

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

Regular Meeting  
of the Mayor & Council  
September 23, 2024

Borough of Palisades Park  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
September 23, 2024

**MAYOR CHONG PAUL KIM WILL CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

**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 (en route at time of roll call)
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Vietri	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz	Present
Borough Administrator Raymond Herr	Present

Mayor Kim stated before the adoption of the meeting minutes, he wanted to invite Police Director Michael Gardner to announce some great news that provided him with a sense of accomplishment, and pride for the Police Department. Police Director Gardner asked if the families of the officers were present, and a voice responded back that they were unsure. Police Director Gardner presented the flag first. Police Director Gardner explained what he had was a certificate of appreciation which read, "The flag of the United States of America accompanying this certificate, was proudly flown over the World Trade Center site on September 11<sup>th</sup>. It is presented to the Borough of Palisades Park, New Jersey in recognition of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary." Mayor Kim thanked Police Director Gardner and asked him how he convinced Port Authority to provide such a valuable gift. Police Director Gardner stated he worked for 30 years at Port Authority Police Headquarters so he contacted them when he heard the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was coming up and the Police Superintendent, who was a friend of his, gave him the flag to present to the borough. Mayor Kim stated it was very much appreciated and he thought he should reply and send them a thank you letter which he agreed to discuss later on. Mayor Kim stated it was a beautiful display, and asked Police Director Gardner to leave it out for a while so everyone could enjoy it. Mayor Kim stated the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Block Party was a success with thousands of people that attended. Mayor Kim thought it was a great event and he even had residents ask if the borough could do this every year. Mayor Kim stated he would see if this was possible by running it by the Recreation Department. Police Director Gardner asked if he could continue later on because there were police officers still in the process of getting ready. Mayor Kim agreed that Police Director Gardner could resume after the adoption of the meeting minutes. Police Director Gardner advised Mayor Kim to let him know when.

Mayor Kim asked Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano to come up and explain the best practice checklist. CFO Roy Riggitano explained this checklist would be followed up with the next day, and submitted to the state. CFO Roy Riggitano continued that if anyone had questions, they could have called or emailed him. Roy Riggitano started by explaining unscored services did not account to the thirty-nine "yes" votes that were received. If the questions were described as scored, then that meant that question went toward the survey which needed thirty-five "yes" votes in order to meet the minimum requirements. Mayor Kim asked to clarify if Roy Riggitano stated the borough needed a minimum of thirty-five "yes" votes in order to qualify. Roy Riggitano stated Mayor Kim was correct and the borough had thirty-nine "yes" votes which was well over the qualification limit. Mr. Riggitano began to go over the questions that had an answer of "no". The first one was pertaining to a compensated trust fund which the borough did not have because the borough did not have the money this year and hoped that the following year, they would be able to appropriate some money. CFO Riggitano explained the compensated trust fund was money collected for when employees retired so that the budget wouldn't need to be touched and the borough would already have the money reserved. Question thirty-one was another question that the borough answered "no" to regarding an audit. Roy Riggitano explained the borough did not have an audit because it was under review with the previous borough attorney and the auditor. There would have been action taken that same week to try and get the audit as soon as possible. Mayor Kim asked if Roy

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Riggitano was talking about the 2023 audit. Roy Riggitano confirmed that he was. Mayor Kim asked if it would be completed shortly. Roy Riggitano replied that it would be and that the work was already done and it was just in the litigation phase. Roy Riggitano continued to explain the borough attorney was aware of it and it had nothing to do with Mayor Kim, the council, or himself. Number forty-seven was another question that was answered as “no” regarding vendors. Roy Riggitano explained there was a website the borough was going to start using that would allow vendor credentials to be checked. This website would display if the vendor was in good standing, or not in good standing with the state of New Jersey. This would also allow vendors to be precluded from the borough’s vendor list. These vendors usually had to do with contracts, paving, and larger types of construction. Mayor Kim asked if this meant that some of the vendors the borough endorsed were not in good standing with the State of New Jersey. Roy Riggitano stated he would check on the website to see if they were vendor secured. Question sixty-one was the last question that had a “no” answer pertaining to not uploading details of contracts on the PERS system. CFO Roy Riggitano stated the borough clerk and himself would work on it and should have it fixed for the following year. Mayor Kim asked if the PERS system was set up yet and if not, what the reason for that was. Roy Riggitano responded when a contract was signed off by the Mayor and Council, that contract was supposed to be uploaded to the PERS system. These contracts were not uploaded to the system and Mr. Riggitano agreed to correct it so that they could answer “yes” next year. Mayor Kim asked who was responsible for uploading this information to the system. Roy Riggitano stated the borough clerk, the labor attorney, and himself. Mr. Riggitano explained that what he discussed was the major “no” responses, and overall, the borough did very well on the actual survey itself. Mr. Riggitano explained it was his requirement as chief financial officer to the mayor. If there was something the mayor had disagreed with, Roy Riggitano urged him to let him know because he would be able to change the answer but the borough did not want to go below thirty-five “yes” answers because they would run the risk of not meeting the minimum requirement by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Kim asked councilmembers to direct all questions to Roy Riggitano before Wednesday to avoid any delays. Councilman Kim asked if he could ask a question. Mayor Kim stated he could. Councilman Kim asked what the size of the survey was. Roy Riggitano stated there were eighty-four questions, and approximately fifty of those questions were “scored”. Roy Riggitano continued that thirty questions were questions that could have potentially become legislation the following year such as affordable housing and lead based paint which was being introduced as an ordinance at the meeting. CFO Roy Riggitano explained the building department was getting certified inspectors who would be able to certify if an apartment had lead based paint in it. Councilman Kim asked how many people participated in the survey. Roy Riggitano clarified the survey was amongst the Mayor and Council, and himself giving the public no say. Mayor Kim commented that the borough clerk was also involved in the survey. Roy Riggitano stated of course the clerk was involved but it was his responsibility as a chief financial officer to present it. Councilman Kim asked how many people approximately took part in the survey. Mayor Kim stated there wasn’t a survey percentage. Roy Riggitano explained again, the survey was just for the Mayor and Council, the clerk, and himself. Roy Riggitano stated he understood the confusion considering it was called a survey but it was also referred to as a best practice checklist. Councilman Vietri stated he had a question. Councilman Vietri stated this was the first time he had seen this survey. Mayor Kim commented back that he saw this survey the year prior as well. Councilman Vietri asked to go over question number eleven that had both “yes” and “no” checked off. Roy Riggitano explained question number eleven was regarding the annual financial statement that had an answer of “yes” although it was originally marked off as “no” due to his uncertainty if he would have it on time. Councilman Vietri asked if Roy could clarify if this question had an answer of “yes”. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if basically Roy Riggitano answered all the questions and was just looking for the Mayor and Council to review it by Wednesday. Roy Riggitano assured that the answers to the questions were usually correct because they came from the building department, affordable housing attorney, the borough clerk, and himself. Roy Riggitano stated he also emailed Mayor Kim with some questions he had himself. Mayor Kim asked for any other questions, none arose. Mayor Kim asked Roy Riggitano if he would stick around for the claims portion.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	June 24, 2024
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	July 09, 2024
Work Session of the Mayor and Council:	July 15, 2024
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	July 22, 2024
Executive Session of the Mayor and Council:	July 22, 2024
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	August 13, 2024

