz did not have anything to report.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor. None opposed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Marsha Schor acknowledged that Deputy Clerk Sophia Jang was doing all the work on her own and got no credit for it. Marsha Schore asked for the town to address issues in one meeting instead of moving issues to multiple meetings.

Robin Katz stated this is the fifth month now that she had been trying to get Palisades Park to denounce antisemitism. Robin Katz stated before Mayor Kim became mayor there was a postcard sent out with the mayor in front of the borough consisting of Korean writing on the back. Robin Katz wanted the mayor to make a proclamation on denouncing antisemitism. Robin Katz asked if this was Mayor Kim's issue or an Asian community issue. Mayor Kim explained at that time, they had a different borough attorney that advised that it was allowed. The borough had new borough attorneys, Scott Krumholz and Allan Roth, that advised there is a number of legal issues, and the council was not just ignoring her requests but they had other things they needed to go over in order to incorporate everyone's voice. Robin Katz stated the town did different for the Asian community and the Black community so why can't they for the Jewish community. Robin Katz asked if there is anymore evidence that the mayor needed and asked if the black and white pictures, she brought with her she could hand out. Mayor Kim asked her to please give them out.

Neris Papoters came up and expressed her appreciation towards Councilwoman Lee for working on the liquor ordinance, as well as Councilman Min for working on getting the parking spaces secured for the employees. Neris Papoters asked Councilwoman Jang if the pool had raised the pool prices for this coming year. Neris Papoters thanked Councilwoman Won-Yoon for putting the nepotism policy out there to be addressed. Neris Papoters complained about the parking availability on Glen Avenue when the school is in session. Neris Papoters explained that next to the Lindbergh field there were an increasing number of cars that parked with individuals participating in sexual acts, drinking liquor, and eating in their vehicles. When residents got up in the next morning, they found the reminisce of these activities left on the street. Neris Papoters states she had been waiting for something to be done, and now something was finally being done. Neris Papoters next addressed Councilwoman Won-Yoon and asked how she did not know about the new liquor license rules when Councilwoman Lee and the police had been working on the issue for a long time.

Susan Brauer stated residents did not like to argue with the mayor about the things residents can and cannot say in meetings. Susan Brauer said she is in contact with the DCA on things they can and cannot do. Susan Brauer brought up the sunshine laws, and stated that it is responsible for the reason the public was able to sit in in at the meeting. Susan Brauer said that the meetings were not just for the councilmembers to sit there and not talk. Susan Brauer stated if things were going to be spoken about that were not on the agenda, to please give the public time to speak on each individual issue brought up. Susan Brauer stated the council had time to talk about dog licenses and street signs and that it was not part of the agenda. Susan Brauer asked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz about the documents he had to wrangle together in order to give everyone an answer on the antisemitism policy. Susan Brauer also stated she had now been waiting six months and kept getting the same answer. Susan Brauer asked Mayor Kim if he remembered back in January 2023 when he was first sworn in, he had invited Mayor Ziegler from Leonia to be a guest, and he said he would personally talk to him about this policy. Susan Brauer stated that Mayor Ziegler had a very effective antisemitism resolution in place that covered every person, everywhere. Susan Brauer distributed the resolution to the crowd. Mayor Kim asked if this was pertaining to antisemitism. Susan Brauer further explained this resolution Leonia put out before Hamas attacked Israel. Susan Brauer stated she was not at the last regular meeting because it was a religious holiday, but she had a question regarding the voucher list. Susan Brauer stated the voucher list was listed under the affordable housing rent. Susan Brauer saw GCC Enterprise was paid \$11,200 for the hallway back in April, and J&J was paid \$11,460 for painting. Susan Brauer asked for an idea on why the senior building is only six to seven years old and why it had to have so much work done. Susan Brauer asked who GCC and J&J are listed on the voucher as the companies who completed the work. Susan Brauer stated the town spent an additional \$4,000 on GCC in August. Susan Brauer wanted to know the details regarding the two company's payments.

Mayor Kim explained this was something he had already spoken about with the governance committee. In terms of previous renovations that were done prior, that would be something residents can ask the Co-op located in Paramus. Although work was done, there was still a scope of work that needed to be completed

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paid from Co-op funds. Mayor Kim also went into detail that he was apart of an investigation with the borough administrator, and the borough attorney to find out if the town was even allowed to rent at that building because he was previously told they did not have the proper CO's. Mayor Kim was not sure who the contractor was that built the building but they had to make sure it was safe for residents to live there. Mayor Kim addressed there was an elevator issue, along with other issues but he would have to provide more details at a later date. Mayor Kim addressed why the second meeting on the egress bid was performed again, which was because the plumbing element that was missing in the first and lowest bidder. Mayor Kim stated the company name is Innovational Construction which lost the bid at \$357,000. The second lowest bidder HM Company came in at \$389,000 who was the next bid winner. Susan Brauer asked for last year's bills and back up data but she was told they are at the auditor since last August. Susan Brauer stated she found this odd.

Joe Palazzo questioned the broken parking meters. Joe Palazzo stated they are not that old, and wanted to know why the broken meters are not being taken care of. Joe Palazzo's second question was pertaining to the potholes on Edsall Boulevard and Broad Avenue. Joe Palazzo said Mayor Kim stated DPW would handle it, but he believed it was out of their control. Joe Palazzo stated the road had to be repaved and DPW would just fill in the holes. Mayor Kim replied that the borough engineer was working on it. Joe Pallazzo acknowledged the newer parts of the road but stated the section he was specifically pertaining to had not been paved in over 30 years. Mayor Kim stated the code enforcer is in charge of the meters, so all complaints should go through the police department. Councilman Min suggested that he would be the one looking into it, including contracts we had with the meter company.

