

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

Special Meeting
of the Mayor & Council
December 9, 2024

Borough of Palisades Park
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council
December 9, 2024

Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Special Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

STATEMENT:

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

1. Notice was filed November 27, 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	Absent
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz	Present
Borough Administrator Roberta Stern	Present

2ND READING /PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE 2024-17 Creating Article III of the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park Entitled "Buildings and Accessory Units" Zoning to Permit Accessory Dwelling Units as an Accessory Use for One- and Two-Family Dwellings in the AA Zones.

Mayor Kim asked if any councilmembers had any questions. Councilwoman Won-Yoon had a question regarding the procedures. As a resident who wants to have an ADU in their basement what would they have to do first? Would they have to go through the zoning board of adjustments first? Mayor Kim stated first they would have to register through the borough which they didn't implement in the system yet and then they would have to register with the state since it was considered an ADU. They would also have to comply with the building, fire, and ADA compliance at the building department. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that procedure was for new construction of an ADU, and asked if she would then have to go before the zoning board of adjustments to request the ADU. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz responded no. Mayor Kim advised her that first the borough had to create the policies, and procedures. Scott Krumholz explaining since this was amending an ordinance specifically to permit this, a resident wouldn't need permission from the zoning board but would have to see the building department. They would file an application for the ADU, and the building department would guide them through the process. Mayor Kim stated they didn't have the forms yet but they were making them. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that the procedure read, "if the zoning officer approves the ADU" which was the reason she was asking about the permission from the zoning board. Scott Krumholz responded a zoning officer meaning the building department. Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon had a good point in clarifying that a zoning official didn't mean the board of adjustments. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions but none arose. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. All joined in favor none opposed. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated before the council voted, they had to open to the public. Mayor Kim responded that was what they were doing. Mayor Kim asked if Councilwoman Lee was active in the all in favor vote. Councilwoman Lee clarifies she was.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public.
Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. All joined in favor none opposed.

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated before the council voted, they had to open to the public. Mayor Kim responded that was what they were doing. Mayor Kim asked if Councilwoman Lee was active in the all in favor vote. Councilwoman Lee clarifies she was.

Mayor Kim asked for Sophia Jang to continue with the ordinances. Sophia Jang responded they did and it was time to vote. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilwoman Won-Yoon made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. 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
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang gave notice Ordinance 2024-17 Creating Article III of the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park Entitled “Buildings and Accessory Units” Zoning to Permit Accessory Dwelling Units as an Accessory Use for One- and Two-Family Dwellings in the AA Zones was passed at the special meeting of the Mayor and Council, on December 9, 2024.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mayor Kim announced he was upset to hear that resident Susan Brauer could not make it to the meeting as notified in her email. Susan Brauer was upset that she couldn't make the first meeting regarding the ADU ordinance, so Mayor Kim was disappointed that she wasn't present to exercise her rights to speak up. Mayor Kim asked if anyone else wanted to speak but no one volunteered. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session and return to the special meeting.

Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor, none opposed.

OFF CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION 2024-292	Award Contract for the Central Blvd Improvements Project 02
RESOLUTION 2024-293	Hiring of Police Officer (Re: A. Rodriguez)
RESOLUTION 2024-294	Approving Settlements with Builder Remedy Developers

RESOLUTION 2024-292 Award Contract for the Central Blvd Improvements Project 02

Mayor Kim asked if any councilmembers had any questions regarding this resolution. Mayor Kim acknowledged that there were a few hiccups during the process but the cooperation of the state, the borough engineer, borough administrator, chief financial officer, and borough clerk they were given an extension. Mayor Kim stated this was very good for the borough. There were 1.25 million worth of grants that the borough matched to fix the repaving of Central Boulevard starting at Grand Avenue, all the way to the Shoprite which needed immediate attention. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Councilman Min stated before they moved on, he wanted to make a comment about resolution 2024-293. Mayor Kim explained since this was the off-consent agenda, they had to ask questions and vote on each resolution one at a time. Mayor Kim asked if anyone had any questions. As Mayor Kim asked for a motion, Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had a question. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated this was a great thing but wanted to know of a timeframe. Mayor Kim asked her what she meant by a time frame. Councilwoman Won-Yoon responded a time frame of when the project would begin and when it would stop. Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated she was unsure of the answer to that question and she would have to check. Mayor Kim explained the borough received the grant, then they would have to follow up with proposals, then they would go out to bid. Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated they had received an extension from the state until the following year so they had time. Councilman Min stated they had almost lost the grant. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the fact was that they didn't. Mayor Kim stated this was a good thing and was successful.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