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Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions regarding the adoption of meeting minutes from June 24, 2024 to August 13, 2024. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. 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

**INTRODUCTION**

**ORDINANCE 2024-15 Creating Ordinance Chapter 169, Entitled “Lead- Based Paint Inspection”.**

Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions about the lead-based paint inspection and pointed out this was something Roy Riggitano spoke about to make the answer into a “yes” for the following year. Councilman Vietri asked if this applied to only single-family homes. Mayor Kim asked Roy Riggitano to respond. Mr. Riggitano stated it was usually for multiple dwellings. Councilman Vietri asked if that meant the inspectors would check his home. Roy Riggitano responded that if the building department had a permit on file, then they had the right to check for the lead-based paint. Mayor Kim asked if anyone else had questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min made a motion which was 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: Yes  
Councilman Min: Yes  
Councilman Vietri: Yes  
Councilwoman Won-Yoon: Yes

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2024-15 Creating Ordinance Chapter 169, Entitled “Lead- Based Paint Inspection” was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on October 28, 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

**ORDINANCE 2024-13 Amending Chapter 48, Entitled “Officers and Employees” to Repeal the Residency Requirement for the Municipal Administrator.**

Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion but was first reminded that he had to allow the public to participate. Mayor Kim thanked Councilwoman Won-Yoon for the reminder. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the regular session and open to the public. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, and Councilman Kim seconded. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions from the public but none arose. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilwoman Jang made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-13. Councilwoman Won-Yoon made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. 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

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2024-13 Amending Chapter 48, Entitled “Officers and Employees” to Repeal the Residency Requirement for the Municipal

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Administrator was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on October 28, 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 2024-14 Amending Chapter 48, Entitled “Officers and Employees” to Amend the Salary Requirement for the Municipal Administrator.**

Mayor Kim stated this was the second reading of this ordinance so there was ample time for review. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions from the councilmembers. Councilman Vietri asked what the salary requirements were. Mayor Kim stated he had to look at the ordinance. Councilman Vietri stated it was not an ordinance. Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated every year the Mayor and Council passed a salary ordinance and created a salary range. Councilman Vietri asked if the salary ordinance was passed. Mayor Kim responded no, the Mayor and Council did not. Councilman Kim stated Councilman Vietri was asking for the range not salary. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained these ranges were determined every year. Scott Krumholz asked if Councilman Vietri had wanted to know the range for that year. Mayor Kim stated they had previously mentioned they would change it. Mayor Kim began by going over the procedure. Mayor Kim asked if they hired a borough administrator, what would happen to the salary? Scott Krumholz explained that the salary would be determined on it falling within the range which was usually determined in January unless it had been amended. Scott Krumholz repeated that it had to fall in that range. When a new borough administrator was hired or before they were hired, a salary had to be determined and be presented before the Mayor and Council to vote on approval. Councilwoman Jang asked if what the borough had decided on so far could have been changed. Scott Krumholz responded that it could. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. All joined in favor, none opposed. Mayor Kim announced that members of the public had three minutes each to discuss Ordinance 2024-14.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2024-14.**

Susan Brauer asked what the salary range was for the borough administrator position. Mayor Kim stated he just explained it. Susan Brauer asked for the specific dollar amount. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated he did not know if any of the councilmembers had that information on hand, but she could check with Roy Riggitano. CFO Roy Riggitano stated he would pull the ordinance. Susan Brauer asked if they had an idea on the amount. Mayor Kim stated he could only provide a guess. Susan Brauer commented his response was helpless. Mayor Kim asked if there was anyone else that had questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. A member of the public from the crowd asked what the answer was to Susan Brauer’s question. Mayor Kim stated Roy Riggitano would find it in the ordinance, or they could check E360 Palisades Park which was the ecode version of the ordinances of the borough. Mayor Kim requested a motion again to close the public session and go back to the regular session. This same member of the public shouted out. Mayor Kim advised him that he already had the opportunity to speak but he would allow him to ask his questions. Borough Clerk Sophia Jang advised Mayor Kim she had found the ordinance that was passed that year on the salary ranges. Mayor Kim thanked Sophia Jang and announced the range was between \$100,000-\$200,000 for the borough administrator position. Susan Brauer asked for clarification, and Mayor Kim repeated.

Michael Tuttoli asked what the criteria was for seeking a candidate. Mr. Tuttoli asked if the council would review candidate resumes or if the Mayor and Council was looking for someone with a specific work skill to fulfill the position. Mayor Kim stated he knew of the set skills that were required for the borough administrator position. Mr. Tuttoli stated he believed Mayor Kim did as well. Mayor Kim stated the people who would go over the applicants were the borough administrator, and the governance committee. Mr. Tuttoli asked if the borough would be using head hunters to put out the position. Mayor Kim stated the borough did have ties but they needed to advertise a bit more and do a public advertisement, this meant posting the position on Indeed, or New Jersey League of Municipalities (NJLM). Mayor Kim emphasized the need to make sure the position was advertised enough throughout different resources to make sure it was displayed for everyone to see. Mr. Tuttoli asked once there was a fair number of applicants who were interviewed, who made the decision on the hire. Mr. Tuttoli questioned if the mayor made the decision alone. Mayor Kim repeated the borough administrator, and the governance committee would have made the decision. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session and return to the regular meeting. Councilwoman Jang made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-14, Councilwoman Jang made

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a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. 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

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2024-14 Amending Chapter 48, Entitled "Officers and Employees" to Amend the Salary Requirement for the Municipal Administrator was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on October 28, 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.

**DISCUSSION (ITEMS FOR CONSENT AGENDA)**

Mayor Kim advised everyone to take their time in going over the consent agenda and ask any questions.