Jeon Joo came up to speak of the traffic accident that occurred on Brinkerhoff Avenue and 11th Street. Jeon Joo said this accident occurred because it is a block away from Bergen Boulevard that has lanes turning straight and left. Jeon Joo assumed people were just flying up the hill going to make the turn left but they were not aware of the traffic coming in the opposite direction down the hill resulting in a multitude of accidents. Jeon Joo said two months ago there was a tow truck that crossed the double yellow lines and hit a young woman in her car which resulted in her hospitalization. Jeon Joo exclaimed the driver of the tow truck stated he had the green light. Mayor Kim responded they will let the DPW know, as well as the traffic engineer to take a look at it and they would notify him via email.

Eric Spieley addressed his concerns. Eric Spieley first asked why the roof was not done at the borough, and if there was mold found in the roof when it was removed. Mayor Kim explained the roof was previously made of galvanized steel, and when the specialists conducted their reports, they tested for not only mold and asbestos on the surface, but in the air as well. Mayor Kim explained that after, the report concluded there was mold and asbestos, they would send out a mold remediation team from the same company to deal with it. Eric Spieley asked if the inspector is going to have to open the roof again. Mayor Kim said no. Mayor Kim stated there are some areas of the mold that do not have to be addressed because they measured out to a lower air quality than outside. Mayor Kim explained that POSHA did not come and address that we had a mold issue that needed to be remedied because there was not a standard mold compliance. Mayor Kim assured we are going above and beyond to remedy both the mold, and asbestos issue. Eric Spieley stated he is hesitant to bring up his next question. Eric Spieley explained he was not born in America, and he understood there was a majority of Hispanics and Koreans in town. Eric Spieley stated that he noticed on his phone for surrounding towns that the names of these towns were common as we know them, for example Fort Lee, Ridgefield, and Leonia. When Eric Spieley noticed that Palisades Park showed up as Koreatown/Palisades Park he wanted to find out if the borough had anything to do with this change. Mayor Kim acknowledged this, and stated this is not in correspondence with the borough.

Mayor Kim announced he was still waiting on two bids for next Monday which was going to be for 12 Bellview to allow 47 new parking units. The other bid was for the mold and asbestos remediation rebid on the borough.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the meeting. Councilwoman Won-Yoon made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. Everyone joined in favor. None opposed.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC
Deputy Borough Clerk

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275 Broad Avenue
County of Bergen
State of New Jersey

Regular Meeting
of the Mayor & Council
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Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Regular Meeting at 6:00 P.M

STATEMENT:

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

1. Notice was filed January 4, 2024 with the Record & Newark Star-Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board at the Borough Hall and the Borough website at <https://mypalisadespark.com/>
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilwoman Jang	Present
Councilman Kim	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Vietri	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present

Borough Attorney Allan C. Roth, Esq.	Present
Borough Administrator Ray Herr	Present

PRESENTATION: Mayor's Bright Hope Scholarship Award

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

- ORDINANCE 2024-9 Establishment of Salaries for Year 2024
- ORDINANCE 2024-10 Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" to Modify the Permissible Hours for Sales, Delivery and Acceptable Forms of Identification, and Maximum Fines for Violations within the Borough.
- ORDINANCE 2024-11 Further Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled "Alarm Devices" to Modify the Application Fee to Each Owner of an Alarm System Within the Borough

ORDINANCE 2024-9 Establishment of Salaries for Year 2024

Councilman Min raised a question concerning the salary range differences from 2023. Councilman Min stated that normally each employee is supposed to get 3% increases, although for the year 2024 it showed there was a decrease in salary but an increase in the number of positions. Councilman Min asked for an explanation pertaining to this. Mayor Kim called Jack Belleza from the finance department to provide more insight. Jack Belleza replied he would have to get back to Councilman Min at a later date regarding the matter. Borough Attorney Allan Roth explained that this was only the first reading so, if necessary, there could be minor changes made to be read off in the second reading. Borough Attorney Allan Roth also explained that if a position was vacant, they would lower the maximum salary. Mayor Kim again asked Jack Belleza to speak with the finance department as well as the CFO Roy Riggitano, to find out why certain salaries increased, and certain salaries decreased. Councilwoman Jang brought up a point that some positions had a starting pay listed as \$13.73, but in New Jersey, the minimum wage is \$15.13. Councilwoman Jang also questioned regarding some of the jobs listed being vacant, and if they could be removed from the list, specifically referring to the deputy borough administrator position. Mayor Kim stated he thought it was more of a budget issue more than anything else. Councilwoman Jang asked if the borough was going to be hiring for the position in the long run. Borough Attorney Allan Roth explained that the ordinance abolished the position, but he reminded her that she could speak with CFO, Roy Riggitano.

Councilwoman Jang's next question was regarding the first line "DPW Worker" which ranged from \$40,000 to \$110,000. Councilwoman Jang specified that all the other DPW workers had a salary range of \$40,000 to \$75,000, so what made the first worker so special? Borough Attorney Allan Roth responded that the decision may have been based off of a collective bargain agreement with the union, which he did not possess at that moment. Councilwoman Jang brought up the recreation program coordinator position ranging from \$3,500-\$9,500, although last year it was capped at \$6,500, therefore she wanted it to be adjusted back. Allan Roth advised Jack Belleza to make a note of this. Councilwoman Won-Yoon also brought up the recycling coordinator position having an increase in salary by 30%. Mayor Kim reiterated that he would have Jack Belleza speak with the CFO specifically in finding out why some positions increased in salary, and why others did not.

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Mayor Kim requested a motion to introduce ordinance 2024-9. Councilman Min made a motion, and Councilwoman Lee seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2024-9 was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on May 28th, 2024 and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on June 24, 2024 at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the Ordinance would be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the office of the Borough Clerk.

ORDINANCE 2024-10 Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled “Alcoholic Beverages” to Modify the Permissible Hours for Sales, Delivery and Acceptable Forms of Identification, and Maximum Fines for Violations within the Borough.