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Councilwoman Jang	Yes
Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

RESOLUTION 2024-293 Hiring of Police Officer (Re: A. Rodriguez)

Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions, none arose. Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min wanted to say a few words considering he was the police committee chairman. Councilman Min wanted to share a brief bio on Officer Rodriguez. Councilman Min read, "Officer Adolfo Rodriguez, 35 years old, was born in the United States and resides in Paterson, NJ. He graduated from the Public Safety Academy High School in Paterson, NJ, in 2007. Officer Rodriguez served as a Paterson Police Officer for the past three years and has earned the respect and admiration of his peers for his exceptional police work and professional temperament. Before becoming a police officer, Officer Rodriguez was a Special Police Officer in Paterson since 2015. Officer Rodriguez is bilingual in English and Spanish; he speaks, reads, and writes both languages at an advanced level. Officer Rodriguez is a very talented pianist, and for the past seven years served as the Music Ministry Director at the House of Worship Church in Garfield, NJ. Officer Rodriguez also served on the Church leadership board and had previously served as the Youth Ministry Leader for many years. Officer Rodriguez background investigation was conducted extensively and thoroughly with positive results of entrusting him with the profession he is in, performance and execution of duties a law enforcement officer. Officer Rodriguez has also passed the required medical and psychological assessment. Officer Rodriguez will be a worthy addition and asset to the future of the Palisades Park Police Department." Applause could be heard around the room. Mayor Kim thanked Councilman Min for his presentation of the officer and asked what police department Officer Rodriguez came from and how long he was actively serving the department. Councilman Min stated Officer Rodriguez worked for the Paterson Police Department for the past three years. Mayor Kim thanked him, and stated once they were done with the off-consent agenda, he wanted to do a swearing in of the officers. Scott Krumholz reminded Mayor Kim first they would have to make a motion and vote. Mayor Kim asked if there were any further questions.

Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min 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
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Mayor Kim stated once finished with the off-consent agenda, he wanted to swear in Officer Adolpho Rodriguez. Mayor Kim also stated if the family members were present, they could also attend. Mayor Kim commented it was a big loss for the Paterson police department that Officer Rodriguez was moving to the Palisades Park police department.

~~RESOLUTION 2024-294 Approving Settlements with Builder Remedy Developers~~

Mayor Kim made a statement in the beginning of the meeting that before they began, he wanted to strike out Resolution 2024-294 off of the off-consent agenda because it was not ready. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated it would be on agenda for the December 16, 2024 at work session meeting which would also be voted on at that meeting. Mayor Kim stated time was of the essence, and they had a court order so they needed to get it moving.

Mayor Kim invited Officer Rodriguez to the front to be sworn in. Mayor Kim advised him to put his left hand on the Bible. Mayor Kim invited all family members to the front. Mayor Kim asked Officer Rodriguez to repeat after him, "I, Adolpho Rodriguez, do solemnly swear, that I will support the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of New Jersey. That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States, and in this state,

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under the authority of the people, and that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all duties of the office of special police officer." Mayor Kim congratulated Officer Rodriguez, and a round of applause was heard all around. Mayor Kim invited all councilmembers to the front for a picture. Mayor Kim congratulated Officer Rodriguez again and welcomed him to the borough.

Mayor Kim recommended an impromptu executive meeting. Scott Krumholz explained this would be to discuss three litigation matters. Mayor Kim stated that no decisions would be made at the meeting because they couldn't without proper announcement to the public. Mayor Kim stated that the governing body wasn't going to make any decisions during the executive session but they were going to come back and close the session. Mayor Kim stated again that no decisions would be made regarding the subject matter. Mayor Kim invited the public to wait if they wanted to but reminded them there would be no decisions made.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to go into an Executive Session. Councilwoman Jang made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. All joined in favor, none opposed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the executive session and return to the special meeting. Councilwoman Jang made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the special meeting. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, but Borough Clerk Sophia Jang reminded Mayor Kim they had to open to the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mayor Kim requested a motion to open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. Mayor Kim asked if anyone wanted to speak, no one arose.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the special meeting. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC
Borough Clerk