**RESOLUTION 2024-230      Claims**

Mayor Kim asked CFO Roy Riggitano to provide an update on the issue concerning claims. Roy Riggitano stated the claims were up to the prior Thursday before the meeting because there was a problem with the servers. Although the servers were down, Roy Riggitano assured the claims were completed. Through the tax collector and the deputy chief financial officer, most of the data had been recovered. They were currently at the point of updating the software and if everything worked out that week, they would continue with the claims list and whatever was not on the list would be on the following month as a radification. Councilman Vietri stated there was supposed to be a discussion about the computer services at the last meeting and he realized this meeting it was not on the agenda. Councilman Vietri stated the conversation may have taken place already but he did not attend the last meeting so he was unsure. Councilman Vietri believed the tax and finance departments were important and he wanted to know what happened with the shared services. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained the contract terms needed to be finalized. Mayor Kim stated he personally wanted to get this completed but the contracts that were received were unfair and non-amicable as a client therefore they needed to review. Mayor Kim continued once the contract was completed, it would be given to the council for their review so they could see all the questions that were asked by the mayor and some of the councilmembers. This did not delay the fact that the borough needed to get the cloud server from the county but at the time there was lost data from the tax and finance department that the borough had to obtain. The borough was in the process of figuring out a way to transfer to the county server. Mayor Kim made it a point that there had been contracts signed by the Mayor and Council that councilmembers did not recall. Mayor Kim stated when he asked about the contract no one had answered. After Mayor Kim had carried out hours of research, he thought there were many issues and questions. Mayor Kim expected councilmembers to read through the contract and figure out what they liked as opposed to what they did not like. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions.

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| <b>RESOLUTION 2024-230</b> | <b>Authorization to Purchase of Street Sweeper (Re: Tymco, Inc)</b>  |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2024-231</b> | <b>Authorization to Enter into Shared Service Agreement (Re: IT Service)</b>   |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2024-232</b> | <b>Authorization of Annual Appointment of CDBG Municipal Representative</b>  |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2024-233</b> | <b>Acceptance of Junior New Firefighter (Re: Y. Choi)</b>  |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2024-234</b> | <b>Authorization of Handicapped Parking Space (Re: 318 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</b>   |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2024-235</b> | <b>Hiring a Temporary Tax Clerk (Re: M. Kapner)</b>  |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2024-236</b> | <b>Authorization to Amendment of Declaring an Emergency and Authorizing Road Repairs in the Vicinity of 450 1<sup>st</sup> Street (Re: Gotthole Company LLC)</b> |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2024-237</b> | <b>Authorization of Tax Court Judgement (Re: 39 E. Ruby Avenue)</b>  |

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- RESOLUTION 2024-238**      **Authorization of Refund for Tax Payment in the Amount of \$4,378.67 to CoreLogic Tax Services (Re: 221 12<sup>th</sup> Street)**
- RESOLUTION 2024-239**      **Authorization of Refund for Tax Payment in the Amount of \$1,144.03 to CoreLogic Tax Services (Re: 231 5<sup>th</sup> Street)**
- RESOLUTION 2024-240**      **Authorization of Refund for Tax Payment in the Amount of \$4,131.14 to RCD LLC (Re: 321 9<sup>th</sup> Street)**
- RESOLUTION 2024-241**      **Authorization of Approve Sidebar Agreement with Teamster local 97 (Blue Collar)**
- RESOLUTION 2024-242**      **Authorization of Approve Sidebar Agreement with Teamster local 97 (White Collar)**
- RESOLUTION 2024-243**      **Authorization to Open a Checking Account for Storm Recovery Reserve Funds**

Councilwoman Jang stated she had a question in regard to Resolution 2024-242. Mayor Kim asked CFO Roy Riggitano to explain what this was. Roy Riggitano began to explain that a few years ago, the law had changed and the borough did not take advantage of it. The new law stated due to the frequent flooding that was experienced in previous years, the borough was allowed to open up a checking account entitled "Storm Recovery" so that the following year there would be money appropriated to go into the account. This money could only be used for storm related issues such as flooding, and snow removal. If the money was not used within the year, the money would stay in the account and it could be used the following year. Councilwoman Jang asked when the borough had the storm recovery account, would it cover the expenses incurred from a flood. Roy Riggitano responded it would. Councilwoman Jang asked if this also covered resident property. Roy Riggitano responded that it would be up to the Mayor and Council, the borough engineer, and the borough attorney to make that decision. Mayor Kim explained if the emergency was not preventative such as the resident did not have drains, then this account could be used. Roy Riggitano explained this money was not being appropriated for homeowners, but for snow removal for the DPW, and any massive flooding that created emergencies like a collapsed sewer system within the borough. The Mayor and Council would not have had to use money from the budget because they would have already had it from the previous year. Councilwoman Jang asked how Roy Riggitano would make a decision on the amount that would be reserved every year. Roy Riggitano explained it would be an estimate based on what the budget could afford for the following year. There was not a set dollar amount but was up to the township to decide. Councilwoman Jang stated they should have discussed the drains, gone over how many new ones were put in, and how many should have been done for the following year. Councilwoman Jang further explained someone should have surveyed and checked the drainage. Roy Riggitano responded drainage would have fell under a capital ordinance, and this storm recovery account would be used for snow removal, a collapse, or an unforeseen event. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the ordinance stated an emergency that was declared by the governor or president of the United States. therefore, this money could in fact not be used for any event. Mayor Kim stated like Councilwoman Won-Yoon had stated, the account was called the Recovery Reserve Fund and if an event like a major flood took place, then the money could be used for that. Mayor Kim stated this resolution did have to say that it would cover whatever was created from an emergency. Councilwoman Jang stated there were many cases where it could have been classified as an emergency. Councilman Kim stated there were only two people that could make that decision. Mayor Kim stated that he was correct, only the president or the governor of the United States could make that decision.

**RESOLUTION 2024-244**      **Appointment of Officer- In- Charge (Re: J. Rotundo Jr)**

Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close. Councilman Min made a motion which was 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:      Yes  
Councilman Min:      Yes  
Councilman Vietri:      Yes  
Councilwoman Won-Yoon:      Yes

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that it seemed like her report was the same as the last work session therefore since there had not been any progress yet, she did not have anything to report.