Councilman Vietri stated he did not believe the borough was treating bar owners, or liquor store owners fairly because of the change in hours. Councilman Vietri acknowledged the town did have a problem with day laborers being intoxicated early in the morning. In the past when he was working in his career as an officer, there were certain troubled liquor establishments, but not too many bars. Councilman Vietri recommended speaking directly with the troubled liquor establishments, and explain to them the issues at hand pertaining to that specific liquor store. Councilman Vietri recommended distributing fines and letting the police handle the rest. If the liquor store owners continued distribution of liquor to any intoxicated individual throughout town, then they would be fined and held responsible. Councilman Vietri recommended postponing or tabling this ordinance.

Councilman Kim explained that he liked the idea because he personally was not a drinker. Councilman Kim asked if there was a procedure in contacting establishments and notifying them about the plans before anything was changed. Mayor Kim explained that Councilwoman Lee worked originally with the police director in comparing the hours in surrounding towns with the same population or more depending on the amount of liquor stores. Mayor Kim stated they came up with a reasonable way to reduce public intoxication and personally he agreed with this ordinance.

Councilwoman Lee expressed her understanding of the concerns of the councilmembers on how this may impact business owners. Councilwoman Lee acknowledged she heard that they might have wanted to consider business owners opinions. Councilwoman Lee stated in order to address this widespread problem in town it was not fair to favor the business owner’s intent over the residents who have voiced their concerns regarding their own safety. This ordinance aimed at ensuring the safety of the residents over the interests of the business owners. Councilwoman Lee explained they were not at a point where they could come to a compromise and listen to whoever could raise their voice the loudest. Councilwoman Lee continued that the issue was about the resident’s safety and something the mayor and council really needed to try and remedy for the whole town.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon believed that the idea that Councilman Kim brought up about letting the business owners know before hand was a good idea so that they could come and be apart of the next meeting.

Councilman Kim suggested that procedure wide the governing body should have been more inclusive rather than one month of conversation. Councilman Kim stated that the mayor and council should have been more connected with the chamber of commerce’s decision on the matter. Councilwoman Lee explained that she believed there should have been a rule set in place and see what kind of impact it had on the crime rate. Councilwoman Lee stated the mayor and council should not be driven on what business owners thought but instead they should be driven on what gets the right results. Councilwoman Lee explained for instance, if the ordinance was passed and the problem had still persisted then that only meant that the ordinance was not strong enough. Councilwoman Lee further explained, if the ordinance passed and it fixed the problem it meant the ordinance worked. Residents, and business owners are heard although business owners are motivated by their self-interest. Councilwoman Lee stated she is represented the interests of the residents not the business owners.

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Councilman Min stated his personal view on the day laborer drinking problem that had been going on for years. Councilman Min agreed that whoever had been working on the issue had been working hard on it, but at some point, because the problem still occurred, the mayor and council needed to make a decision.

Councilman Vietri questioned why the Police Chief, Anthony Espino was not mentioned on the issue and why Councilwoman Lee and the Police Director Michael Gardner had been working on the problem. Councilman Vietri stated both individuals did not have any police experience whatsoever and there was never any police chief or police officer input on the issue. Councilwoman Lee stated she did not say the police were not involved, but she did state that Police Director Michael Gardner spoke to Police Chief Anthony Espino as well as herself on the matter and did bring up some additional concerns. Police Chief Espino brought up concerns regarding not only the safety of the residents, but also the discretion that is used when sending people to the hospital. Councilman Vietri interjected that he knew how it worked. Councilwoman Lee explained that these ambulances were being used to pick up intoxicated parties on the street rather than being used for people who actually needed it. Councilwoman Lee reiterated the police were in fact involved.

Councilwoman Jang added that this issue was raised because many of the police officers dealt with, and witnessed intoxicated drivers' late at night, which endangered the resident's safety. Councilwoman Jang also brought up the safety issue it brought to the day laborers themselves. Some of these intoxicated individuals would pass away because of the extreme cold weather. These day laborers would also be grouped together on the corners passed out, which created a safety concern. Councilwoman Jang explained that they had received input directly from the police on the drinking problem which is the whole reason this ordinance was worked on originally. Councilwoman Jang stated the mayor and council would like to have some control on selling hard liquor, although this would not affect people in their homes, for example having a gathering or a party. The ordinance would prohibit sales of liquor between the hours of 10PM and 10AM. Councilwoman Jang expressed her hopes in this ordinance bringing some sort of peace to not only the residences but to the police as well. Mayor Kim asked for any final questions on the ordinance, in which there were none.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to introduce ordinance 2024-10.

Councilman Kim made a motion to table ordinance 2024-10, and Councilman Vietri seconded. Borough Attorney Allan Roth stated this vote was for the ordinance to table it. Councilwoman Jang questioned why they were tabling an ordinance on the first reading. Councilwoman Jang asked when they usually did the readings of an ordinance what kind of table did they do? Borough Attorney Allan Roth explained he has never seen it done before but basically the councilmembers wanted to carry the motion on to another meeting. Councilwoman Jang argued that she did not think it was proper to table the first reading of any ordinance, because they already had a whole month to decide.

The motion carried on a roll call vote for the table ordinance 2024-10, and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	No, for on the table ordinance 2024-10
Councilman Kim:	Yes, for on the table ordinance 2024-10
Councilwoman Lee:	No, for on the table ordinance 2024-10
Councilman Min:	No, for on the table ordinance 2024-10
Councilman Vietri:	Yes, for on the table ordinance 2024-10
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	No, for on the table ordinance 2024-10

Borough Attorney Allan Roth advised the council they needed to vote on ordinance 2024-10 for the introduction of the ordinance, and the council needed a roll call vote and the roll call vote was recorded as follows;

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	No
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	No
Councilwoman Won-Yoon:	Yes

Councilman Kim made a statement explaining why he voted no. Councilman Kim stated the council should have more proper procedures and policies regarding the ordinance.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon commented she believed we should have reached out to the Chamber of Commerce right away.

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Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2024-10 was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on May 28th, 2024 and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on June 24, 2024 at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the Ordinance would be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the office of the Borough Clerk.