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Councilman Vietri stated he did not have a report but he wanted to make a motion to go into an executive session and have the borough attorney explain the latest lawsuit that had come out so the council had an understanding on what was going on. Councilman Vietri stated he had mentioned in the past the importance of the borough attorney going into the closed session with the council to help fill in any information, and answer any questions. Mayor Kim stated there were legalities, and asked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz to explain. Scott Krumholz explained that Councilman Vietri had made a motion, therefore a vote needed to take place on whether or not the council would go into an executive session. The only thing Scott Krumholz could say was that if Councilman Vietri was referring to the recent lawsuit – Councilman Vietri responded he was – Scott Krumholz continued that there was nothing to discuss. Councilman Vietri asked what Scott Krumholz meant by there was nothing to discuss. Councilman Vietri continued that he was a councilmember and had the right to know what was going on. Councilman Vietri stated the borough was paying Scott Krumholz’s salary therefore as a councilmember he had the right to ask any questions he had. Mayor Kim stated as Scott Krumholz had mentioned, Councilman Vietri needed a second and a roll call vote. Mayor Kim asked if there was a motion to stop the regular session and go into an executive session so that Councilman Vietri could get the answers to his questions. Mayor Kim reminded everyone that the attorney did say that they could speak about it, but there was nothing to really speak about. Mayor Kim requested a motion but Councilman Vietri stated he already made a motion. Mayor Kim apologized and asked for a second. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

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

Mayor Kim announced it probably would not take too long, and they would be back shortly. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and come back. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. All joined in favor, none opposed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following the executive session, Mayor Kim requested a motion to return to the regular session. Councilwoman Jang made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. All joined in favor.

Councilman Kim reported there was a new strand of the Coronavirus going around. The mortality rate was not high although it was spreading quickly. Councilman Kim advised residents to pay attention to their health, and if needed seek medical attention. Councilman Kim reported the flu vaccine clinic was taking place Thursday, September 26, 2024 from 1PM to 3PM at the Ridgefield Health Department. Mayor Kim asked for the dates. Councilman Kim stated it was only one day, Thursday September 26, 2024. Mayor Kim asked if it was possible to coordinate with the senior bus since the location was out of town. Councilman Kim stated he believed so and Borough Administrator Raymond Herr would aid in the coordination. Mayor Kim stated since it had been announced, if any seniors were interested, the senior bus would be available. Councilman Kim continued the following day, from 10AM to 12PM there would be free blood pressure screenings at the Palisades Park Senior Activity Center located at 300 Highland Avenue. Mayor Kim reiterated there would be blood pressure screenings, and help available for any questions pertaining to prescriptions, or health questions in general. Mayor Kim asked Borough Administrator Raymond Herr a few questions such as if employees were to test positive to Coronavirus, or if they had a cold what should have been their course of action. Were they allowed to work? Were there any safety measures? What if they were asymptomatic? What about mold exposure? Mayor Kim stated he remembered a long time ago, the Borough Administrator and himself wrote a memo stating anyone who felt they were exposed to mold should have worn a mask. Masks had been left throughout the borough, and a few employees had still been working in the building. Any employee who put in a complaint should have been wearing masks. BA Raymond Herr stated he had the health officer send out an email to all departments advising them of the ongoing Coronavirus issue and increase. This memo also included precautionary steps employees could have taken. There was only one employee working off site primarily to allow the borough to be taken care of, and ascertain the building was mold and asbestos free. Thanks to the borough attorney, an air quality test of the entire borough hall had been completed. BA Raymond Herr continued that he was awaiting the results, and he would have had them by the following week. Mayor Kim stated he just wanted to be sure because if an employee had complained, the borough was responsible for providing ample safety measures. Mayor Kim continued as Raymond Herr had stated allowing employees to work from home if these concerns arose was a great idea.



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Councilman Kim corrected his prior statement regarding the flu vaccine clinic. The clinic was set to take place September 26, 2024 from 1PM to 3PM as well as October 7, 2024 from 2PM to 4PM. Mayor Kim asked for the Ridgefield address again. Councilman Kim replied 725 Slocum Avenue, Ridgefield. Mayor Kim thanked him.

Councilman Min reported on a topic that he believed everyone had been waiting to hear about. Councilman Min reported that he reviewed the contracts for the parking meters. The borough was reaching the end of one contract and had less than a year left. Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano and Councilman Min did a thorough review to see what could be done. There were a bunch of factors that still needed to be discussed. Once the assessment was completed, he would present his findings to the council to see what could be done next. Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min was spearheading the assessment report regarding what could be done next, as well as providing the council with options. Councilman Min agreed that was correct, the borough may have had to stick with the original contract but with better service and updates. Mayor Kim asked what was the reason the term expired within the year. Mayor Kim reiterated that Councilman Min had stated the contract expired in a year. Councilman Min responded it did expire in less than a year, but there were options that would be provided. Mayor Kim asked if the borough had to stick with the existing company after the term had expired. Councilman Min responded no they did not. Mayor Kim thanked him and stated it was a big concern for patrons who traveled into town to enjoy restaurants and shops. Mayor Kim addressed that there were older people that did not completely understand how to use the meters therefore he asked Councilman Min to take that factor into consideration. Councilwoman Jang requested to ask Councilman Min a question. Councilwoman Jang asked if Councilman Min would consider taking surveys from the business owners in town to see what ideas they had. Councilman Min agreed. Mayor Kim asked if this would be a survey for the businesses or the customers that visited. Councilwoman Jang stated it would just be a general survey. Mayor Kim asked if this general survey would just be for business owners. Councilwoman Jang clarified it would be for everyone, although but the business owners would be able to give their input on the route they would want to go. Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Jang could even contact the Chamber of Commerce because of their close connections with the commerce in town as well. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if she could raise another consideration for Councilman Min. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if it would be possible to analyze the contract terms and see what the revenue and expenses would be, and compare it with the previous contract. Councilman Min agreed.