ORDINANCE 2024-11 Further Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled “Alarm Devices” to Modify the Application Fee to Each Owner of an Alarm System Within the Borough

Mayor Kim brought up that there were previous disagreements regarding the new rates in the work session. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked why the rates had been increased from \$10 to \$25. Mayor Kim explained the whole reason the council was doing this was because the rates were outdated set at \$10 when the money could be used for other things like the vehicle account. Mayor Kim stated after comparing rates from surrounding towns they came to the agreement that \$25 was not a huge leap.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon brought up the concern of the registration fee being \$25 and if it meant that every year residents would have had to pay double the fee to have it installed. Mayor Kim clarified that one is for the inspection fee and the other is for the installation fee. Mayor Kim stated if an individual moved into a home with an alarm system already intact then they would not have to pay the \$25 for the installation fee, but if they had moved into a home without one, then they would have had to go through the procedure with the building department. The building department would ask how many fire alarms they had, have the individual fill out a form, then they would have paid for the installation fee. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked for clarity if annual meant that she would have to pay every year. Mayor Kim answered “Yes”.

Councilman Kim stated that he did not agree on the new rate and he wanted to see if it could be lowered to maybe even \$20. Councilman Kim expressed the council did not want to make it look like they were just trying to bring in money for the town, ultimately scaring people off. Mayor Kim explained again that all other surrounding towns are the same rate at \$25. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked how we would know if this new fee was going to be enforced. Mayor Kim explained again that whenever someone moved into a new home and had to have a new device put it, the fee of \$25 applied. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked once residents had the alarm device and had paid the fee how would they enforce it. Mayor Kim responded unfortunately they could not go door to door to make sure residents were checking their fire alarms.

Councilman Min explained that the original ordinance associated with the registration fee of \$25 had already been passed, but this new ordinance amendment is to specify that the money paid towards the fees were going to be put into the Fleet Management Account. After another question regarding the way to enforce the ordinance was brought up from Councilwoman Won-Yoon, Mayor Kim asked Borough Attorney Allan Roth to bring in the code enforcer, and the building department head to find out for sure how it would be enforced.

Councilman Vietri asked why the money is going into the Fleet Account and why it was not going into a general fund account. Borough Attorney Allan Roth responded back that the money can be put into a general fund but it was specifically designated for the Fleet Vehicle Account. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions, in which there were not.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to introduce ordinance 2024-11. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	No
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes

Councilman Vietri explained he voted “no” because the borough attorney is going to look into it further.

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2024-11 was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on May 28th, 2024 and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on June 24, 2024 at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all

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persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the Ordinance would be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the office of the Borough Clerk.

2nd READING/PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE 2024-8 Ordinance #300-41.4 Multifamily Residential in AA Residential District/Repeal

Borough Attorney Roth stated he had been advised by our affordable housing attorney and our special council that the master planner and planning board had not yet verified this ordinance. Allan Roth explained that the master planner and the planning board had to go over and verify the ordinance before the 2nd reading, although he was still waiting to hear back from them. Borough Attorney Allan Roth advised they wait for the planning board so the planner has an opportunity to vote and to weigh in on the matter. Mayor Kim clarified that there was only one final step left, which was to get the planning board, and the planner to vote on it so the mayor and council could sign it off. Councilman Min asked why we tabled the vote. Allan Roth explained because he was asking if the vote could be carried over into the next meeting because they do not have the answers they need yet. Mayor Kim stated the planning board has a meeting tomorrow so they should receive an answer by then. Allan Roth explained he spoke with the affordable housing planner who said he would speak with the planning board attorney and planner next Friday.

Councilman Min asked a question on the ordinance which is that the ordinance was mentioned about 60 days ago and he wanted to know why it was being brought up last minute. Allan Roth explained the last couple of months there was some juggling going around in the office and it was never delivered to the planning board. Mayor Kim explained he believed this was a very important ordinance to protect the best interest of the residence living in their homes around the area. After some discussion, it was concluded that this ordinance created some sort of loophole for the affordable housing percentage developers. Mayor Kim stated we had to move by procedure and would like to hold a special meeting on the issue to get it resolved as quickly as possible. Mayor Kim asked if everyone was okay with that, in which he received two no's, one from Councilman Vietri and the other, Councilman Kim. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if this meant after the special meeting, we had to have another second reading before they vote. Councilman Vietri asked the date in which this meeting was taking place in which Allan Roth clarified.

CONSENT AGENDA

- RESOLUTION 2024-137 Claims
- RESOLUTION 2024-138 Authorizing the Application to the NJ Clean Energy Program Community Energy Planning Grant Program.
- RESOLUTION 2024-139 Authorization of Annual Appointment of CDBG Municipal Representatives
- RESOLUTION 2024-140 Re-authorize bid for Municipal Building Mold and Asbestos Remediation
- RESOLUTION 2024-141 Authorization of Pool Startup Money for 2024 Pool Season
- RESOLUTION 2024-142 Hiring of Pool Employees for the 2024 Pool Season- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- RESOLUTION 2024-143 Hiring of Deputy Clerk Assistant to the Deputy Borough Clerk's Office.
- RESOLUTION 2024-144 Authorization of Fire Department and Department of Public Work Vehicle purchasing Lease agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management
- RESOLUTION 2024-145 Hiring of Part-Time Summer Intern for the Police Department (Re; R. Albanese)
- RESOLUTION 2024-146 Authorization of Building Permit Fee Refund (Re: Built Right Builders, LLC)
- RESOLUTION 2024-147 Authorization of Liquor License Hearing (#0245-44-017-007)- ADJOURNED
- RESOLUTION 2024-148 Appointing Election Officer (Re: S. Jang)
- RESOLUTION 2024-149 Authorization of Calling for the Modernization of The Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the Swift Passage of S-2930/A-4045
- RESOLUTION 2024-150 Authorization of Food Truck hosted for 125th Anniversary Celebration Night
- RESOLUTION 2024-151 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: St. Nicholas's Church)
- RESOLUTION 2024-152 Appointing Police Recruit (Re: R. Carrasquilla)
- RESOLUTION 2024-153 Appointing Police Recruit (Re: V. Juliano)
- RESOLUTION 2024-154 Authorization of Municipal Alliance Grant for Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
- RESOLUTION 2024-155 Award of Contract to Appraisal Systems Inc. to Conduct Ongoing Annual Reassessments for the Borough of Palisades Park from 2025 to 2029.
- RESOLUTION 2024-156 Appointment of Special Counsel (Re: Robert F. Smith, Esq)
- RESOLUTION 2024-157 Acceptance of Resignation (Re: L. Grato)
- RESOLUTION 2024-158 Appointing Planning Board Member (Re: M. Tarrabochia)
- RESOLUTION 2024-159 Appointing Alternate #1 Planning Board Member (Re: L. Grato)
- RESOLUTION 2024-160 Approving the Advertisement for Asbestos Removal and Remediation Project