Councilwoman Jang reported for the 2024 summer pool season the total revenue was \$428,782 and when compared to other years this season went well. This year, since the weather was so hot, one Sunday the pool made \$14,000 on just one day. Work was done on the pavilion roof and pump house roof which was completed. For the following year, the plan was to have new pumps installed since they were outdated, and also if finances allowed, they would have liked to install a splash pad. Councilwoman Jang used the Fort Lee Community Center as an example and stated they had a very nice splashpad for the kids so when they walked around the water splashed out of the ground. Councilwoman Jang believed this was much safer than a kiddie pool. Councilwoman Jang thanked Pool Manager Karen Nascenti and her team for the successful summer especially during the really hot days. Councilwoman Jang reported the recreation team did a great job for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Street Festival. Gratitude was extended to David Terranova and his team. Councilwoman Jang stated there was a very nice exhibition for the 125<sup>th</sup> memorabilia in the borough court room that displayed old pictures, and old maps. Councilwoman Jang thanked Mr. Wrightington for preparing for multiple days for the event. Councilwoman Jang also thanked Buan Korea for bringing Korean traditional ceramics that were displayed as well. Councilwoman Jang reiterated how great of an event it was for all attendees and participants. Councilwoman Jang reported for the DPW, they were continuously working hard to meet all residential needs for community affairs with DPW Superintendent Kenneth Bruno. Councilwoman Jang stated she asked Kenneth Bruno about the reporting process such as who reports to who. Sam Choi was the employee presenting these reports therefore she hoped for the process to remain smooth. Councilwoman Jang also stated she would put these reports on the towns website so anybody could look into who completed what job. Councilwoman Jang stated she was happy to see the way the police department emergency rescue team handled emergency situations. An incident in Fort Lee pertaining to the tragic fatality of a young woman who was shot and killed by police recently occurred. Councilwoman Jang stated it was a tragic event, and she was proud that Palisades Park handled these kinds of matters professionally including sick individuals in need of assistance. Councilwoman Jang extended her gratitude and stated she was honored to be apart of the town of Palisades Park. Mayor Kim stated if the same tragedy were to happen in Palisades Park as it did in Fort Lee, he would not be present. Mayor Kim wanted to add on to Councilwoman Jang's report involving the splash pad. Mayor Kim stated the splash pad was apart of a grant that was already approved with the pool. Mayor Kim advised Councilwoman Jang to check with Roy Riggitano and find out about the grant that was already available. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Jang to speak about the street sweeper. Councilwoman Jang stated the new street sweeper had been on the agenda for almost two years and recently the current sweeper had finally broken. At the time it had broken, the borough needed an additional \$10,000 to fix it. The repairs winded up costing \$229,000 and Councilwoman Jang believed it was imperative to pass the resolution so a new one could be purchased. Mayor Kim asked where the

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sweeper would be delivered. Councilwoman Jang replied the DPW. Mayor Kim clarified he meant when would the sweeper arrive. Would it take three months? Six months? Councilwoman Jang answered about six months. Mayor Kim asked if the old sweeper was operating at the moment. Councilwoman Jang answered it was. Mayor Kim asked what the borough would do with the old sweeper. Councilwoman Jang responded she was not sure but she would ask the DPW. BA Raymond Herr responded that it was up to the governing body with the recommendation from Kenneth Bruno, to decide if they would keep it as a backup or sell it. Councilwoman Jang stated the new sweeper did not require any special drivers license to operate. In the event of an emergency anyone would be allowed to operate. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked why it would take so long to acquire the new sweeper. Councilwoman Jang stated it was because they would have to make it from scratch. BA Raymond Herr clarified street sweepers were not kept premade on a lot. Councilman Min explained some of these parts had a longer lead time due to specs and it was unlike nuts and bolts that could be built right away. This new sweeper required lots of intricate parts. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had a question regarding renting out the town pool after it had closed for the season, for a skating rink or private parties. Mayor Kim stated it would be like a winter wonderland. Councilwoman Won-Yoon wondered if there were any plans for this. Councilwoman Jang responded she didn't hear of a plan yet but she would discuss it. Mayor Kim stated it was a great idea, and advised Councilwoman Jang to consult with pool manager Karen Nascenti, and the pool attorney. If she could not get in contact with the pool attorney, then he advised her to discuss with the borough attorney on any legalities of allowing other events, as well as any liabilities that needed to be addressed. Councilwoman Jang thanked Mayor Kim.

Councilwoman Lee reported an update from the school board. The director from the High School reached out about doing a field trip to the Municipal Building to show how the local government worked in Mayor and Council meetings. Councilwoman Lee mentioned this at the work session the previous week that Mayor Kim and herself had proposed to do a mock Mayor and Council meeting for the students to try and help them become engaged in political activities as well as learn to raise their voices on local matters. Councilwoman Lee emphasized there was a student at the work session who expressed interest so hopefully, with good feedback, she would keep everyone updated on the progression. Mayor Kim stated he would forward and include her on the emails pertaining to this. Mayor Kim thanked her. Councilwoman Won-Yoon questioned if Councilwoman Lee had heard about the new classrooms, and new library set to be built. Councilwoman Lee responded she had not. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated there was no discussion about it at the library board so she was unsure what it was about. Councilwoman Lee stated she would find out more information. Mayor Kim stated the library president was Soo Chung so Councilwoman Won-Yoon could ask her. Mayor Kim stated he also heard that rumor, and the reasoning was due to a lack of space. At that time, they were using an area that did not have any windows, like a storage room that was converted to a classroom. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon if that was correct. Councilwoman Won-Yoon responded she had no idea. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Lee to obtain some more information for the council. Councilwoman Lee stated she would.

Borough Administrator Raymond Herr's report entailed elaborating on the email that was sent out to different departments about ways to protect themselves, and to alert everyone on the recent Coronavirus increase. This email also included the air quality test done in borough hall from the basement to the second floor. Raymond Herr was still awaiting results on the air quality test, but assured he would let the governing body know when it was ready. Mayor Kim thanked him and agreed it was assuring to get another air quality test done just in case.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz had nothing to report.

Police Director Michael Gardner reported for August there was 1,888 summonses issued. Director Gardner specifically acknowledged Special Police Officer Nelson Then who issued 255 summonses making him the top amongst all other officers. Director Gardner pointed out that in the past year, based on the number of tickets palisades park issued, the town had placed fourth place compared to every other municipality in Bergen County. The highlight of the article was that Palisades Park had issued 26,664 summonses in total which was more summonses than population. Director Gardner wanted to introduce an officer that he had been working with for the past year, Captain James Rotundo. Captain Rotundo was voted on that night to become officer in charge. Director Gardner explained they had met daily for the past month since Chief Anthony Espino retired. They had come up with a lot of great ideas, and looked forward to moving the department forward. Director Gardner continued, Captain Rotundo had seventeen years of experience and a lot of ties to the community. Mayor Kim thanked him for introducing the new officer in charge. Mayor Kim asked for the new officer in charge to come up.

Captain James Rotundo stepped up and thanked the Mayor and Council for entrusting him with the position. Captain James Rotundo stated there were great officers who came in daily and received pep talks from him in order to help move the department in the right direction. Captain Rotundo looked forward to working with the Mayor and Council.