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(Re: 12 Bellview Place)

Resolution 2024-137 through Resolution 2024-160

Borough Attorney Allan Roth explained to his understanding resolution **2024-142** would be pulled off consent and discussed in an executive session at the end for the public. Resolution **2024-147** had been pulled to retain council. The council sought an adjournment so they could retain police records and body cam footage for the hearing. This would have to be tabled until Allan Roth could arrange with the attorneys. Mayor Kim asked for any questions regarding the consent resolutions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon commented about resolution 2024-149 regarding OPRA, and stated the change will be a disadvantage. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated usually when a resident put in an OPRA and they won, the legal fee would be paid by the borough or town, but if this was changed some cases would not be covered and that may discourage residents from submitting OPRA forms. Councilwoman Won-Yoon also stated there are many people that abuse the submitting of OPRA forms but changing the policies will also cause a disadvantage to the residents.

Councilwoman Jang raised a question regarding Resolution 2024-140 Re-authorize bid for Municipal Building Mold and Asbestos Remediation.

Councilwoman Jang wanted to know if there was any specification change. Borough Attorney Allan Roth explained changes regarding in the state of New Jersey you had to have some sort of national certification for mold remediation, and also that 40% of the work had to be done by the general contractor. Therefore, a general contractor could not hire someone else to do 100% of the work but he himself had to complete at least 40% of the work.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-137 through Resolution 2024-160, with the exception of Resolution 2024-142. Resolution 2024-142 was moved to the off-consent agenda. Councilman Min made a motion, and Councilwoman Jang seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows;

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes (Except Resolution 2024-149)
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes (Except Resolution 2024-149)
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes (Except Resolution 2024-149)

RESOLUTION 2024-149 Authorization of Calling for the Modernization of The Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the Swift Passage of S-2930/A-4045

Mayor Kim requested a motion to adopt the Off Consent Agenda Resolution 2024-149. A motion was made by Councilman Min and seconded by Councilwoman Jang. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	No
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	No
<u>Councilwoman Won Yoon:</u>	<u>No</u>
Tie Break by Mayor Kim	Yes

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated for resolution 2024-149 there was a tie and the mayor needed to be the tie breaker. Mayor Kim stated he had been working with the borough clerk on the issue and he understood the concern of abuse of the OPRA forms because the processing of the OPRA takes time and there were measures that should have been processed more efficiently. Mayor Kim breaks the tie and votes yes.

Deputy Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Resolution 2024-149 was passed.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Lee announced a message from the school board that there will be graduation for all three schools on June 21st and scholarships will be awarded to nine recipients for \$1,000 each based on certain criteria being met.

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Councilwoman Jang apologized for not having a parade this year. Councilwoman Jang was aware that the recreation committee had planned and been assigned tasks, but unfortunately due to the weather conditions the parade could not be carried on. Councilwoman Jang also announced that DPW would be spearheading the trimming of trees throughout the town and would continue to do so until the weather became too cold. This was to prevent any safety concerns or electrical outages in the event of a storm. Councilwoman Jang spoke about the changes made at the pool such as the new roof, and was hopeful that the snack bar would reopen soon. Councilwoman Jang reiterated that each department is working very hard and believed that the council members should be proactive in listening and acting on any concerns that residents should have.

Councilman Min has no report.

Councilman Kim informed that the health department was administering free rabies shots for cats and dogs on June 11 from 6PM-8PM at the fire house.

Councilman Vietri has no report.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon discussed the 125th anniversary of Palisades Park. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that there had been history books published on Palisades Park in the years 1949, 1976, and 1999. Councilwoman Won-Yoon believed it was time to publish again. Councilwoman Won-Yoon had been in contact with the borough historian and would like to proceed with new publication but she was unaware of the process that they had to go through to start. Mayor Kim announced that our historians for the town are Officer George Beck Jr. and Mr. Cho who had recently passed away due to an illness. Mayor Kim explained Mr. Cho was a well-known historian who had a very diverse background, and was a communication bridge for the Korean American residents living in the tri state area. Mayor Kim elaborated that Mr. Cho worked for media, reported many articles, and even created a very big history book regarding Korean American immigration in the state of New York. Unfortunately, due to an illness, he passed away last week and Mayor Kim would like to honor him.

Mayor Kim reported on his feeling as a mayor. Mayor Kim stated he had seen council members taking their time studying borough administration and studying their field of responsibilities within their committees. Mayor Kim wanted to remind council members they could always speak to the borough administrator, or colleagues, and they did not need to wait until the meeting for questions. Mayor Kim announced shredder day, which was dedicated to allowing people to come and shred their documents which was to be held at Lindbergh School. The mayor and council also requested someone from the DMV to come and assist residents, including the elderly who could not make it to the DMV and could not wait in those long lines.

Police Chief Anthony Espino reported that there were 1,928 calls for service, 61 investigations (60 closed, 1 open), and 48 adult arrests for the month of May. He spoke on the details that the task force was working on which included approaching day laborers who were actively intoxicated in public and arresting them. Since this detail had begun, the police department had distributed 119 tickets, and the amount of intoxicated day laborers in the public had visually decreased. Captain John Gasparovich met with county officials last week to see how the issue could further be rectified. Chief Espino also spoke about lowering the speed limit on Central Boulevard, in which they were directed to a state official who might have been able to lower it to 30MPH instead of 35MPH.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked for the number of car accidents in the past month. Chief Espino replied, "72". Mayor Kim clarified Central Boulevard and Homestead Avenue as being a major site of the issues. Mayor Kim asked for clarity in all the county roads that bypass Palisades Park. Chief Espino named Bergen Boulevard, Grand Avenue, Route 46, Route 5, Central Boulevard, and Homestead Avenue among the group. Mayor Kim acknowledged that Palisades Park was the hub for people getting off the highway and trying to go through to different towns.

Borough Attorney Allan Roth has no report.

Councilor has no report.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilman Kim made a motion, and a second followed by Councilman Min. Everyone joined in favor and the public session was opened.

Marbin Tack displayed his appreciation that the electrical sign on the corner was working although there were two members of the council that were missing from the sign being Councilman Kim, and Councilman Vietri. Marbin Tack also voiced that next week there was going to be a street fair on Broad Avenue but all the prices and signs were being advertised in Korean. Mayor Kim acknowledged the street fair brought by the Chamber of Commerce, but had to speak with them directly about also including signs and pricing in English as well. Borough Attorney Allan Roth indicated there was not a requirement

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regarding language and this street fair was not by the town even though it is approved by the town. Mayor Kim explained this fair was for the vendors to sell from a surplus of supplies, which involved a lengthy procedure including providing insurance coverage. Marbin Tack also stated that she wanted the Chamber of Commerce to consider making their flyers and signage in not only Korean but including English in their signage as well. Mayor Kim agreed to speak with the Chamber of Commerce about the signage. Mayor Kim also touched base on the council members missing from the sign which would be brought up to the Public Relations Coordinator.

Susan Brauer brought up a concern regarding the modernization of the OPRA. Susan Brauer stated that 83% of the town's information was for the town residents. Susan Brauer raised another concern regarding resolution 2024-147. Susan Brauer brought up the street fair and how the sales made at this fair would benefit the business owners. Susan Brauer asked to look at the other end of it and take into consideration the business owners who make their sales off of alcoholic beverages. Susan Brauer spoke on resolution 2024-140 and how the town was going to hire summer interns and bring them into a building with mold. Susan Brauer's last concern was regarding the cancellation of the Memorial Day Parade. Susan Brauer stated that the weather in the morning was fine, and the town cancelling the parade was highly disrespectful to veterans, Americans, and for those who died saving this country. Mayor Kim responded that she made it seem like the mayor and council just did not care, or that no one was thinking about the importance of the parade. Mayor Kim explained that surrounding towns also cancelled their parades due to the weather and just because there was not a parade it did not mean the fire and police departments did not do their part in paying their respects. Susan Brauer interjects, but Mayor Kim cuts her off. Mayor Kim explained that he needed to cancel two hours in advance before everyone showed up, and it was his executive decision as well as the recreation director to not risk the safety of children and have them come out in a potential thunderstorm. Susan Brauer asked if the mayor takes her comments personally in which Borough Attorney Allan Roth stepped in and seized her comments. Susan Brauer tried to continue speaking about different topics under the constant reminder she had already had her three minutes to speak. Allan Roth told Susan Brauer to give the other members of the public their time to speak.

Anne Ahne, stepped up and introduced herself. Susan Brauer made a comment "look at the name he will get very offended". Borough Attorney Allan Roth stepped in again and asked her to please give others the chance to speak. Holly Ahne, sister of Anne Ahne introduced herself next. Anne Ahne spoke on the concern regarding paving 12th Street specifically from East Palisades Park to the dead end. Anne Ahne went into depth that there were eight potholes on the street, and it may not have seemed like there was a lot of traffic because it was a dead end, but it was frequently traveled due to the number of businesses. Anne Ahne spoke on the car accidents that had almost occurred due to how narrow the street was all the while people were trying to avoid the potholes. Holly Ahne interjected that she had lived at the residence for six years, and she was well aware that the property manager had made numerous requests, but nothing was ever heard back. Mayor Kim stated he did not know that there was that many potholes on that street and he would speak to the DPW about it. If this street could be put on the schedule to have it done this year, they would be notified but if not, it would have to wait until next years schedule. Mayor Kim was not aware that they were speaking on behalf of 142 units on the property and would look into it as soon as possible.

Marsha Schor stepped up and spoke about the condition of the flags including the American and Veterans' flag being displayed in front of Borough Hall. Mayor Kim stated he was already handling it, and already has an order in for them to be replaced. Marsha moved onto her concerns regarding antisemitism in town. Marsha Schor said everyone in this town had ordinances, and mentioned specific races although some races did not have ordinances. Marsha mentioned signage stating "From the river to the sea" and stated "if you're a Jew you know what that means". Marsha spoke next specifically about Arabic people and how she is sure they would want an ordinance for themselves too. Marsha believed there should be ordinances for all not just some.

Cynthia Perreria began by explaining that as of January she was diagnosed with cancer. When she arrived at the hospital and went to check in to have the surgery, she needed in order to remove her cancer, she was told her insurance had been cancelled. This was only two weeks after her retirement from the council. Cynthia assumed there was some sort of human resource department in Palisades Park but when she spoke with the department, she was told that Mayor Kim showed up on the first of the month to tell them to cut off her insurance. It took them three weeks to reinstate her insurance and she had to wait three additional weeks to get the surgery. Cynthia asked if there is a human resource department in place in Palisades Park, and if not, if Mayor Kim is in charge of the life-or-death situations of anyone who had or was a part of the council and borough. Cynthia invited either council or the mayor to answer. She educated that state law was in fact to inform someone 30 days prior to their insurance being taken away. Mayor Kim answered that he did not have the authority to just cancel people's insurance. Cynthia argued back that the witness who was in the department when they called from the hospital was told by Mayor Paul Kim to cancel her insurance the day after her retirement of 19 years.