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Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilwoman Jang made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. Mayor Kim invited the public and reminded them they each had three minutes to speak. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz reminded councilmembers that any response to public comments needed to be recognized by the chairperson. Mayor Kim stated in shorter terms this meant the council needed to follow Roberts Rule meaning councilmembers could not entertain the requests of the public, any concern must have gone through Mayor Kim and then he would have directed the concern toward councilmembers.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

A resident made her way up to the podium. Mayor Kim asked if she was the resident on Fourth Street. This woman responded that she was. Mayor Kim stated as he had told her previously, the borough just hired a new engineer. Mayor Kim emphasized he wanted to say this in front of everyone because this resident had been following him nonstop. Recently, Mayor Kim had met with the new borough engineer and they requested he check out her property. Mayor Kim explained that he went to her house and the issue was that there were not any drains on her side of the property, but there was a pothole in the middle meaning there should have been a drain going down. Mayor Kim emphasized this was a big project and he was going to get the engineer to her home as one of his first assignments. Once the project was completed, she would be the first to know. This resident stated she wanted to ask the council. Mayor Kim stated she could not do that, and he just explained that questions to the council needed to go through him first. The resident stated she had the phone number of two of the councilmembers therefore she would contact them directly. Mayor Kim told her to call anyone she wanted but he would personally let her know when he had an answer. The resident thanked Mayor Kim.

Nam Young Kim stated she sent an email to Mayor Kim on September 2, 2024 regarding the Second Street flooding and speeding issues. Ms. Kim presented a petition from the Second Street residents. Ms. Kim stated it was a pleasure living in the town as a homeowner. Ms. Kim addressed that this street flooding issue had been an issue since 2022. Ms. Kim stated the governing body did try to help previously but on August 15<sup>th</sup> her home, as well as multiple neighbors' homes, were damaged as a result of a flood. Ms. Kim expressed whenever it rained, she got a tremendous amount of anxiety. She could not travel or get on a plane because she couldn't leave her home to potentially get destroyed by a flood. Ms. Kim begged the Mayor and Council to fix this problem. Ms. Kim strongly suggested creating a big drain under the road like there was on First Street. Ms. Kim continued that another issue was that the sidewalk and road were even heights which created floods with water draining from Leonia. At that time, they could not prevent anything from happening. All they could do was wait for the Mayor and Council, while protecting the assets in their home. Ms. Kim begged again, for the Mayor and Council to do something for the residents of Second Street. Mayor Kim thanked her for listening to his advice on getting the petitions and stated it showed it wasn't just one resident that had this problem but about nine other residents that all signed the petition. Mayor Kim asked if all the people who signed were also affected by flooding from average rainfall. Ms. Kim responded yes. Mayor Kim asked if this was not like a common flood where multiple locations were affected. Ms. Kim stated there was another property that had more damage than hers. Mayor Kim asked if they all flooded from a normal amount of rainfall. Ms. Kim responded yes; they did. Mayor Kim stated he wanted Ms. Kim to write down her phone number before she left. Mayor Kim repeated he would have the engineer and DPW check out the problem, and once they figured it out, they would let her know. Mayor Kim stated it could have been a simple fix like a clogged drain, or a lack of drainage but depending on what it was, it could take time due to the need for budgeting. Mayor Kim reassured Ms. Kim it was not normal for the road to flood from an average amount of rainfall. Ms. Kim had another topic to discuss but Mayor Kim advised her she had five seconds left of her time. Ms. Kim spoke of the traffic issue on Second Street from Edison Avenue to Oakdene Avenue. Ms. Kim claimed cars would park side by side on a two-way road. Cars would drive by at high speeds. Ms. Kim then acknowledged the speedbumps on the Leonia end of the road. Ms. Kim requested a speedbump to be put in. Mayor Kim replied the speed bumps were not determined by the Mayor and Council off hand, but was ran by the traffic engineer. Mayor Kim stated since Director Gardner was present at the meeting he would take down her address of concern. Ms. Kim repeated the intersection of Second Street and Edison Avenue as well as the intersection of Second Street and Oakdene Avenue. Mayor Kim asked if the reason would be due to the speeding, and Ms. Kim agreed. Mayor Kim asked if this was a daily occurrence, and if she noticed any police presence at that location. Silence ensued. Mayor Kim repeated this question two more times, and then decided to ask in a different way. Mayor Kim asked if she had called the police to make a complaint. Ms. Kim replied she did not call the police to make a complaint. Mayor Kim advised that she was supposed to alert the police but since Director Gardner, and herself were both at the meeting,

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they would take a look and see what could be done. Mayor Kim thanked her for acquiring the petition and requested her phone number on the back of it. Mayor Kim invited up the next speaker.

Marsha Schore stated residents of Henry Avenue were having issues with New Jersey Transit buses coming up and down the street between the hours of 5:30AM and 8:30AM. Marsha Schore stated there were multiple children that lived on Henry Avenue that traveled to school during those times. Marsha Schore stated the New Jersey Transit buses should not have been cutting through their street. Marsha Schore continued that this was an ongoing problem. Once the borough spoke with the company it would stop for a while but then resume back to the way it was. Ms. Schore asked what would permanently be done about it. Mayor Kim replied when things like that happened, the governing body or authority would tell the New Jersey Transit company to stop using public roads that were unauthorized, they would for a while but then they would start back up again. Mayor Kim asked Marsha Schore to explain the routes these busses would take. Ms. Schore explained these busses would come off of Broad Avenue, down Henry Avenue, and turn onto Grand Avenue. Ms. Schore believed it may have been a shortcut for the bus drivers because there were not any traffic lights on Henry Avenue. Mayor Kim asked Borough Administrator Raymond Herr if he remembered the company the borough had contacted for the 125<sup>th</sup> block party. Raymond Herr responded he did. Mayor Kim asked for him to contact them and let them know these buses were not authorized to travel on Henry Avenue. Raymond Herr stated he would do so.

Neris Papoters made a comment about an item on the agenda, Ordinance 2024-14. Neris Papoters stated she knew the Mayor and Council had passed the ordinance, but she wanted to make a comment as a resident. Mrs. Papoters continued that in the past, the borough had made a mistake regarding the borough administrator salary. Now that the Mayor and Council had passed this new ordinance, Mrs. Papoters believed they had to be careful about how much they paid for the position because it would help the town save money in the long run. Neris Papoters stated she would have liked to see this concern be addressed. Neris Papoters liked the idea that Councilwoman Won-Yoon had about using the town pool during the winter for other activities. Mrs. Papoters acknowledged she knew it would take time to make a decision but she believed it would be a great thing considering there were not many recreational activities for kids in town to participate in. Neris Papoters directed her next question to Mayor Kim. Mrs. Papoters brought up the previous mention of a dog park that was planned to be placed in town. Mrs. Papoters asked for an update. Mayor Kim responded he would have to get back to her because he also needed to obtain an update on the progress. Neris Papoters next spoke about a concern she had taking place on Glen Avenue. Mrs. Papoters previously had spoken with Officer Then who was very diligent in patrolling the area. There was another increase recently of people leaving garbage on the road. Mrs. Papoters requested the officer in charge to check out the area. Mayor Kim asked where this was taking place. Mrs. Papoters responded it was happening on Glen Avenue in front of Lindbergh Elementary School. There were a few parking spaces that people would park in at night and leave garbage such as liquor bottles, and articles of clothing. Mayor Kim asked if the people who were doing the littering were the drivers of the vehicles. Neris Papoters responded she wasn't sure she had only witnessed the remnants in the morning of all the garbage. Mayor Kim asked for the exact location once more. Mrs. Papoters replied on Glen Avenue by the field side. Mayor Kim asked if she meant the field side by the back of Lindbergh. Neris Papoters clarified Glen Avenue was the street facing the basketball courts of Lindbergh. Mayor Kim next wanted to make sure he understood what Neris Papoters was saying that people would basically park and party in their vehicles. Mrs. Papoters responded they would park both during the night and the daytime to eat and hangout. Mrs. Papoters believed people used these parking spaces as a hangout. Mrs. Papoters made it a point that if officers were to go look at that moment, they would have found Corona bottles, lighters, and a bunch of other trash. Mayor Kim stated these people would drink in their vehicles and litter afterwards. Neris Papoters responded these people would also park, stay in their vehicles, and participate in other activities. The volume of people doing this had stopped, but it was right back to how it was before. Neris Papoters stated she was not aware there was an officer in charge before. Since Chief Anthony Espino retired, Neris Papoters asked what the process was. Who was going to be the next chief? Mrs. Papoters asked how it worked, and if the officer in charge was basically like the chief of police. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained the police director would take over the police departments daily operations while the officer in charge would almost be like a police director. Mayor Kim clarified Scott Krumholz meant the officer in charge would almost be like a police chief. Mayor Kim continued to explain that the police chief had the highest managing authority. The police director could not manage the day-to-day activities because he had his own duties to perform. Both Director Gardner, and Captain James Rotundo were briefed by the Prosecutor's Office on their duties. Mayor Kim replied that Mrs. Papoters could consider the new officer in charge as the chief of police position making him the highest day to day authority for the police department. Neris Papoters asked how long the officer in charge would be in the position. Mayor Kim reiterated the resolution stated the duration was for six months.

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Susan Brauer stated Councilman Min had spoken of the parking meters and how they would work. Susan Brauer asked how the town made out money wise with the meter systems. Mayor Kim stated Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano was not present but he could send an email to obtain the information, or she could OPRA request the information because he did not have it at the time. Susan Brauer stated that Mayor Kim had commented that seniors were bewildered by the meters. Susan Brauer commented that she believed people Mayor Kim's age and younger were the ones who were actually bewildered by the meters. Mayor Kim responded that Ms. Brauer took everything offensively, and what he meant was that there were seniors that could not speak English who were bewildered by a lot of numbers. There were complaints and recommendations from the senior community in general from his own research not Ms. Brauers. Mayor Kim continued he had received multiple requests to consider an easier machine. Susan Brauer stated the machines were a pain in the ass. Susan Brauer next mentioned that Mayor Kim had previously stated the borough would fix the lining of parking spaces on residential roads. Susan Brauer asked how that was going. Mayor Kim responded they had to finish that project and they were almost done and just finalizing. Susan Brauer stated she lived on a street where there were four new duplexes and these people would park their vehicles anywhere. Ms. Brauer stated she constantly had to go outside and have people move out of her driveway, and she would call the police. Mayor Kim stated he believed this new lining would help with that issue. Ms. Brauer next asked about the new engineer. Ms. Brauer asked if he was going to replace Steve Collazuol. Mayor Kim stated the resolution that was passed was to hire a special engineer. Ms. Brauer asked if that meant Steve Collazuol was staying as the official borough engineer. There was no answer. Susan Brauer asked if the silence meant maybe or yes. Mayor Kim replied at the time they did not do anything regarding Steve Collazuol. Susan Brauer stated that was what she was asking. Mayor Kim responded he never thought about it, and asked what she meant by her question. The borough had hired a special engineer because the borough needed one. Mayor Kim asked what this new special engineer had to do with Steve Collazuol. Susan Brauer stated the council kept referring to the new engineer so she was unsure what that meant. Mayor Kim stated it was a special engineer. Susan Brauer stated Mayor Kim never said this new engineer was a special engineer so she was not sure if they were replacing the existing engineer or if the borough was just hiring another one. Susan Brauer asked what the salary was for the new special engineer. Mayor Kim asked for a copy of the resolution. Scott Krumholz responded the salary was not to increase \$50,000. Susan Brauer asked if this was a part time position but then redacted her question, stated never mind, and sat down.

Soo Chung came to the podium to answer any questions since Mayor Kim and all councilmembers were present. Ms. Chung believed it might have been easier to get an immediate answer regarding the classrooms. Mayor Kim asked Ms. Chung to enlighten everyone considering she was the president of the Board of Education. Soo Chung explained the idea of the classrooms was proposed two years ago and at the time there was an influx of students coming into the town and not enough space. Soo Chung stated the schools definitely needed more classrooms. Currently there was only one being used on the second floor of the library although more classrooms were needed downstairs preferably where the covered garage was under the library. The original plan was to cover up the part that was exposed to the outside, Mayor Kim asked if Soo Chung was talking about the exterior garage below the library. Soo Chung responded yes. Mayor Kim stated this idea was presented a few years ago, and asked if she discussed any of this with the library board to make it happen. Soo Chung replied at the time, she was only a board member. Mayor Kim stated from his understanding, this project involved the library as a separate entity, and the Board of Education could not just tell the library that they were going to convert their garage into classrooms. Soo Chung stated she believed based off a brief conversation with the superintendent, that only the board could approve the plan that would then be addressed to the school architect. Mayor Kim acknowledged that Ms. Chung was getting there, but she still needed to consult with the school attorney as well. Mayor Kim explained the library was its own separate entity. The borough had a shared services agreement with the library because of the fact that they were considered separate even if they were under the boroughs budget. The library had to do their own due diligence and decide with the board. Soo Chung stated that was one of the questions asked at the special meeting, which was if the Board of Education had the proper documents, but the library was its own separate entity. Mayor Kim stated they could get the tax assessor but as far as he was concerned the building was property of the borough which meant the borough had to get involved too. Mayor Kim stated the Mayor and Council would work on it, and if she had any questions to come back to the Mayor and Council, the library, or the board attorney. Mayor Kim questioned the three classrooms. Soo Chung corrected that it was for six classrooms, not three. Mayor Kim asked how many classrooms could fit in the basement of the library that was an open area parking lot at the time. Soo Chung responded all six could be converted. Mayor Kim asked if they would remove the parking lot and create the six classrooms. Soo Chung acknowledged there was some missing parts based on the advice of Mayor Kim for the Board of Education to speak with the library board. For now, the