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Neris Papoters opened up about how happy she was about the passage of resolution 2024-140. She asked if the council members were allowed to get health insurance because she was not aware. Allan Roth explained council members or any elected official could only get health insurance if they were working over 30 hours a week under state law. Neris's next question revolved around ordinance 2024-8. Mayor Kim went into detail on how the prior administration created overlapping areas such as Grand Avenue, Columbia Avenue, and Commercial Avenue, which made an AA family area where developers could have more than a multifamily unit in the name of potential affordable elements. This was a direct conflict with another ordinance already set in place stating developers have to provide 15-20% of their establishment so the town could create affordable housing. This new ordinance was being repealed because it created a loophole where developers did not have to listen to New Jersey state law. Neris Papoters thanked him for the clarification.

Eric Speiley of 329 East Columbia Avenue brought up the mention of the tree trimming that was supposed to be done by the DPW. He asked if the DPW workers had the expertise to cut around the wires or should the job just be left to PSEG. Mayor Kim explained that DPW had took it upon themselves to make sure there were no wires down during heavy storms to protect residents from losing power. Mayor Kim further explained a disadvantage of a property owner is that the adjacent walkway was the responsibility of the owner and if for whatever reason this was not addressed in the event of a storm, the DPW would take care of it. Mr. Speiley only wanted to make sure the DPW workers were protected. He also voiced concerns that trees that were planted over 80 years ago were being ripped out when new housing were put up, and asked if there is a rule that says new plants needed to be planted. Mayor Kim stated that there actually is and that every developer has to process a cola fee for tree preservation. This fee was supposed to be used to plant new trees on the property. Mr. Speiley asked who manages that, in which Mayor Kim responded the building department. Mayor Kim also requested Eric Speileys email in which they can respond to his questions more in depth.

Young Min Jung steps up to express a concern. He spoke about how everyone on the council including the mayor is a Korean American. He also brought up a question regarding resolution 2024-147, and stated that he served as the president of Chamber of Commerce twice for four years. He explained the responsibilities of his job at the time. He believed that regulation and transparency is important in the community. He only trusted the political agenda and believed that the residents of the town should have a better understanding of the things that are going on. He reiterated he is a Korean American, and told Mayor Kim directly that as a Korean American mayor he must do better.

Sue Jung thanked Mayor Kim for addressing the speed limit issue on Central Boulevard. She explained the first time she spoke to the county about the speed limit issue was in 2010, now that it is being brought up again, she wanted to grab the chance to see if there could be a larger decrease in the limit, not just 5MPH.

Mayor Kim explained that Chief of Police Anthony Espino had been waiting for the traffic report from the county for a long time. He acknowledged the cross road accidents that occurred at the top of the hill but could not give an answer on if the reduction would prevent those accidents.

Peter Longo expressed his disappointment in the resolution modernizing OPRA. Peter Longo stated that he understood some people go overboard and monopolize the time of people in borough hall, but he would appreciate transparency. He explained that he did see the assistant to the deputy clerk position posted on the website but when it came to the hiring of the pool employees, and new officers, he has not seen anything posted. He would have liked to see all positions posted so everyone knows and has a chance to apply. He explained that he is very active on the Palisades Park Facebook webpages and is active in posting any job openings that he does see. He brought up the cancellation of the Memorial Day Parade and how he believed that it was a good call. He used previous high school graduations as an example, and explained since students and families were not brought inside, it wined up leaving them soaked in the rain. He understood it was a hard call to make but he also understood the criticism that came with it. Peter spoke about how people were blowing through the stop signs causing accidents, and believed that aside from the speeding issue people must stop at the signs.

Mayor Kim addressed that they were looking into solar powered stop signs that blink. Councilman Min agreed that in surrounding towns there are many solar powered stop signs and he would get back to the mayor on the matter.

Joseph Palazzo agreed that the mayor made a good decision in calling off the parade, and how he also received news from the surrounding towns cancellation at the same time. He explained that his family had been in Palisades Park for a long time, and he urged the mayor to take the time to listen to the people.

Charlie Shin stated that he was very disappointed about the council meetings. He believed that the council meetings were more important than congress meetings. He spoke about the people shouting out during the

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meetings and urged the mayor to instill order due to the importance of the things being discussed and addressed.

Mark Messing asked about the job responsibilities of a police director. Mayor Kim guided him towards using OPRA for the information, but he insisted that he receive a direct answer from the council that hired him. Mayor Kim again guided him towards OPRA. Mark Messing explained the police director approached his home directly to tell him he needed to remove a basketball hoop he had that was strapped to a telephone pole due to it being a portable hoop. Multiple kids on the block used the hoop. The police director stated to him it was against the law and he had to take it down. Mark Messing stated, it did not fall under a crime and it was explained to him that it fell under a public service call. He asked again if that was under the responsibilities of the police director. Mayor Kim replied that he needed to OPRA the information and he could not speak about the job description. Mayor Kim asked if the hoop was on his property in which Messing responded it was in front of his home. Mayor Kim explained that the hoop was on public property and also brought up that it did indeed fall down a few weeks prior. Mark Messing replied it was not the question asked. Mark Messing also acknowledged that Mayor Kim is his neighbor so he had seen the hoop that was being spoken about and even though it was not directly on his property it was still strapped to a wall not directly on the street. Mark Messing also brought up that the police director reached out to the building department to check to make sure that the construction done at his home five years ago was done with the correct permits. Mark Messing was notified that this was a direct request from Mayor Kim. He asked if this same concern was being shown to all homes in town or just to his. He also spoke of that the police chief was given anonymous pictures of himself and his squad at the opening day of the little league season by the police director. He stated that the police director who was never a police officer made it seem like he was doing something wrong. Mayor Kim told him his time was up. A member of the public interjected that the mayor allowed others to speak for five minutes and she had it recorded for the record. She asked Mayor Kim why he was cut off and if it was because he is a "white boy". She screamed that the mayor was discriminatory. Mayor Kim attempted to restore order. She goes at him again stating he never had any answers and was an evil person. Mayor Kim told her to leave, in which she agreed.