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Board of Education was waiting for their grant application to be rewarded. Once it was awarded, they would go for it, but for the meanwhile they had to meet with the library board. Mayor Kim commented that the realization of building the classrooms was farther down the road, not anytime soon but probably a year or so. Soo Chung responded since it would take time, they were currently converting the locker rooms in the elementary school to a preschool classroom. This location was under construction. There was also a separate private nursery located on Commercial Avenue that had allowed the Board of Education to borrow two classrooms as well for Pre-K students. Mayor Kim asked what happened to the classroom that was supposed to come out of a deal mentioned in the past. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Kim to give his input. Councilman Kim asked if Mayor Kim was talking about the first classroom deal. Mayor Kim clarified he wanted input on everything because Councilman Kim was involved in trying to obtain a contract with the grant to allocate places like the Presbyterian Church to be able to use their classrooms. Councilman Kim explained two and a half years ago, there was special grant money available from the state of New Jersey. This was considered a special grant meaning not everyone had the ability to apply. The borough fell under the category of who could apply, and deemed the grant money to be used for under the library. The Board of Education applied for this grant and many years had gone by. Councilman Kim stated because the library building, basement, and parking garage belonged to the borough it was up to the Mayor and Council to decide rather than the library. Mayor Kim and Councilman Kim had agreed the library had to be part of the decision. The library did use the building, but the borough owned the building. Mayor Kim stated he would have to verify with the attorneys from all sides to understand who was able to give their input. Mayor Kim thanked Soo Chung.

Youngmi Jung came up and stated his opinion as a resident. He quoted a newspaper article that was published in 2023. Mr. Jung prefaced his comments that he did not mean to offend anyone, and he respected Palisades Park, and the Police Department. The article reported Palisades Park Police were harmed by political influence and a lack of leadership. Mr. Jung believed that this was not the case at the present time but the reporter had stated the borough's police department had a heavy political influence and lack of leadership. The report found most officers had contributed to or worked with a political organization within the borough. Those same officers believed the political influences had done an immense harm to the department. Officers told the Prosecutors Office that the influence had made it difficult to supervise, manage, and appropriately discipline officers who were politically connected. Mr. Jung stated he was not going to read the entire article but basically the Prosecutors Office had started their assessment of the department the prior year in September after an increase in the amount of investigatory, and disciplinary issues. Investigators were set out to review the departments operational, and administrative processes, as well as its appliance to the law enforcements best practices. Mr. Jung continued that this meant all police officers had to work within some kind of political participation or activity, such as contributing money, campaigning door to door, or putting up signage on their properties. Mr. Jung stated he had collected his own evidence through the SNS about some candidates running for councilmembers, who had been surrounded by police officers. Mayor Kim stated Mr. Jung had to stop what he was saying because he was speaking of political things. Mayor Kim stated he did not want to speak of elections, or politics because he was there to speak about the Mayor and Councils' services to him as a resident. Mayor Kim continued to explain that Mr. Jung sighted two minutes and thirty seconds of an article that everyone had already read from the Prosecutor's Office and conference room. Mayor Kim continued that one of the reasons the police director was hired was to assess this and find out where the political relationship was that compromised the work place of the police department. Mayor Kim hoped the police director continued his research and provided some kind of measures necessary to make sure political influence was prevented in the police department. Mayor Kim stated that was all he could say about that and he could not talk politics or elections. If Mr. Jung had a complaint, he was advised to call in to the New Jersey Board of Elections. Mr. Jung asked if he was allowed to finish the 30 seconds he had left. Mayor Kim allowed him to continue but advised him he could not speak about politics or elections. Mr. Jung stated there were a lot of candidates present so he had hoped civil servants or public employees did not participate in political campaigns considering they were supposed to be free from that. Mr. Jung commented that these political candidates could not force officers. Mayor Kim stated Mr. Jung was finished considering he had spoken of politics again after just being told not to. Mayor Kim mumbled, "Jesus". Mr. Jung turned around and said "Jesus? Did you just say fucking Jesus?" Mayor Kim replied, no he specifically asked for Mr. Jung not to speak of politics and he did not listen.

Eric Spieley came up and joked around that Mayor Kim wore a Trump hat last week. Eric Spieley also wanted to talk about the new lining of the parking spaces on residential roads. Mr. Spieley acknowledged that he liked the idea. Eric Spieley stated if the borough did decide to go forward with that, to make sure the lining made sense. Mr. Spieley continued that the duplexes had driveways that were wide and took many parking spaces away. Mr. Spieley continued to say that his car had a steering wheel where he could


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maneuver into his driveway. Mr. Spieley asked why these duplexes had to have 25–30 foot driveways when a car was only about six feet wide. Mayor Kim responded it was because these duplexes had two car garages. Eric Spieley said yes, but there was only about a foot and a half between the doors. Mr. Spieley stated he learned how to drive, and he was able to back into his own driveway. Mayor Kim responded the new lining would remedy the issue because people did park incorrectly, or allocated parking spaces to motorcycles or bicycles. Mayor Kim continued, thanks to the research done by Councilman Min, and the police department, it came about that the existing lining was not under regulation. Mayor Kim stated the borough was going to take care of this and make it safer for residents. Eric Spieley then spoke of the fire hydrants, and commented that they were ugly. They used to be painted every year along with the yellow curbs. Mr. Spieley asked Mayor Kim what happened this year. Mayor Kim responded the DPW was supposed to start their seasonal/fall repainting, and asked Borough Administrator Raymond Herr to make sure the DPW took a look at the fire hydrants as well. Mr. Spieley apologized for interrupting and stated they used to do it in the summer, sometimes along with kids of the town. Mayor Kim stated he would make sure the DPW did an annual repainting of the lines, and fire hydrants. Mr. Spieley stated he had a fire hydrant that needed to be done right in front of his home. Mayor Kim asked for his address. Mr. Spieley stated 329 East Columbia Avenue. Mr. Spieley stated his driveway was actually used as a parking lot for at least ten vehicles. Mayor Kim advised Mr. Spieley to call the police department who would have handled the situation. Mayor Kim asked Police Director Gardner if he was correct. Director Gardner agreed. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session and return to the regular session. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor, none opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and adjourn the meeting. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang.

Attest;



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Sophia H. Jang, RMC  
Borough Clerk