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close the public session. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang, and all agreed in favor. The woman yelled out again "hurry up!".

Attorney Allan Roth explained the litigations that had been filed against the borough. He was trying to decipher which ones were new and which were old. He has a meeting Friday morning which will hopefully provide more clarity on what was going on. Councilman Vietri asked for a meeting after Allan Roth spoke with the Attorneys. These cases were split into different sections such as civil rights, contract issues, and affordable housing complaints. He explained the reason for putting a pause on ordinance 2024-8 was because he did not want to risk any additional counts in the complaints.

Allan Roth brought up another issue to discuss which is personal at the pool. He explained that we have to deal with the issue tonight because without staff, they cannot open the pool. He explained the nepotism policy, and stated he had received a lot of questions regarding when that was put into place. Allan Roth explained the 'Doctorate Necessity', which was when the council or body had to do something when there is a conflict of interest. This was important in order for the town to be able run and waive those interests of conflict. As for pool hirings he explained that he would let everyone debate about it, but that it did need to be resolved today so that the pool could open. Allan Roth explained the contracts that were put in place for the roof to be fixed at the pool were just the starting point and now we do have to move onto the hiring and employee salaries. He wanted everyone to know the rate for seasonal staff for 2024 is \$13.73 which was minimum wage for seasonal staff. The State of New Jersey will start to require a minimum of \$15 an hour in 2026 for seasonal employees.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon brought up the concern regarding the procedure and policies that was in the employment policy in the employment manual that was passed last January. In this manual it stated nepotism was prohibited, meaning if you are the manager, you could not hire your son, or daughter, etc. The pool employee list had seven family members working at the pool which did not conform with our policy. She stated that those six people can easily be replaced with people who are unrelated, she did not understand the criticism towards it. She believed as a resident herself that it did not matter how long they have been working there before, it did not mean the pool manager could not run the pool without them. Councilman Min added that they do still have time and can speak to the pool director to rehire individuals that do not conflict. Councilman Min added that the whole point was to follow the policy that had already been set in place. He stated we have to somehow meet in the middle where we can amicably, and legally address the concern. Mayor Kim added if there are multiple amounts of people being paid to work hourly but they are in fact not working then they would not get paid. Councilmembers are currently working on the nepotism resolution in the police manual. Allan Roth explained the pool had to stay open, but he was not sure that the employee manual was actually given to employees to make them aware of the nepotism policy. A recent version of the employee manual was sent out and had to be signed, and given back to department heads. Allan Roth offered to set up a meeting with Karen to get a feel of what positions are

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absolutely necessary and what positions could be given to other people that are not relatives. Councilwoman Won-Yoon makes a comment regarding the fairness of that, in which she questioned how could you allow three relatives to not work there but a different three can. Allan Roth clarified that he needed to see what positions were filled by family that are essential to running the pool. Councilman Min stated that it was almost if we are out of choices because if the employees have not been given the manual, then they have not been given the chance to read through it. Councilwoman Won-Yoon was confused because this manual had been around for a long time. Mayor Kim explained that the recent manual from 2021 was never approved, therefore the more recent one from this February was approved. Sophia Jang specified we have approved it but it was not distributed yet. Allan Roth stated the nepotism policy goes to appointment, and supervision which are two separate things. He used the example of hiring a new police officer while the parent of that police officer is on the council. Technically, you could not appoint that officer because they are a relative. The resolution also said supervision meaning direct supervision of that employee had to be done by someone else. Allan Roth explained that a way to meet the criteria would be if Karen was not directly supervising the employees. Councilwoman Won-Yoon explained this case is different as she hired all these people. Allan Roth interjected that technically the council hired them. Councilman Vietri asked why we are just hearing about this now if this had been an issue that was brought to attention before. Councilwoman Won-Yoon explained that this was the first time that they had seen so many relatives hired at once. Councilman Vietri argued that the council is responsible for approving the hiring. Allan Roth agreed. Councilman Min recommended we must address the matter because time is critical. Councilman Kim exclaimed we are technically not in violation of the policy yet as a council but we are close. Allan Roth advised we could give the option that we could allow the relatives to work now but no longer after the term. Councilwoman Jang agreed with the borough attorney that if we got involved it was going to be micromanaging. Allan Roth was head of every department, and had every authority to bring Karen in and talk with her and make sure that everything we are doing is correct, and legal. Councilman Min asked if there is a legal way the resolution can be passed tonight excluding those six relatives in which the borough attorney answered there was. Councilman Vietri asked why we could not just wait. Allan Roth stated we could table it but also if we do decide to wait, those six relatives could still go to work and if they do work a certain number of hours, we are responsible for paying them for those hours. If you hold the resolution and do not appoint anyone that is what would happen. Councilman Vietri asked if we fire the employees can they file a lawsuit stating we hired them and now we are firing them. Allan Roth explained that is the reason we are tabling it, because then technically they were not hired. Councilwoman Won-Yoon expressed her concern with the borough attorney speaking directly to Karen. She wanted a confirmation from Karen that these people are in conflict, and that she will in fact hire six new people.

Mayor Kim explained that the councilor suggested to do a retro pay, table the ordinance, which would ultimately cover the borough from receiving any lawsuits in the future on the matter. Councilwoman Jang brought up another concern about the recreation committee, and the fact that both Mr. and Mrs. Terranova work together and get paid. Mayor Kim stated again we had to get the legal assessment from the borough attorney. Councilwoman Won-Yoon reiterated again that we had to put out this employee manual so that we can start addressing the concerns throughout the borough, and throughout different departments.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to come out of the execute session. Councilman Min made a motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon, and everyone joined in favor. None opposed.

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to table ordinance 2024-142 which was motioned by Councilman Min, and seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	(Left Meeting)
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was motioned by Councilman Min, seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon, and everyone joined in favor. None opposed.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC
Deputy Borough Clerk